



**NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA  
(NASSL)**

**41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020

AT THE OFFICE OF NASSL

VIDYA MAWATHA, COLOMBO 7



# **National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka**

(incorporated by Act of Parliament No. 66 of 1988)

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07<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## **41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL (ZOOM) MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA (NASSL)**

AT 4:00 P.M. ON 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020

HOSTED AT THE OFFICE OF NASSL, VIDYA MAWATHA, COLOMBO 7

### **AGENDA**

- 41.1 Notice convening the meeting
- 41.2 Votes of condolence
- 41.3 Confirmation of minutes of 40<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 01<sup>st</sup> June 2019
- 41.4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 41.5 Annual Report of the Council for the year 2019/2020
- 41.6 Financial Statement for the year 2019/2020
- 41.7 Election of new Fellows in accordance with the provisions of Rules 3.13 – 3.24
- 41.8 Report of the election of officers and ordinary members of the Council
- 41.9 Any other business
- 41.10 Address by the President (Prof. Priyan Dias)

Prof. Namal Priyantha

General Secretary

**President**

Prof. Priyan Dias  
[priyan@uom.lk](mailto:priyan@uom.lk)

**Vice President**

Prof. Nadira Karunaweera  
[nadira@parasit.cmb.ac.lk](mailto:nadira@parasit.cmb.ac.lk)

**General Secretary**

Prof. Namal Priyantha  
[namal.priyantha@yahoo.com](mailto:namal.priyantha@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer**

Prof. Rahula Attalage  
[rattalage@hotmail.com](mailto:rattalage@hotmail.com)

## **AGM Paper 1/41(04 pages)**

### **MINUTES OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA, HELD AT 10.30 AM ON 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 2019 AT THE UNION BALLROOM, HOTEL HILTON COLOMBO RESIDENCES, UNION PLACE, COLOMBO 2.**

**Present:** Prof. A Aluwihare, Prof. R Attalage, Prof. AM Abeysekera, Prof. US Amarasinghe, Prof. TMS Atukorala, Prof. LG Chandrasena, Prof. PRT Cumarantunga, Prof. KA de Alwis, Prof. HJ de Silva, Prof. NR de Silva, Prof. WPS Dias, Prof. S Fernando, Dr. KL Gunaratna, Prof. NE Gunawardene, Prof. KS Hirimburegama, Prof. ULB Jayasinghe, Prof. AKW Jawawardene, Prof. N Karunaratne, Prof. V Karunaratne, Prof. ND Karunaweera, Prof. NS Kumar, Prof. V Kumar, Dr. R Mahindapala, Dr. AM Mubarak, Prof. A Pathiratne, Prof. SHPP Karunaratne, Prof. IK Perera, Prof. RMG Rajapakse, Prof. PV Udagama, Prof. MJS Wijeyaratne, Prof. RMG Rajapakse, Prof. M Ranasinghe, Prof. S Sri Ranganathan, Prof. Sunil Chandra, Prof. RH Wickramasinghe, Prof. RB Mapa, Prof. A Bamunuarachchi, Prof. C Perera

**Excuses:** Prof. J Perera, Prof. HMDN Priyantha, Dr. LMK Tillekeratne, Prof. J Edirisinghe, Prof. BM Ratnayake Bandara, Prof. OA Ileperuma, Dr. U Pethiyagoda, Prof. WD Ratnasooriya, Prof. C Goonaratne, Prof. M Munasinghe, Dr. PAJ Yapa, Prof. U Pethiyagoda, Prof. A Kumarage, Prof. HD Gunawardena, Prof. V Dissanayake, Prof. G Seneviratne, Prof. LL Ratnayake, Prof. S Sotheeswaran

#### **40.1 Notice of the Annual General Meeting**

The General Secretary read the notice convening the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka.

#### **40.2 Vote of Condolence**

National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka noted with much sadness the demise of Fellow Prof. Samantha Hettiarchchi, who was an eminent personality in the field of Engineering. Among his many achievements, most noteworthy was the significant contribution he made towards the development of early warning systems after the tsunami disaster in this country. Two minutes of silence was observed as a mark of respect.

