



Message from the Director, National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences

It is with great pleasure that I write these few lines on the occasion of the Annual Research Symposium organized by the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS).

As you are aware, the NCAS is a government-funded institution that is committed to the furtherance of study and dissemination of knowledge in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences. The development of a society is measured in large part, through the enlightenment of its people. To this end Humanities and Social Sciences play a crucial role in furthering such enlightenment, through advancement in human perception. The NCAS is the pioneer institution that provides, through funding and other assistance, the opportunity for academics to engage more meaningfully with their research arrangements and to develop new forms of insights. It is hoped that such advancement in learning will ultimately benefit society as a whole, through the dissemination of knowledge. This symposium is an evidence of such. It also serves to highlight the academic standards that have been achieved by grantees, thereby justifying the objectives for which NCAS was established.

I place on record my sincere appreciation to the Minister of Higher Education, Hon. S.B. Dissanayake, for always being supportive of the activities of the NCAS and also for his presence here today as our Chief Guest, despite his heavy schedule of work. My gratitude also extends to Dr. Sunil Jayantha Navaratne, Secretary, Minister of Higher Education, who has kindly agreed to be a guest of honour. I am deeply grateful to Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, Chairperson, University Grants Commission, for also making time to be with us as a guest of honour. Prof. Indralal De Silva, the Conference Chair, has worked tirelessly in order to make this event a success. I thank him and his committee for their dedication and hard work. I also take this opportunity to thank all reviewers of abstracts, chairpersons of proceedings, members of all committees, staff of the NCAS and all those who contributed towards the accomplishment of this event.

I take pride in noting that this symposium is the first one of its kind, and I hope it will begin a great tradition of scholarship and learning that will thrive and grow in the years to come. In conclusion, I welcome you all to this symposium, and invite you to share in the great feast of knowledge and expertise that will be on offer today.

Dr. R. M. K. Ratnayake

Director

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(NCAS)

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