

**DEVELOPMENT OF COCEPTUAL GEOLOGICAL MODEL
FOR THE FORMATION OF HOT WATER SPRINGS IN
SRI LANKA**

MASTER OF PHILOSHOPHY



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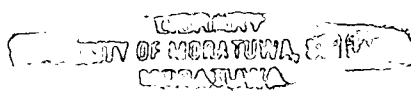
HITIHAMI MUDIYANSELAGE RANJITH PREMASIRI

**UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA
SRI LANKA**

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MODEL FOR THE FORMATION OF HOT WATER
SPRINGS IN SRI LANKA**

THIS THESIS WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EARTH
RESOURCES ENGINEERING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA IN
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MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY



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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contain no materials previously published or written by another person no material which, to substantial extent, has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institute of higher learning, except where an acknowledgement is made in the text.

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Abstract

As nature's wonderful gift, several hot water springs occur in Sri Lanka though it does not fall within very active tectonic zone in the earth. They are mostly confined to the eastern sector of the island. However, hot water springs at Mahapelassa off Embilipitiya, Kanniyai off Trincomalee and Mahaoya are well known to people. These thermal springs show their out flow temperature ranging between 34⁰C to 56⁰C. The hottest springs lie at Kapurella (56⁰C), followed by Mahaoya (55⁰C), Marangala-Wahawa close to Padiyatalawa (42-45⁰C), Mahapelassa (44-46⁰C) and Nelumwewa, which was known earlier as Madawewa and now under a lake, records 45⁰C in mud samples (Fonseka 1994). The present research was aimed out mainly to model the formation of hot water springs in Sri Lanka based on geological and tectonic settings using geological, geophysical and Remote Sensing techniques while evaluating the hot water springs for their potential as energy resources or development as places for eco-tourism.

Geological, structural and tectonic setting of the areas have been studied using geological, geochemical and geophysical techniques. Both field and laboratory studies were carried out in order to compile geological and geophysical profiles and to determine geochemical and physical parameters of hot water springs in Sri Lanka.

According to the results of this study, the major boundary between Highland Complex and Vijayan Complex show multiple thrust planes and shear zones showing imbricated lithological slices of both Highland Complex and Vijayan Complex. Other than the ductile structures, brittle fractures, joints and fault planes extend as mega lineament for several kilometers. These lineaments produce good secondary aquifer conditions with adequate porosity. The surface mapping and geophysical evidence of the lineaments show that they are very deep and are interconnected. Therefore, they offer better pathways for surface water to percolate deep levels and return upwards with adequate pressure to reach the surface after heating. These structurally controlled hot water springs in Sri Lanka are associated with deep geologically weak zones of fracture or fault systems within the tectonically active thrust boundary.

According to geochemical parameters and field evidence, hot water springs in Sri Lanka can be divided into three groups, Group 1: Mahapelassa Group 2: Kapurella, Mahaoya, Padiyatalwa , Palanoya and other around the Mahiyangana, Ampara and Group 3: Kannyai, Rathkhiriya and Adampane areas.). According to the chemical and physical parameters of hot water it can be concluded that Group (1) and Grou (3) are more suitable for therapeutic uses and have a good potential for development for eco-tourism. The Group (2) has hot water with low contaminations of salt, and show fairly high potential for generation of geothermal energy.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Acknowledgements	iii
Table of Contents	iv
List of Maps	viii
List of Figures	ix
List of Tables	x
List of Abbreviations	xi
1. CHAPTER ONE	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Nature of Heat discharge of hot water springs in Sri Lanka	2
1.3 Hot water springs, Geysers and other geothermal events in the earth's crust	2
1.4 Investigation of Hot water springs.	4
1.5 Hot water springs in Sri Lanka	5
1.5.1 Mahapelassa Hot water springs	5
1.5.2 Mahaoya Hot water spring	5
1.5.3 Kapurella hot water springs	7
1.5.4 Other hot water springs	7
1.6 Uses of hot water springs	7
1.6.1 Therapeutic uses	7
1.6.2 As Geothermal Energy	8
1.6.3 Power Plants Generating Electricity from Geothermal Reservoirs	9
1.6.4 For heating houses, buildings and greenhouses	9
1.7 The Future of Geothermal Energy	10
1.8 Objective of the research	10
2. CHAPTER TWO	
2.0 Literature review	11
2.1 Hot water springs in Sri Lanka and related research development	11

2.2	Geophysical studies and tectonics of hot water springs in Sri Lanka	11
2.3	Geochemical and isotopes studies	14
2.4	Development projects of hot water springs in Mahapelassa	15
2.5	Development of hot water springs in the world	16
2.6	Most popular hot water springs in the world	17
2.6.1	Hot water springs in USA	17
2.6.2	Hot water springs in Japan	24
2.6.3	Hot water springs in Canada	27
2.6.4	Nepal's hot water springs	28
2.6.5	Hot springs in Taiwan	28
2.7	Some geothermal activities in the earth	30
2.8	Geothermal Energy in the World	31
3. CHAPTER THREE		
3.0	Geological setting of hot water springs	32
3.1	Origin of hot springs	32
3.2	The Earth's Heat	34
3.2.1	Radioactive heat production	34
3.2.2	Temperature inside the Earth	35
3.2.3	Heat transport in the earth	36
3.4	Interpretations of the geothermal gradient	36
3.5	Mechanism of Hot water springs and other geothermal activities in the world	37
3.6	Sources of heat and hot water springs in the world	40
3.7	Relationship between faults and hot springs	40
3.8	Regional geological and tectonic setting around Sri Lanka	41
3.8.1	Geology of Sri Lanka	41
3.8.2	Tectonic setting of Sri Lanka	47
3.8.3	Lineaments in Sri Lanka	50

