



# REACH

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“

If you could tomorrow morning make water clean in the world, you would have done, in one fell swoop, the best thing you could have done for improving human health by improving environmental quality.”

*William C. Clark*



## A Message from Prof. Atula Senaratne

B.Sc. (SL), M.Sc. (London), DIC, Ph.D.(FRG),  
Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow (FRG)

Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya

For nearly a decade, water quality researchers, medical professionals and social scientists in this country have been confronted with an unresolved mystery; what causes the deadly ‘Chronic Renal Failure (CRF)’ among the dry zone population? It was my intention as the then Chairman of the Water Resources Board to contribute to finding an answer, through a carefully integrated research program, by bringing in researchers from all the relevant disciplines to one laboratory, which should be established in the heart of the problem area. It was also intended to make the dry zone population aware of how their water is being contaminated and how to make it potable.

Knowing the gravity of the idea and the costs involved, a comprehensive proposal was submitted to Brandix in April 2005. The happy news of acceptance came in June 2005 and the foundation stone was laid to coincide with World Water Day 2006, and in September 2007 ‘The Water Resources Research and Training Centre’ was officially opened. We thank Brandix who have once again shown the world their commitment and continued generosity in helping those in need of potable water especially in the dry zone.

# From the Brandix CSR Centre

According to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development ‘Corporate Citizenship’ means “The continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as the local community and society at large”. At Brandix, this is the road we travel on a daily basis.

All Brandix water and sanitation programmes are designed to contribute to the Millenium Development Goals for water and sanitation: ‘to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe water and basic sanitation’.

Often the cheapest and most accessible source of water available to farmers is untreated and waste water. Whilst it constitutes an important asset to farmers, there are several health risks associated with the use of such untreated water, many of which farmers are unaware of. So, it was with pleasure that the Water Resources Research and Training Centre (Anuradhapura) was officially opened in September 2007, for the purpose of educating farmers amongst other communities on the dangers of using untreated water.

Our key community project ‘Water is Life: Care for our Own’ has completed its first

year. We reached our target of providing approximately 500 associates and their communities access to water. We know we are far from having all the answers, but we are proud of our achievements and proud of our innovative approach.

This issue highlights examples of the work we are doing and have done in the last six months and some of the progress that has been achieved.

**We wish you a peaceful and prosperous New Year!**

## Our Mission

TO LEAD in being responsible corporate citizens. Not because we are convinced that it is a good way of doing business, but because we believe it is the right way of doing business.

TO STRIVE to make a meaningful difference everywhere we do business.

TO LISTEN and RESPOND to environmental challenges that affect our society and our planet.

TO INSPIRE people to work towards protecting and improving water access and availability in our communities.

# Brandix promotes Occupational Safety and Health



There were many events held during the week to promote awareness. The week started off with Health and Safety Walks in four industrial zones at Avissawella, Biyagama, Wathupitiwala and Koggala. Employers, employees, Board of Investment (BOI), Ministerial and International Labour Organisation (ILO) officials all took part carrying placards and banners carrying messages about health and safety. A ceremony was held at Avisawella to mark the event with the patronage of the Hon. Athauda Seneviratne, Minister of Labour Relations and Manpower.

A national seminar was held at the BMICH on October 11, 2007 to educate people on occupational health and safety. A special labour gazette with special labour messages related to occupational health and safety was launched at the seminar. Mr. George King, a consultant to the UN- Habitat Housing Sector delivered the key-note address entitled ‘Safety and Health is a Priority in Industry’. There were also discussions on best practices and sharing of information on occupational health and safety amongst the participants.

In addition, Brandix promoted awareness of Occupational Health and Safety across its 25 plus SBUs via a series of internal activities.



*Presentation on OSH practices at Brandix by Chief People's Officer, Nigel Forbes*

# The Water Resources Research and Training Centre Inaugurated



A purpose-built training and laboratory complex dedicated to improving the quality of potable water in the North Western Province was donated by Brandix to the Government. The Water Resources Research and Training Centre was inaugurated on September 27, 2007.

The Centre was constructed to meet the long felt need for a special Institute where the water quality of the dry zone can be continuously studied in order to identify current and future health risks, such as Fluorosis and Chronic Renal Failure, faced by people who live there.

