

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Peradeniya Economics Research Symposium (PERS) – 2014

The Peradeniya Economics Research Symposium (PERS) is one of the highlights of the annual programs of both the Department and the University. The PERS provides an excellent opportunity for academics and both postgraduate and undergraduate students from different disciplines to present their research activities related to economics and engage in intellectual discussions analyzing their findings which will lead to a multi-dimensional focus in economics research.

In PERS 2014, a total of 19 peer reviewed research papers will be presented in the Technical Sessions. The Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya Professor Atula Senaratne. will be the Chief Guest and Professor P. Abeygunawardena, Managing Director & CEO, Shanaka Group of Companies and Former Associate Director of Borlaug Institute and Professor, Texas A & M University, U.S.A will deliver the keynote speech. The Head and Staff members of the Department of Economics and Statistics have honored me by giving an opportunity to organize PERS this year too. Organizing an event with this magnitude cannot be shouldered by one individual. It is a collaborative effort of the Chair, Co-coordinators, and members of the Organizing Committee; reviewers of abstracts; members of the Editorial Committee; and the authors of research papers.

The Head, Department of Economics and Statistics and the Organizing Committee joins me in extending our appreciation to the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice chancellor and the Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya for accepting our invitation and for the fullest cooperation they have extended to us at all times. I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude on behalf of the organizing committee to Professor P. Abeygunawardena for gracing this occasion by his Keynote address. My heart-felt thanks also goes to Dr. John Nigel, the Chair and the Head of Department of Economics and Statistics; and the academic and non-academic staff members of our Department for their fullest support and guidance given to make this symposium a success. I also extend my appreciation to all the participants, members of the Editorial Committee; panel of reviewers; and Chairperson and discussants of the Technical Sessions for their valuable services rendered to make PERS 2014 a successful event. I acknowledge with gratitude the researchers who shared their research findings in PERS-2014 and the members of the organizing committees for their generous contributions. I would especially like to acknowledge the sponsors – The Vice chancellor, University of Peradeniya, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya; Sri Lanka Mobitel; SLEDB; RDB, Erasmus Mundus; CDCE; Development Lottery Board; HDO;; PALM; and KCG (please see inside page of back cover for abbreviation) for their generous contributions to this Symposium. Also, I express my sincere thanks to Ms. A. V. K. Madhavi Herath, Dr. M. B Ranathilaka, Professor A. S. P. Abhayaratne and Dr. S. J. S Mel for their support in finding sponsors.

I wish to extend my thanks to the Assistant Registrar and the Assistant Bursar, Faculty of Arts; the Chairman, Faculty Higher Degrees Committee, the staff of Postgraduate Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences and the staff of the Technical Unit, Faculty of Arts; The Public Relations Officer and Curator, University of Peradeniya and other non-academic members of Faculty for their support extended for this symposium.

S. Vijesandiran, Coordinator, PERS - 2014