

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD**  
**Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Peradeniya**

It is with great pleasure that I write this message for the proceedings of the first Peradeniya Economics Research Symposium (PERS) organized by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. I feel honored to be a part of this historical initiative by the Department of Economics and Statistics.

Research in the discipline of Economics has global significance given the current challenges faced by developing economies. To realize the benefits of research, it is vital to disseminate the findings. In this regard, PERS 2013 marks an important milestone in the presentation of students and academic staff research in the university. Previously, the Department had facilitated undergraduate research presentations in the form of Undergraduate Research Sessions in Economics (URSE) by providing an opportunity to final year students to present their dissertation research. In launching PERS, the works of undergraduate and post-graduate economics students and academic staff are being highlighted. Thus this is meant to be a research forum where the results of the latest research by students and academic staff of the University are presented, discussed and evaluated. I trust that the outcomes of this symposium will actively contribute to stimulating and enriching research in the discipline of economics among the students and academic staffs in the University.

No symposium of this nature can be organized without the joint and untiring efforts of many people. I take this opportunity to thank the Coordinator and co-coordinators and all other members of the committee for organizing this important event in keeping with the standards of the university. I also express my thanks to all those who contributed in numerous ways to make this event a success. It is my wish and belief that this good work will be carried forward by the Department in the years ahead. I wish all the participants a productive and pleasant time at the symposium and the endeavor all success.

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