The Centre was constructed and equipped at a cost of USD 250,000 (LKR 25 million) by Brandix in partnership with GAP Inc. USA for and in consultation with the Water Resources Board (WRB). Located in

Korakahawewa, six kilometres from the historic sacred city of Anuradhapura, the Centre has a laboratory building and office, a lecture hall, a practicals room, a library, dining hall and kitchen. There is also a student hostel and accommodation for staff members.

It will conduct training and educational programs on the dangers of consuming contaminated drinking water and teach the use of economical but effective purification and filtration techniques.

It will initially focus on trainees from the Anuradhapura district, but hopes to eventually train students from all over the island. The trainees chosen to attend are those individuals with the greatest ability to share their knowledge with the public. These include Samurdi Officers, Grama Sevaka Officers, Public Health Inspectors, and Midwives. The Centre will hold a minimum of 10 training



*Country Representative for GAP, Jothi Kandaswami at the opening ceremony*

sessions a year. It has already held four three-day training sessions since it opened in September. The Centre is a prime example of the Brandix drive to promote the use of safe drinking water by the public via educational interventions.



# Brandix Environmental Innovations Win Gold at International Green Apple Awards



*The representatives of Brandix Finishing with the Award*

**B**randix won Gold at the prestigious International Green Apple Environmental Awards presented at Britain's House of Commons in November. Conferred by The Green Organisation, an independent, non-political, non-activist, non-profit environment group dedicated to recognising, rewarding and promoting environmental endeavours and initiatives around the world, the award is the organisation's top accolade for environmental best practice at international level.

It was presented to Brandix Finishing Ratmalana for the company's innovative efforts to achieve zero disposal of solid waste and sludge to landfill by converting its effluent into environmentally, economically and socially relevant by-products. One of these products, solid construction bricks made from sludge generated by the garment washing, dyeing and finishing processes at the facility is already in use for the construction of a vocational training centre for the differently-able. (See page 5)

Brandix Finishing has also successfully integrated its sludge disposal process with the anaerobic digester of the company's effluent treatment plant to

produce bio gas from decomposed biological sludge and canteen food waste. This bio gas is now being used for cooking of food at the canteen and to fire the curing oven used in the garment finishing process.

Biological sludge on analysis has been found to contain many nutrients for plant growth. The company, in consultation with the Agricultural Research Institute, launched a community project for the production of organic fertiliser, with the assistance of the Industrial Development Board (IDB). Already, eight families are earning a livelihood from this project.

"It is quite amazing to see how much value can be generated from simple sludge, if an effort is made," said Brandix Group Director AJ Johnpillai. "The processes developed by Brandix's environmental engineers can be a model for many industries that have to dispose of solid waste."

"The Green Apple award is a fitting tribute to the passion and commitment of the Brandix environment team which is continuously looking for ways to recycle or convert waste into by products," said Hilary Nath, Head of Environment Management and

Research at Brandix, disclosing that further research and development is underway to produce paper and roofing sheets as an alternative to asbestos from sludge.

He disclosed that already, the conversion of sludge and canteen waste into bricks, bio gas and organic fertiliser has generated savings of USD 74,000 (LKR 7.4 million) a year for Brandix Finishing, and enabled the company to qualify for ISO 14001:2004 Environment Management System certification. These processes have in their initial stage accounted for 65 per cent of the 32 tons of sludge produced by the company per month, and will in their final stage result in zero disposal of sludge.

The Green Organisation looks for measurable benefit, sustainability, innovation, partnerships. Previous award winners include Jaguar Cars of the UK at national level. The awards recognise environmental innovations and best practices such as energy and resources conservation, recycling, by-products development and ecological conservation and commitment.



“ ‘Waste’ is an opportunity for Innovation ”

*Hilary Nath*

# Brandix Magic gives Humble Sludge New Value

**Brandix donates unique sludge bricks to Marks & Start training centre for differently-abled**

Construction bricks made from primary sludge generated by industrial waste conversion, will form the walls of a new vocational training centre for the differently-abled in Sri Lanka. Brandix and Marks & Spencer have collaborated in this innovative and environmentally friendly project.

These unique bricks were developed and produced by Brandix Finishing at Ratmalana after extensive research and testing. The first consignment has been donated to Rehab Lanka by Brandix for the construction of a two storied training centre cum workshop near the Khetarama Cricket Stadium. The project is funded by Marks & Start, the flagship community programme of Marks & Spencer.

