



Message from the Chairman, University Grants Commission

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to issue this message on the occasion of the **4th Annual Research Symposium in Social Science and Humanities (ARSSSH-2017)**, organized by the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. The Annual Research Symposium organized by the Centre has particular significance in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities. It would certainly provide an opportunity for academics; researchers, policy makers and other interested parties not only to share their views on mutually rewarding topics, but also to obtain a constructive feedback on their work to be deliberated at the symposium from disciplinary experts gathered there.

I am well aware that aligning with its mission, the NCAS has expanded its activities in the recent past. The centre has mainly involved in capacity building of young academics in the fields falling under its purview in numerous ways. Some of the activities that the Centre has given a prominence under the guidance of the University Grants Commission are; funding of postgraduate research grants, conducting training programmes on research methodology, research tools, and academic writing, carrying out awareness programmes on postgraduate training opportunities in developed countries, working with foreign universities under MOUs specially for the benefits of Sri Lankan academic community, conducting training programmes for administrative and non academic staff of the university system, creating windows of opportunities for academic research publications in the disciplines coming under the Social Sciences and Humanities. In particular, annual research symposium conducted by the Centre has provided a cross-disciplinary venue for academics and researchers to address the rich space of research within the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities over the past few years. I am confident, this year's symposium (ARSSSH-2017) will provide an excellent platform for discussions, debate, and exchange of ideas and information among conference participants from various universities and research institutes representing a cross section of experts in disciplines coming under the Social Sciences and Humanities. ARSSSH-2017 would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and hard work of Professor P. S. M. Gunaratne, Acting Director of NCAS and his symposium committee comprising both NCAS staff and a specially chosen set of university academics. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of them for their passion and dedication. While thanking all the authors for the trust they have placed in NCAS submitting their papers, I wish this year's Symposium will challenge and inspire you, and will enhance the opportunities for new knowledge, collaborations, and friendships.

Professor Mohan De Silva

Chairman

University Grants Commission

20th December 2017