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THE CASE FOR A METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY  
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
COLOMBO REGION

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A Dissertation

Presented to

The Department of Town and Country Planning  
Katubedde Campus, University of Sri Lanka

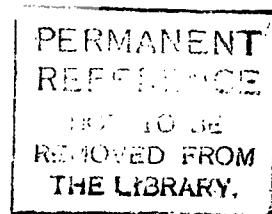
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## SYNOPSIS

All over the world urbanization has brought with it many problems. Sri Lanka too has undergone rapid changes through urbanization during the last few decades. The most noticeable change has occurred in Colombo, the capital city. Serious attempts have not been taken so far to avoid the impending crises facing Colombo and its environs due to rapid population increase, traffic congestion, water shortages. Ad hoc action has been taken to carry out certain physical planning programmes in response to urgent demands of the central and local government. Various governmental departments, statutory boards and corporations which carry out multifarious functions in the Colombo Metropolitan Region have failed in their attempts to improve the quality of life of the human beings who live in the region. Hence it is timely to examine the institutional mechanisms needed to stimulate the development of the Colombo Region. This dissertation attempts to study this factor. It consists of seven chapters.

Chapter 1 gives the various concepts of the 'region' and regional planning leading to the background to Metropolitan Regional Development Planning and Regional Organizations in Sri Lanka.

Chapter 2 explains how the Town and Country Ordinance came to be enacted and as a consequence of which certain organizational elements associated with Metropolitan Regional Development Planning evolved.

In Chapter 3 a critical review has been made of the various existing provisions of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance pertaining to Metropolitan Regional Development Planning.

Chapter 4 deals with four case studies of Metropolitan Regional Management in selected countries within the Asian region, one outside. Namely they are the Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority (India), Urban Development Authority, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Lahore Development Authority (Pakistan); Karachi Development Authority (Pakistan) and the Capital Region Planning Board, Victoria, British Columbia (Canada).

Chapter 5 evaluates a case for a comprehensive Metropolitan Regional Development Authority in Colombo.

Chapter 6 discusses the various implications that would arise with the establishment of the Metropolitan Authority for the Colombo region.

Finally, Chapter 7 spells out the conclusions and recommendations arising out of the overall study.




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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Synopsis	i
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Illustrations	v
Introduction	vi
 CHAPTER	
1. BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS OF METROPOLITAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING	1
2. THE EVOLUTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS OF METROPOLITAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING	20
3. CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE EXISTING PROVISIONS FOR METROPOLITAN PLANNING	29
4. CASE STUDIES OF MANAGEMENT FORMS FOR METROPOLITAN REGIONS	42
5. A FORM OF METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	68
6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY	79
7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	87
BIBILIOGRAPHY	90

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS		PAGE
Fig. 1	Average Annual Rainfall, Sri Lanka.	3
Fig. 2	Isotherm Map showing yearly temperatures, Sri Lanka.	4
Fig. 3	Vegetation of Sri Lanka.	5
Fig. 4	Average Number of People to the square mile in the different Districts of Sri Lanka.	6
Fig. 5	The Natural Regions of Sri Lanka.	8
Fig. 6	Colombo Region.	11
Fig. 7	Colombo Regional Plan, Sri Lanka.	13
Fig. 8	Functional Region of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Ceylon Electricity Board, Tele- communications Department and Ceylon Transport Board.	16
Fig. 9	Location of Proposed Satellite New Towns: (Ratmalana, Homagama and Ragama).	71