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# APPLICATION OF MATHEMATICAL MODELLING FOR PREDICTING COASTLINE EVOLUTION

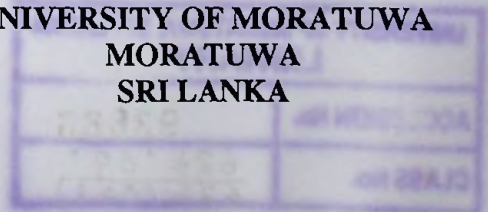
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By

M.S.L. FERNANDO

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ENGINEERING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA  
MORATUWA  
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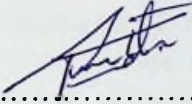
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## DECLARATION

I certify that this dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement of any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any University and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written or orally communicated by another person except, where due reference is made in the text.



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(Supervisor)



## ABSTRACT

Increased river sand mining in the west of Sri Lanka has led to coastal erosion over the last few decades. Erosion has been particularly severe along the coast north of the Maha Oya. The CRMP project, which included structures and sand nourishment, was the most recent scheme to stabilize this coast. However, the shoreline to the north of the last structure began eroding just two years after the completion of this project.

The objective of this study was to set up and calibrate a mathematical model of shoreline change to understand this erosion and to evaluate options for future protection. The one-line model GENESIS was selected and an extensive sensitivity analysis carried out to assess the reliability of the results.

Available data – which includes shoreline surveys before, during and after the CRMP project and long term wave data recorded at Colombo – was augmented by measurements of the shoreline north of the last structure. Shore profiles and grain sizes were also obtained.

The model was applied to the shoreline changes observed between and northwards of the last seven groynes of the CRMP project both during and after construction. The model results were in reasonable agreement with observations. The high erosion rates north of the last structure were due to the reduced sand supply from the south, i.e. the structures to the south were trapping more of the nourished sand than expected in the design of the CRMP project.

The model was used to assess options – including the groynes constructed recently - for the protection of this shoreline. While different options were able to stabilize specific areas, erosion will continue somewhere until the sand supply is augmented by further sand nourishment.

The study demonstrated the utility of detailed, shoreline monitoring for the quantification of changes and the calibration of models.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my supervisor, **Dr. P.P. Gunaratna**, who was a Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. He assigned me for this research study and directed me with his wide knowledge and logical way of thinking for the success of this research.

My appreciation is also extended to Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, **Prof. S.P. Samarawickrama**, who led me as the supervisor after resigning of Dr. P.P. Gunaratna from the University of Moratuwa on June 2008.

I am deeply indebted to **Dr. P.N. Wikramanayake**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, Open University of Sri Lanka, for his guidance and encouragement towards the successful completion of the project and acting as the Chairman of the Research Progress Review Committee for my M.Sc. After resigning of Dr. P.P. Gunaratna, he helped me throughout the research and writing of this thesis.

I am grateful to **Prof. S.A.S. Kulathilake**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, as the research coordinator for allocating his valuable time to attend progress review proceedings and **Mr. A.H.R. Ratnasooriya**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Civil Engineering for his constructive comments and guidance as a Committee Member of the Research Progress Review Committee.

Especially I am obliged to **Prof. Hans Hanson** of Lund University, Sweden for offering the GENESIS model for this research work and **Prof. Magnus Larson** of Lund University for his great advice and assistance.

I also wish to thank **National Science Foundation** for funding the research and the **Distance Education Modernization Project** of the **Asian Development Bank** for their financial assistance for data collection and analysis.

It is a pleasure to thank the Director, **Mr. H.N.R. Perera**, Senior Engineer, **Mr. Bandula Wickramarachchi** and the staff of Coast Conservation Department for arranging some field measurements and contributing with past data.

During this work I have collaborated with many colleagues for whom I have great regard, I want to thank them for all their help, support, interest and valuable ideas. Special thanks to technical staff in Hydraulic Engineering Laboratory headed by **Mr. H.W. Kumarasinghe** and **Mr. A.A.D.I.A. Jayawardhana** for their kind support.

I would like to appreciate the service given by **Mrs. T.M. Seneviratne**, Senior Assistant Librarian, University of Moratuwa, for finding relevant research details.

Furthermore, I wish to thank all the **academic and non academic staff members** in Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa for their support.

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