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## President Rajapaksa launches new water information system during visit to IWMI

17<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – Colombo, Sri Lanka - His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, has officially launched a new, hi-tech information system that promises to enhance water management in the South Asian country.

The Sri Lanka Water Resources Information System, developed by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), provides facts, figures and maps on trends in water availability, use and quality for the country, where water continues to be a critical issue.

The tool is [available free online](#) and is the first of its kind for helping scientists and policymakers in Sri Lanka to accurately monitor the dynamics of the country's water resources. It also provides a secure platform for cooperation among all the agencies involved in water management to share their data.

President Rajapaksa officially launched the system during a special visit to IWMI's headquarters in the country's capital Colombo, today.

"It is a great honor for IWMI to welcome His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka at our headquarters, and to formally launch the Sri Lanka Water Resources Information System," said Jeremy Bird, Director General, IWMI.

"While many parts of Sri Lanka have an abundance of water resources, huge areas experience water scarcity and hence competition among the uses for people's individual needs and livelihoods, food production, industry, tourism as well the country's stunning wildlife. Growing threats from climate change will intensify that competition, which means that it is more important than ever to manage water resources efficiently and sustainably."

"Tools such as the information system play a part in supporting Sri Lanka's continued development, economic growth and future prosperity."

Click to visit the Sri Lanka Water Resources Information System - <http://slwater.iwmi.org/>

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The **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)** is a nonprofit, scientific research organization focusing on the sustainable use of land and water resources in agriculture, to benefit poor people in developing countries. IWMI's mission is "to improve the management of land and water resources for food, livelihoods and the environment." IWMI has its headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and regional offices across Asia and

Africa. The Institute works in partnership with developing countries, international and national research institutes, universities and other organizations to develop tools and technologies that contribute to poverty reduction as well as food and livelihood security.