3.8.4	Neo-tectonic movement in Sri Lankan Crust	51
4. CHAPTER FOUR		
4.0	Methodology	54
4.1	Geophysical investigation	54
4.1.1	Resistivity survey	54
4.2	Remote sensing applications	55
4.3	Geochemical investigation	56
4.3.1	Sampling and storing procedure for laboratory analyses	56
4.4	Geological and other field work	57
4.5	Data analysis and development of the conceptual geological model	58
5. CHAPTER FIVE		
5.0	Results and Discussion	60
5.1	Hot Water Springs in Padiyatalawa	60
5.1.1	Geology of the area	62
5.1.2	Resistivity profile in the area	64
5.2	Mahaoya hot water springs	65
5.2.1	Geology of Mahaoya hot springs area	67
5.2.2	Resistivity profile in the Mahaoya area	68
5.3	Mahapelassa hot water springs	69
5.3.1	Geology of Mahapelassa area	70
5.3.2	Resistivity profile in Mahapelassa hot spring area	72
5.4	Kapurella hot water spring	72
5.5	Palanoya hot water spring	74
5.6	Nelumwewa hot water spring	76
5.7	Highland – Vijayan Complexes (HC-VC) Contact zone	77
5.7.1	Geological and structural features in the boundary zone	78
5.8	Regional Geological and tectonic structure of eastern part of Sri Lanka	80
5.9	Geological model	80

5.10	Geochemical characteristics	81
5.11	Lineaments around hot water springs in Sri Lanka	84
6. CHAPTER SIX		
6.1	Conclusions and Recommendations	86
6.1.1	Conclusions	86
6.1.2	Recommendations	87
	References	88
	Annexure	



LIST OF MAPS

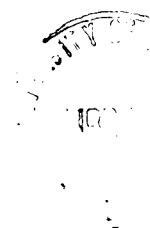
Map 1.1 Location map of Hot water springs in Sri Lanka	6
Map 2.1 Gravity anomaly map Sri Lanka (Hartherton 1975)	13
Map 3.1 Simplified Geological map of Sri Lanka (Cooray, 1994)	43
Map 3.2 Major plates in the world showing newly described Indian plate and active seismic zone south of Sri Lanka. (Source USGS)	49
Map 3.3 Lineament around Sri Lanka and India	52
Map 3.4 Tectonic Map of Sri Lanka	53
Map 5.1 Map of hot water spring in Padiyatalawa area	60
Map 5.2 Location map of hot water springs in Padiyatalawa	61
Map 5.3 Geological map of Padiyatalawa area	63
Map 5.4 Geological map of Mahaoya area	67
Map 5.5 Location map of Mahapeassa hot water springs	70
Map 5.6 Geological map of Mahapelassa area	71
Map 5.7 Location map of Kapurella hot water spring	73
Map 5.8 Geological map of Kapurella area of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.	74
Map 5.9 Map of hot water spring at Palanoya	75
Map 5.10 Location map of hot water spring at Nelumwewa	77
Map 5.11 Lineaments around hot water springs in Sri Lanka	84

LIST FIGURES

Figure 2.1 Hybrid anomaly profile and density model	14
Figure 3.1. Hot spring formation mechanism 1	38
Figure 3.2. Hot spring formation mechanism 2	39
Figure 3.3. Hot spring formation mechanism 3	39
Figure 3.4 Positioning of Sri Lanka in relation to neighboring Gondwana continent fragment	48
Figure 4.1 Electrode configurations of Resistivity method	55
Figure 4.2 Conceptual geological model	59
Figure 5.1 Geological cross section in Padiyatalawa area (along line A-B)	63
Figure 5.2 Resistivity cross section in cold water aquifer	64
Figure 5.3 Resistivity cross section near hot water spring at Padiyatalawa	65
Figure 5.4 Geological cross section in Mahaoya area (along line A-B)	67
Figure 5.5 Resistivity cross section in Mahaoya spring area	68
Figure 5.6 Geological cross section in Mahapelassa area	71
Figure 5.7 Resistivity cross section in Mahapelassa area	72
Figure 5.8 Geochemical distribution of hot waters in Sri Lanka	81
Figure 5.9 Temperature variation of Hot water springs in Sri Lanka	81
Figure 5.10 pH variation of hot water springs in Sri Lanka	82
Figure 5.11 Conceptual Geological model for formation of hot water springs in Sri Lanka	83
Figure 5.12 Land Sat image of east Sri Lanka showing locations of hot water spring of group 2	85
Figure 5.13 Land Sat image of northeast Sri Lanka showing locations of hot water spring of group 3	85

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1 Composition of Gases in thermal waters	15
Table 2.2 Chemical analysis of some major hot water springs in Sri Lanka	16
Table 3. 1 Heat production of different rocks as geothermal energy	35
Table 5.1 Some field observations of hot waters of Padiyatalwa Springs	61
Table 5.2 Chemical composition of hot water springs at Padiyatalawa	64
Table 5.3 Chemical and physical parameters of Mahaoya springs (In-situ tests)	66
Table 5.4 Other chemical parameters	66
Table 5.5 Chemical and physical parameters of Mahapelassa hot water	69
Table 5.6 Chemical parameters of Palanoya hot water	76



LIST OF ABBREVIATION

Ga	Billion years ago
GPS	Global Positioning System
HC	Highland Complex
Ma	Million Years ago
TM	Thematic Mapper
VC	The Vijayan Complex
WC	The Wannu Complex