#### **40.3 Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> AGM (AGM Paper 1/40)**

Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were confirmed, without any corrections.

Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama proposed that the minutes were in order and Prof. I.K. Perera seconded it.

#### **40.4 Matters arising from the Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> AGM**

Nothing to report.

#### 40.5 Annual Report of the Council (AGM Paper 2/40)

The General Secretary circulated the Annual Report of the 39<sup>th</sup> Council for the period 1 January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 (with additional activities conducted from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 also included). No corrections.

The Chair reaffirmed the need for financial stability of the NASSL and explained the failed attempts so far at ensuring regular funding support for office maintenance and its activities. The annual increase of rental and legal charges imposed by the SLAAS have further increased financial burden on the NASSL. Absence of a permanent building structure for the NASSL (in the vicinity of the existing NASSL office) due to the restrictions imposed on land in the area has resulted in this situation. He thanked the Chairman, National Research Council (NRC) for awarding LKR 500,000 annual grant for 2 years from 2018 to support the maintenance of NASSL functions.

The Chair announced two upcoming events: **The regional workshop on ‘Managing Urbanisation in Asia’**: NASSL secured a grant, following a competitive review process of proposals submitted, from IAP/AASSA to hold a regional workshop on ‘Managing urbanization in Asia’ from 25 - 26 June 2019. The event will be held at the Citrus Hotel, Waskaduwa. Registration information to Fellows will be sent via email with further details announced on the website.

**Regional Workshop on ‘the rise of non- communicable diseases in the sub-continent**: NASSL will collaborate with the UK Academy of Medical Sciences (UKAMS) in organizing and hosting the Regional Workshop on ‘the rise of non-communicable diseases in the sub-continent’. Though it was initially scheduled from 1-2 July 2019 due to the recent disturbances, it has been postponed and is likely to be held during the latter part of the year. All expenses of the workshop will be covered by the UKAMS.

Prof. Arjuna Aluwihare expressed his concern regarding the use of the acronym NCD, which might be partly responsible for not conveying a sense of urgency both to policy makers and the public, which is contrary to the actual impact of these conditions on health status of individuals. He suggested that inclusion of such ideas in the conference discussion forum might trigger further discussions.

#### 40.6 Financial Report for 2018 (AGM Paper 3/40)

Treasurer, Prof. Vijaya Kumar presented the Auditor’s report and the Financial Statement for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. Dr. Locana Gunaratna proposed and Prof. Asoka Pathiratne seconded that the Financial Report was in order.

The Chair proposed the same auditor Mr. AKHI Attapattu to be appointed for the following year with the house in agreement.

## 40.7 Election of new Fellows

In the past year, NASSL Fellows nominated five candidates as prospective Fellows. The Council screened and endorsed all nominations, (except one that was not in order) as stipulated in Rule 3.11 of the NASSL. The approved nominations as listed below were forwarded for consideration by the General Fellowship:

1. Prof. BAH Ranjan Premaratne
2. Prof. Senaka Rajapakse
3. Prof. Udaya Kumara Ranawaka
4. Prof. Gehan AJ Amaratunga

Additionally, as per Rule 3.23, the following nominees who were not elected in the previous year were also included in the ballot paper:

1. Prof. Ranjith Nandalal Pathirana
2. Prof. HY Ranjith Perera
3. Dr. GA Sirimal Premakumara
4. Prof. Rupanjanie Thakshala Serasinghe

Accordingly, the ballot paper comprised the names of the following eight candidates.

1. Prof. BAH Ranjan Premaratne
2. Prof. Senaka Rajapakse
3. Prof. Udaya Kumara Ranawaka
4. Rupanjanie Thakshala Serasinghe
5. Prof. Gehan AJ Amaratunga
6. Prof. HY Ranjith Perera
7. Dr. GA Sirimal Premakumara
8. Prof. Ranjith Nandalal Pathirana

The House appointed Prof. Jayantha Wijeyaratne and Dr. AM Mubarak as the returning officers. The following five candidates who secured equal or more than 50% of the 40 valid ballots cast (which included 8 postal votes and 32 votes cast by Fellows who attended the AGM), as per Rule 3.22 following were elected as Fellows.

