



## **Message from the Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education**

I am pleased 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.

Academics within the university system have always been supported by the Ministry of Higher Education in their efforts to complete their higher studies. To this end, it is satisfying to note that the NCAS has been a very active body that has, through its grant system, identified those academics who are suitable to be given financial support to carry out their studies successfully. We are very happy when academics reach higher levels of research, as it contributes to the overall learning culture and finally, to national development.

This emphasis on research could clearly be seen in Goal 6 of the National Higher Education Strategic Management Plan of Sri Lanka, 2012-2015, mid-term plan prepared by the Ministry of Higher Education. In order to realize this objective, the Ministry has implemented various measures to assist and encourage the academics to carry out research.

I am pleased to be a part of the first Annual Research Symposium organized by the NCAS, and hope that it will grow from strength to strength in the years to come. I congratulate all those involved in this event and wish you a fruitful conference.

**Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne**

Secretary

Ministry of Higher Education

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