The bricks are made out of primary sludge, used pumice stones and silica waste from the sand used for sandblasting during the garment washing, dyeing and finishing processes at Brandix Finishing. The pumice pebbles are separated from the primary sludge, crushed and re-mixed with the sludge, waste, sand, and cement to create bricks that have a compressive strength of 3.2 Newtons per square millimetre, more than double that of the standard concrete blocks used in construction.

The cost of production per brick at just



USD 0.14 (LKR 14) (excluding the savings that would otherwise be incurred on disposing of the sludge) is less than half the USD 0.37 (LKR 37) at which concrete blocks of the same size are retailed in the market.

This process, perfected at Brandix Finishing in 2007, utilizes 60 per cent of all the primary sludge generated by the plant and all of the used pumice stone and sandblast sand. With two people working on the project for two and a half hours a day, the company can produce 50 sludge bricks. The curing process takes 21 days, at the end of which the bricks reach their full compressive

strength.

The Rehab Lanka Training Centre, which will be the first building to be built with these bricks will comprise of a facility to train differently-abled people in the operation of sewing machines and a workshop for the fabrication of wheel chairs and other aides for the differently-abled. The centre is one of many skills development initiatives under Marks & Spencer's Marks & Start programme, which aims to give the opportunity of work experience to differently-able people, the homeless, young unemployed and parents looking to return to work.

## Brandix Wears the Red Ribbon



Having co-sponsored the 8th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) – one of the biggest international conferences to be held in Colombo to increase awareness of the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus in August 2007, Brandix did its part to raise AIDS awareness to mark International AIDS Day on December 01, 2007. Five thousand red ribbons were distributed amongst our SBUs to help familiarise associates with the red ribbon and what it symbolises. The associates donated an amount of their choice

in exchange for a ribbon towards a fund that will be donated to an infected child to help pay for medication.

In addition a five-day, tri-lingual campaign to raise AIDS awareness amongst associates was carried out. Informative videos were shown, posters and flyers distributed and the brandnet (the Brandix intranet) carried information on HIV/AIDS prevalence and its prevention.

# A Year of Caring for Our Own

**B**randix has approached the end of the first year of its 'Water is Life: Care for our Own' initiative which aims at ensuring that all Brandix associates have a proper water supply system. Over the past year, approximately 500 associates have received a new life line from Brandix. We have built wells, deep wells and pipelines all over the country to give our associates, their families, and in many instances neighbouring communities, easy access to clean water.

The project began with a survey collecting facts about the water needs of our associates in early 2006. Their requirements were prioritised and applicants were short-listed to receive the most appropriate solution. The first beneficiary was Renuka Ratnapala in December 2006, with many following thereafter. We have completed the water supply for the final shortlist and will carry out the second survey in January 2008. We are encouraged by the lasting improvement that this project has made to countless lives.



Associate : J. P. Dayarathne  
SBU : A&E Lanka  
Benefit : Well



Associate : B.K.U.Thushari  
SBU : Brandix Intimate Apparel  
Benefit : Well



Associate : Chandra.Samanmalee  
SBU : Brandix Casualwear  
Benefit : Well with plumbing



Associate : Sisil Greshan  
SBU : A&E Lanka  
Benefit : Tube well



Name : H.M. Kanthi  
SBU : Brandix Intimate Apparel  
Benefit : Well



Associate : Anula De Silva  
SBU : Brandix Casualwear  
Benefit : Well with plumbing



Associate : K.D.G. Nishantha  
SBU : A&E Lanka  
Benefit : Well



Associate : S.P. Marasinghe  
SBU : Brandix Intimate Apparel  
Benefit : Deep well



Associate : Prema Pathiraja  
SBU : Brandix Intimate Apparel  
Benefit : Deep well



Associate : R.D.Chaminda Lakmal  
SBU : Brandix Textiles  
Benefit : Well



Associate : W. Sumanawathe  
SBU : Brandix Casualwear  
Benefit : Well renovation



Associate : Lakmal Madushanka  
SBU : Brandix Finishing  
Benefit : Tank & filter

