

## **Press Release**

### **The fifth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (5th AP Forum) - 25.09.2023**

The fifth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (5th AP Forum) will be held from 3rd to 6th October 2023 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event is jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The Fifth Forum creates a platform for respective governments, intergovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss and prioritize environmental issues in the Asia Pacific region. Its purpose is to contribute to the outcome of the sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) taking place from 26 February to 1 March 2024 in Nairobi, with the theme "Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution".

39 countries from Asia-Pacific regions will participate in the event, with about 300 delegates. Hon. President Ranil Wickramasinghe will open the ministerial forum on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The meeting of Environmental Authorities will be conducted on 4<sup>th</sup> of October and the Ministerial Forum will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Secretary of Ministry of Environment is the current chairman of the meeting on Environment Authorities since 2021 meeting which was held in South Korea. Hon. Nazeer Ahamed, Minister of the Environment will be elected as the chairman of Ministerial Forum at the Colombo meeting.

Prior to the forum some important meeting covering Asia Pacific will also be held from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> October such as AP Regional Youth Environment Forum, AP Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum and AP Science- Policy- Business Forum on Environment.

The AP forum is the biggest international conference to be held in Sri Lanka after the covid pandemic.

Dr. Anil Jasinghe  
Secretary  
Ministry of Environment