

MESSAGE FROM THE SYMPOSIUM CO-CHAIR



It is a great honor to host the 6th International Symposium on Social Sciences and Humanities (IRSSSH) 2024, taking place on October 24-25, 2024, at Hilton Colombo Residences, Colombo, Sri Lanka. For many years, the National Centre for Advanced Studies (NCAS) has been committed to fostering the research efforts of Sri Lankan academics, contributing to the development of many distinguished scholars who excel in their respective fields. The fields of Humanities and Social Sciences cover a broad spectrum of disciplines, and the evolving nature of modern scholarship calls for a multidisciplinary approach to research. This symposium reflects that trend, as many presenters today are exploring beyond the boundaries of their traditional disciplines, embracing new perspectives and ideas, a truly encouraging development. Today's event will provide a valuable platform for sharing new research findings and evaluating how NCAS has played a pivotal role in advancing learning and research in Sri Lanka.

I am pleased to share that, after a rigorous screening process, we selected around 45 extended abstracts from over 120 submissions. This selection was made by carefully adhering to the symposium's guidelines, theme, and standards of academic writing. The abstracts being presented today represent the research findings of scholars from both state and non-state universities, as well as independent researchers and NCAS grantees. While we were regretfully compelled to reject some submissions for various reasons, we have assured those researchers that NCAS will engage with them in the future to help bring their valuable findings to the forefront for the benefit of both local and global communities. The quality and depth of the submissions we received were truly commendable, showcasing the dedication and expertise of our scholarly community.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Professor Prashanthi Narangoda, the Director of NCAS, for her invaluable guidance, exceptional leadership, and profound wisdom, which have been pivotal in leading us to success. Her unwavering dedication to our shared goals and tireless efforts have played a crucial role in shaping our journey forward. Professor Narangoda's relentless commitment, working day and night to ensure our collective achievements, is a true inspiration to all of us. Her leadership, along with the steadfast dedication of the entire NCAS team, has been the driving force behind our accomplishments.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Keynote Speaker, Panel Members, Reviewers, Session Chairs, the Organizing committee, Senior Professor Upul Rajith Hewawitanagamage, volunteers from the University of Colombo and the University of Kelaniya, NCAS staff, NCAS trainees, and everyone working tirelessly behind the scenes. Their dedication and hard work have been pivotal in making this symposium a success. I deeply appreciate their contributions. I also want to express my gratitude to all those who supported this event in various ways. A special thank you to the presenters and participants for being an integral part of IRSSSH 2024.

I wish you a stimulating and productive experience during the symposium sessions.

Dr. Sampath Chandrasena
Symposium Co-Chair