# Brandix Schools Shine with 5S



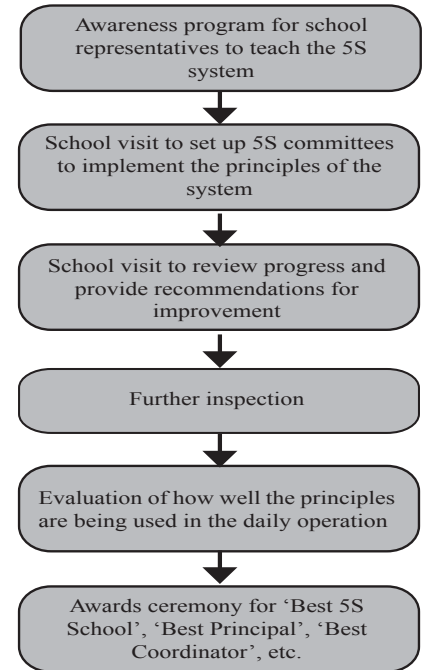
**B**randix has introduced 5S to 10 schools that were also beneficiaries of its water supply and sanitation initiatives. We introduced the 5S system to help the schools improve their general performance and to ensure that the facilities we provided them with would be maintained in the best possible condition.

5S is a philosophy and a way of organizing and managing work space and work flow with the intent to improve efficiency by eliminating waste. The 5S program focuses on having visual order, organization, cleanliness and standardization. The results you can expect from a 5S program are: improved profitability, efficiency, service and safety. 5S is a reference to a list of five Japanese words which begin with 'S'. They have been translated from Japanese as follows.

- **Sort (Seiri):** the first step in making things cleaned up and organized
- **Set In Order (Seiton):** organize, identify and arrange everything in a work area
- **Shine (Seiso):** regular cleaning and maintenance
- **Standardize (Seiketsu):** make it easy to maintain: simplify and standardize
- **Sustain (Shitsuke):** maintaining what has been accomplished.

5 S was originally designed primarily for factories but its principle has successfully been adopted in businesses, hospitals, schools and even homes resulting in significant improvements in efficiency.

Brandix has a six stage program for teaching 5S to schools, is depicted in the diagram below.



Brandix is dedicated to spreading knowledge of 5S, which is currently used at our facilities, to communities. At present we have committed USD 1,000 (LKR 100,000) to each of the ten participating schools, to be utilised in facilitating the adoption of the 5S principles. Plans to carry out further projects in schools and institutions of this nature are in the pipeline.

## Schools Water Projects Continue



### St. Mary's College

St. Mary's College in Wellawatte educates 500 students. Despite being located in Colombo, it lacked basic sanitary facilities for its students. Brandix built a complete toilet complex for the school. The project was coordinated by Rev. Father Bernard and reviewed by the Brandix CSR Centre. The project was completed in October 2007.

### Thihagoda National School

The Thihagoda National School in Matara is 124 years old and has a proud history. The school has 1,200 students and 50 teachers. For decades they lacked a proper water supply system. Their plight was recently featured on television and a request for help made. Brandix responded to this call by providing a water distribution system which utilised the existing overhead tank and added a deep-well, submersible pump and new pipelines.



### Tikiri Kumari Vidyalaya

The Tikiri Kumari Vidyalaya in Mulleriyawa educates nearly 600 students. This school lacked a proper water distribution system, which was brought the attention of A&E Thread, Kaduwela. In November 2007 the Brandix CSR Centre provided the school with an overhead tank and complete pipeline system.

# School Under Brandix Wing Wins National Productivity Award



Gajanayaka Vidyalaya located close to Brandix Casualwear, Kahawatta was recently ranked first in the National Productivity Awards 2007 at a gala ceremony held at the BMICH on October 23, 2007 and graced by His Excellency the President, Hon. Mahinda Rajapakshe.

The achievement was attributed by the school particularly to Brandix who

introduced 5S to the school at the end of 2006. A representative of the Brandix CSR Centre says that when they first went to Gajanayaka Vidyalaya, it was far from a model school; it lacked discipline and students' attitudes had room for improvement. The 5S project that was introduced by Brandix, however, captured the interest of both students and teachers and soon the school was transformed.

The principal, teachers and students all worked as a team with amazing results. Despite having limited facilities the school managed to beat many others from around the country in an all island competition to win the National Productivity Award. At a ceremony held at the school on the November 15, 2007, the Hon. Minister of Education, Susil Premajayantha felicitated the school and Brandix.

“ 5S is an approach to organization, orderliness, and cleanliness that can improve a school's image, eliminate wasted time and motion, create a safer place to study, and improve morale.

**A place for Everything and everything in its Place ”**

*Lal Fonseka*

Contact us with your comments / suggestions

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