



Message by the Director and Symposium Chair  
**Professor (Mrs.) Prashanthi Narangoda**

It is my greatest pleasure to send these greetings to all the presenters, and to welcome all the invited delegates to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Research Symposium on Social Sciences and Humanities (IRSSSH 2023) to be conducted at the Auditorium of the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023. We are proud to host this annual event for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year after the establishment of National Center for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, and in 2018, the National symposium was elevated to an international venture as we extended our hands to the global community to come and present their research evidence in order to give more value to those new findings. I am personally happy that we conduct on physical mode for the first time after the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak despite so many other challenges.

The theme we selected was from the lessons we learnt during the recent past: the *Sustainability through reconciliation of culture and heritage*, with the aim of addressing the issues related to the ongoing unrest among the global community where people have diverged from their human relationships by deteriorating the social harmony, solidarity and the serendipity of the global man. As a result, we face the global economic, political and societal challenges resulting frustration. We called for **extended abstracts** from the research scholars in order to demonstrate the broader understanding of the scholars, and also to encourage them to convert their abstract easily to a full research paper. We are thankful to the members of the Council of Research Fellows and the Senior Research Fellows (CORF) and the Council of Management (COM) of the NCAS for allowing us to propose the particular theme.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Education Hon. Dr. Susil Premejyantha who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Council of Regents of the NCAS, for his utmost support and the guidance, the Hon. State Minister of Higher Education Hon. Dr. Suren Raghavan, for his insightful deliberation with regard to the innovative research through NCAS, the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Nihal Ranasinghe for taking all our grievances singularly and collectively to find solutions. I am also grateful to the Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Senior Professor Sampath Amarathunge, and the Vice Chairman, Senior Professor Chandana Udawatta for their encouragements all the time to elevate the quality of the tasks of the NCAS. It is not complete if I do not make a reference on the contribution and the commitment made by the former Director (Acting) Professor Premakumara de

Silva to sustain its modality.

I take this opportunity to thank the keynote speaker Dr. Lodewijk J. Wagenaar for his presence here today by helping enlightening our aim of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium, and the esteemed panelists Professor Maciej Kowalewski (Poland), Professor Ankuran Dutta (India), Professor Sandagomi Coperahewa (Sri Lanka), Md. Reyad Hossain (Bangladesh), Professor Mir Abdul Sofique (India), and Ms. Himalee Kularathne (Sri Lanka) participating to share their knowledge and experience with us. I am thankful to Professor Nirmal Ranjith Dewasiri for taking the role of the Moderator of our Panel. My sincere and heartfelt gratitude goes towards all the reviewers, session chairs, Co-chairs and the Symposium organizing committee for their utmost strength rendered for the success of this event. Finally, I would like to congratulate all the presenters who are presenting today to share the new knowledge for a better tomorrow!!!

**Professor (Mrs.) Prashanthi Narangoda (PhD)**  
Director/ Symposium Chair