



Message by the Honourable Minister of Education &  
Chairman of the Council of Regents of the NCAS-  
**Hon. Dr. Susil Premajayantha**

It is my most pleasure to send this message at the momentum of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Research Symposium of Social Sciences and Humanities 2023 (IRSSSH 2023) conducted by the National Center for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. It is very important to note that we are in a highly digitized era where the sciences and technology play a major role in accelerating the day to day routine work. What we do not understand is that we are gradually moving away from our natural life style, customs, norms and productivity which we all have naturally inherited. And, thus we are living in a fast moving world where the inherited socio-cultural relationships have significantly been neglected or ignored. However, through the course of time, we have realized that the human beings cannot escape from the natural phenomena and adhere to the context where we live. I am glad that the intellects in our Universities and Higher Educational and Research entities have clearly understood the role they have to play in determining the future goals and expectations and moved to conduct interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary studies in order to avoid this gap. The recent most calamities encountered by COVID-19 must have given them the impetus for them to re-think in this regard. The theme of the Symposium: ***Sustainability through restoring Culture and Heritage***, undoubtedly fits in achieving this target. Being the Minister of Education, and the Chairman of the Council of Regents of the National Center for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, I am happy about the tasks undertaken by the NCAS: to engage in such kind of studies, in collaboration with leading research institutes and Universities, and their vision to have exchange programs etc., to share and disseminate new knowledge on Humanities and Social Sciences. I wish the Symposium outcome will provide the scholars, researchers and the novices in the field to identify and examine the latest data and contribute to the sustainability of society through social and cultural wellbeing also to achieve the UNESCO's sustainable goals. While congratulating all the presenters for their new achievements, I wish all the success for the NCAS in achieving its corporate goals!!!

**Hon. (Dr.) Susil Premajayantha**

Hon. Minister of Education and the Leader of the House of the Sri Lanka Parliament  
Chairman, Council of Regents/ NCAS