



Message from the Chief Guest, Honourable Minister of Higher Education

It is my pleasure to send this message to the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS) on the occasion of its Annual Research Symposium.

The Ministry of Higher Education is committed towards the upliftment of the standards of higher education in this nation, one of the few in the world to offer free education at tertiary level. I am happy to note that we support the NCAS in taking this one step further, and assisting post-graduate students to complete their research degrees as well. We have understood that sometimes promising researchers from developing countries such as ours are unable to secure the funding required to complete their post-graduate studies. Therefore I believe it is a very important activity of the Ministry of Higher Education to support programmes such as this. It is expected that the enhanced levels of knowledge thus achieved will contribute towards improving learning and teaching in universities, and help Sri Lanka to become a knowledge and innovation hub in the near future.

I am confident that today's symposium will establish higher standards of research and set the benchmark for future academic discourse. My congratulations go out to all those whose papers were accepted for publication as well as those presenting their work today. It is my wish that the NCAS will take the lead in organizing more academic events of this nature in the future.

I wish you all the very best in your future endeavours!!!

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