1. Prof. Gehan AJ Amaratunga
2. Dr. GA Sirimal Premakumara
3. Rupanjanie Thakshala Serasinghe
4. Prof. Senaka Rajapakse

The Chair thanked Prof. Wijeyaratne and Dr. Mubarak, the returning officers for an efficient job carried out during the election process.

#### **40.8 Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of the Council (Year 2019) (AGM Paper 4/40)**

There were 6 council member vacancies and 4 office bearers:

The Council recommended the following Fellows to fill the vacancies and also requested for further nominations:

Prof. Namal Priyantha: General Secretary

Prof. Nedra Karunaratna: Asst. Secretary

Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama: Secretary, Foreign affairs

Prof. Vajira Dissanaik: Editor

Council members:

Prof. Kingsley de Alwis

Prof. Nadira Karunaweera

Prof. Ranjith Mapa

Dr. Siril Wijesundere

Prof. Rahula Attalage

The house approved the above nominations

Accordingly, the 40<sup>th</sup> Council of the Academy (2019-2020) will be as follows.

##### **Officers**

Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala: President

Prof. Priyan Dias: Vice President

Dr. Azeez M Mubarak: Immediate Past President

Prof. Namal Priyantha: General Secretary

Prof. Nedra Karunaratne: Assistant Secretary

Prof. Vijaya Kumar: Treasurer

Prof. Vajira Dissanayake: Editor

Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama: Secretary, Foreign Affairs

##### **Council Members**

Dr. Kingsley A de Alwis

Dr. Locana Gunaratna

Prof. WD Lakshman

Prof. Nadira D. Karunaweera

Prof. Ranjith Mapa

Prof. Rahula Attalage

Prof. Ananda Jaywardana

Prof. NR de Silva

Dr. Siril Wijesundere

#### **40.9 Address by the President**

Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala made his Presidential address titled 'Communicating Science: Perspectives and Challenges'.

#### **40.10 Any Other Business**

As there was no other business, the AGM was adjourned at about noon, which was followed by a special guest lecture titled 'People, Science and Social Policy' that was delivered by Dr. A.K. Shiva Kumar, Development Economist and Policy Adviser, New Delhi. The event ended with Fellowship lunch.

Prof. Nadira Karunaweera  
General Secretary  
1 June 2019

## AGM PAPER 2/41 (05 pages)

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 40<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA

This report reviews the activities of the Council for the period 30 May 2019–30 May 2020.

#### 1. THE COUNCIL

The Council was reconstituted as given below, at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 01<sup>st</sup> June 2019.

<b>NASSL Council – 2019</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
<b>Officers</b>		
1	Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala	President
2	Prof. Priyan Dias	Vice President
3	Dr. Azeez M Mubarak	Immediate Past President
4	Prof Namal Priyantha	General Secretary
5	Prof. Nedra Karunaratne	Assistant Secretary
6	Prof. Vijaya Kumar	Treasurer
7	Prof. Vajira Dissanayake	Editor
8	Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama	Secretary, Foreign Affairs
<b>Council Members</b>		
9	Dr. Kingsley A de Alwis	Member
10	Dr. Locana Gunaratna	Member
11	Prof. WD Lakshman	Member
12	Prof. Nadira D Karunaweera	Member
13	Prof. Ranjith Mapa	Member
14	Prof. Rahul Attalage	Member
15	Prof. Ananda Jaywardane	Member
16	Prof. NR de Silva	Member
17	Dr. Siril Wijesundera	Member

Eight (8) regular Council meetings were held during the period of reporting, with most members in attendance. Particulars of attendance at Council meetings are given below:



