

## SECURING OF SRI LANKAN EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF - A REVIEW OF CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMISSIONS OF THE BAY OF BENGAL

Nalin de Silva<sup>1,\*</sup> and Chathurika Wickramage<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, No.569, Epitamulla Rd, Pitakotte*

<sup>2</sup>*University of Ruhuna, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science Technology*

*\*Corresponding Author - e-mail: [nalinsilva@hotmail.com](mailto:nalinsilva@hotmail.com)*

---

The events unfolding in the Bay of Bengal, pertaining to the submissions for continental shelf extension endangers Sri Lankan intentions for substantial extension of sea-bed area, as outlined in the submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS).

Having recognized the inequity that may result to Sri Lanka in applying the general provisions of the Article 76- UNCLOS III, SoU (Statement of Understanding) was introduced to avert this inequity securing Sri Lankan sea-bed extension to the Bay of Bengal. India assisted Sri Lanka in SoU, as it agreed to consider India as a “Neighboring State” allowing India to adopt same method which Sri Lanka utilizes, Under SoU, for her extension. Though India tendered her Submission on provisions of Art.76, retained rights for extended Submission under neighboring state criterion, which in return having the tendency to declare a large area south of the Bay of Bengal almost overlapping the entire Sri Lankan claim that put forward to the CLCS in May 2009. As of the present status, Sri Lankan Submission overlaps with India, Myanmar and Bangladesh to a greater extent. Further, Bangladesh challenged India/Myanmar submissions before the judiciary and the disputed area partly falls to the territory of Sri Lankan interest. Though legal aspects are hotly debated among the states bounded to Bay of Bengal, Sri Lanka remain as a non-party to any of these proceedings, though the debated area partly has been claimed by Sri Lankan Submission. In such complexities, securing Sri Lankan extended sea-bed rights as of the Submission to the CLCS would be a great challenge.

---