



Message from the Conference Chairman

I take immense pride in penning a few thoughts on this historic occasion of the first Annual research symposium organized by the National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS).

The NCAS has sponsored post-graduate research activities of Sri Lankan academics for almost one decade, and has produced many eminent scholars, who are experts in their fields of study. Humanities and the Social Sciences encompass many areas of study, and the modern trends necessitate a multi-disciplinary approach to research that is undertaken in this field. Hence, we find that even in today's presentations, there is a strong tendency for scholars to resist being confined to a particular field, and instead explore new horizons, which is a very welcome development. At today's symposium you will have the opportunity of listening to their findings, and judging the extent to which NCAS has contributed to enhancing learning and research in this country.

For this symposium, we received more than 100 abstracts from our valuable grantees. We regret that we were unable to allow them all an opportunity to present their work today, due to constraints of time. However, we have included all the selected submissions in the volume of abstracts, which will evidence the rich store of knowledge that was harvested for this event.

My sincere thanks go out to the Director, NCAS, Dr. R.M. K. Ratnayake, for the guidance and encouragement extended to me at all times. I could not have carried out this great responsibility if not for the support I received from the organizing committee, which consists of the entire staff of the NCAS, and members of the University staff, who are also NCAS beneficiaries. To them I offer my gratitude. My thanks also go out to all reviewers of abstracts, and chairpersons of proceedings, and all those who helped to make this event a reality.

I wish you all a productive and stimulating academic session.

Prof. W. Indralal De Silva

Senior Research Fellow

National Centre for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (NCAS)

No. 6 A

Sukhastan Garden

Ward Place

Colombo 07

Sri Lanka

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