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## \$ 100 million Technology Park to be set up

TBM Global Infra Ventures has invested US\$ 100 million in Sri Lanka in a pioneering project to set up a Technology Park in the country. Managing partner of the project Sunjiv Mahajan explaining the concept of a Technology Park said that it is an environment where multiple technology companies can come and operate in a plug

and play basis. Basically it is a ready to move in office environment where all the infrastructure facilities are provided.

Technology Parks are specifically targeted at IT services, outsourcing companies and life sciences such as clinical research where computer based research is done. He said that at present there is no

such facility in Sri Lanka. The Technology Park will also include built in recreational facilities such as tennis courts, gymnasiums, swimming pools, health clubs, shops and food courts.

Mahajan said that the project requires 100 acres but due to the lack of land in one block it will be done in two phases. The initial

phase of the project will consist of 10 acres and will be established in Malabe while the second phase will be established nearby.

The project will provide 10,000 technology related jobs within the next five years. The ripple effect of the project is significant and the secondary and tertiary investment and employment opportunities

are huge, Mahajan said. He said that Sri Lanka is lagging behind in technology due to lack of infrastructure facilities compared to countries such as India.

Mahajan said that there are Technology Parks in almost every nook and corner in India and therefore the start up costs are almost zero and if a company has the adequate

amount of space they can start operations within a day or two. However, in Sri Lanka it is the other way around. It took six months from handing over the project proposal to getting the land. "But I am inherently an optimist and I see opportunity in adversity. Technology has transformed India so can it be in Sri Lanka", he said. He

said that rising software prices in India has given an opportunity for Sri Lanka while Sri Lankans are more sincere and have better work ethics. In addition India is also faced with a problem of staff changing jobs frequently for higher salaries. This results in raising the cost of manpower in India. Softlogic are their main local part-

ners in the venture. Mahajan said that they have interests in medicine and hospitality as well.

Therefore they believe that they can promote the tourism industry a great deal for Sri Lanka. He said that at present they are discussing with large local companies in the field of tourism as synergising is the key. (SG)

Rs. 100m for new machinery

## Local manufacturers to supply school uniform material for 2007

By SUREKHA GALAGODA

Local textile manufacturers have invested around Rs 100 million to purchase new machinery to supply the best quality school uniform material for year 2007.

Industries Minister Jayatissa Ranawera, Ministry Secretary Manel Kuruppu, Director, Textile Training Institute D. P. Gunawardena and local fabric manufacturers to see whether the total

National Chamber of Industries Chairman Nimal Perera.

At present there are 10 manufacturers including Sigiriya Textile Mills, Padma Weaving, Texpro Weaving, Nids Fabric,

the process for the year 2008", Perera said. The Ministry of Textiles will handle the allocation of quotas and it will be given to each company depending on the capability and capacity of

We now also get orders to supply the material for the uniforms required by the Armed Forces which brings the total requirement to 20 million metres, he said.

He said that when the

