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Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition,
"Suwasiripaya",
Colombo 10.
22.08. 2007

All

Provincial Secretaries of Health,
Provincial Directors of Health Services, Regional Directors of Health Services
Director NIHS,
Medical Officers of Health

**Introduction of Ecological Sanitation (Eco san) – Urine Diversion Dry Toilet
(UDDT) into the Public Health System**

There are various technological options available for proper disposal of human excreta. In Sri Lanka the method recommended for use as an on-site sanitation is water sealed latrine. For a number of decades, the Public Health Inspectors, who have a great responsibility to maintain sanitation while conserving existing water resources; have always promoted construction of water sealed latrines as a solution to on-site sanitation coverage. However, the designs and the use of soakage pit or septic tank or both varied depending on the local conditions, which included *inter alia* the water table, nature of soil and adjacent water sources.

In the recent past, the World Health Organization has accepted Dry Compost Latrine, also known as "Ecosan" (Ecological sanitation) as one of the technological options for on-site sanitation. This technology allows the reuse of human excreta as manure while serving as an approach to save water, prevent pollution and returns urine and faeces as valuable nutrients to the soil.

Dry sanitation or eco-sanitation is an onsite disposal method that requires the separation of urine and faeces. This type of latrines are suitable for dry zones with scarce water supply resources and can be constructed in the compound attached to the house or inside the house. In contrast to conventional latrines, Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT) can be constructed in areas with less than 30m distance to need drinking well and water table depth less than 3m.

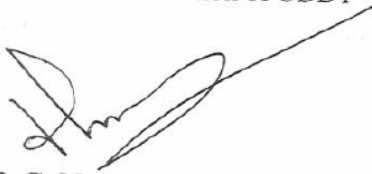
Therefore Ministry of Healthcare & Nutrition recommend Dry Compost latrine as one of the options of sanitary latrines, taking into account cultural beliefs and habits.

[Any clarification in this regard could be obtained from Director (Environment and Occupational Health) Tel /Fax 011-2672004]

Annexture 1 – Technical details of UDDT

Annexture 2 - Plan of UDDT

Annexture 3 – Illustration of UDDT



Dr. P. G. Mahipala

Deputy Director General of Public Health Services

Copies:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition
2. Secretary, Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government
3. Additional Secretaries, Senior Assistant Secretaries, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition
4. Deputy Director Generals, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition
5. Chairman - NWS&DB
6. Chief Epidemiologist – Ministry of healthcare& nutrition
7. Directors(PHS) Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition
8. UNICEF-Chief , Water, sanitation & Hygiene division
9. WHO Representative of Sri Lanka
10. Members of Sanitation Task Force.