

Research done by Norwegian RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen in Sri Lanka

# NARA AND IMR, (NORWAY) LAUNCH MAIN RESEARCH FINDINGS

**N**orwegian Ambassador Thorbjørn Gaustadsæther said Norway is committed to bilateral cooperation on oceans and to help Sri Lanka put in place data based management of ocean resources, which will enable Sri Lanka to better monitor its fish stocks.

National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) and Institute of Marine Research, Norway (IMR) held an event to launch the main research findings of the survey carried out by the Norwegian Research Vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen in Sri Lanka in 2018. Norwegian Research Vessel Dr. Fridtjof Nansen successfully completed an ecosystem survey in the coastal waters of Sri Lanka from June 23 to July 16, 2018. The survey was part of the EAF-Nansen Programme implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in close collaboration with the Institute of Marine Research, Norway and funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). Ambassador Gaustadsæther also highlighted the importance of sharing these research findings with other Sri Lankan stakeholders both in the public and in the private sectors to make informed decisions related to oceans and fisheries. He also reiterated the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources to



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achieve Sri Lanka's economic growth.

Ms. Nina Brandstrup, FAO Representative in Sri Lanka said, “The successful completion of this programme in Sri Lanka is a testament to the longstanding relations between FAO, the Government of Norway and Sri Lanka. The visit of the RV Dr. Fridtjof Nansen was also an opportunity to highlight the longstanding development cooperation between Sri Lanka and Norway, especially in the field of fisheries, which started in 1971. The Norwegian fisheries cooperation with Sri Lanka includes fisheries management, research and education, and private

sector development. From 2013 to 2017, NOK 11.1 million (approx. 1.3 million USD) has been disbursed for these activities.

Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economy Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development P. Harrison, and Dilip Wedaarachchi, State Minister, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development also highlighted the importance of the resource survey and its findings to take necessary management decisions.

K. D. S. Ruwanchandra, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economy Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, representatives of IMR, NARA, National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka and a number of other government officials were present at the event.