## Report of Attendance - NASSL Council Meetings (30 May 2019 – 30 May 2020)

	Name	Present	Excused	Absent	Total
1	Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala	7	1	0	8
2	Prof. Priyan Dias	7	1	0	8
3	Dr. Azeez M Mubarak	6	2	0	8
4	Prof. Namal Priyantha	7	1	0	8
5	Prof. Nedra Karunaratne	4	3	1	8
6	Prof. Vijaya Kumar	5	3	0	8
7	Prof. Vajira Dissanayake	4	3	1	8
8	Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama	6	1	1	8
9	Dr. Kingsley A de Alwis	8	0	0	0
10	Dr. Locana Gunaratna	7	1	0	8
11	Prof. WD Lakshman (resigned (with effect from Nov 2019)	0	2	1	3
12	Prof. Nadira D Karunaweera	7	1	0	8
13	Prof. Ranjith Mapa	5	3	0	8
14	Prof. Rahul Attalage	5	2	1	8
15	Prof. Ananda Jaywardane	5	2	1	8
16	Prof. NR de Silva	1	6	1	8
17	Dr. Siril Wijesundera	1	4	3	8
18	Prof. S. Seneviratne (Appointed with effect from Nov2019)	3	2	0	5

## 2. CONDOLENCES

The Council noted, with deep regret, the passing away of Fellow, Prof. M.D. Dassanayake, on 02<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2020. As former Head of the Department of Botany, University of Peradeniya, and later as an Emeritus Professor of the University, his services provided to the field of Botany were invaluable.

## 3. COMMENDATIONS

The Council recorded the following achievements of Fellows, and congratulated them on their success:

- Prof. WD Lakshman, Fellow, has been appointed of as the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama, Fellow, has been awarded a D.Sc. (Honorary Causa) degree from the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.
- Prof. Nadira Karunaweera, a Fellow, has been elected a member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

#### **4. INDUCTION OF NEW FELLOWS – 2018/19**

Three out of four Fellows, who secured a minimum of 50% of the total valid ballots cast, and were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 01<sup>st</sup> June 2019, were inducted as new fellows, viz. Prof. Gehan A.J. Amaratunga, Prof. Senaka Rajapakse and Prof. R. Thakshala Seresinhe. Dr. G.A. Sirimal Premakumara, who was also similarly elected could not attend as he was overseas. The Induction Ceremony was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019 at Oak Ray Regency Hotel, Kandy, followed by fellowship and lunch. Dr. Siril Wijesundera, Fellow, delivered a lecture on Floral Wealth of Sri Lanka as the Guest Speaker of the event. Thirty-seven (37) Fellows participated at the event.

#### **5. ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR**

##### **5.1 South Asian Regional Workshop on Managing Urbanization**

This workshop was held on 25-26 June 2019 at the Citrus Hotel, Waskaduwa. Prof. Yoo Hang Kim, President, Association of Academies and Societies of Science in Asia (AASSA) and Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala, President, NASSL, graced the occasion. Prof. C.M. Madduma Bandara delivered the Keynote Address on “New Provinces Based on River Basins and Urban Futures of Sri Lanka”. The Workshop also included three Guest Speeches and 10 presentations. About 40 international and national experts, including young planners from Sri Lanka, participated at the Workshop. The workshop was sponsored by AASSA and InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). The Workshop was led by Dr. Locana Gunaratne, past President of NASSL.

##### **5.2 Regional Workshop on the rise on non-communicable diseases in the sub-continent**

The workshop, held on 23-24 January 2020 at Cinnamon Grand Hotel, was jointly organized by UK Academy of Medical Sciences (UKAMS) and NASSL. Professor Dame Anne Johnson, Vice-President International of UKAMS and Prof. Vajira Dissanayake, Fellow of NASSL, co-chaired the workshop; and Prof. Priyan Dias, Vice President of NASSL attended the inauguration ceremony, representing the Academy. The workshop covered many areas under the main theme of non-communicable diseases, and discussions on what actions can be taken to mitigate the rise of non-communicable diseases in the sub-continent were held. The final report of the event will be available before the end of the year. The workshop was led by Prof. Vajira Dissanayake, Fellow of NASSL.

##### **5.3 Workshop on Entrepreneurship of Women Scientists**

This workshop, which had been scheduled for March 2020, was cancelled due to the prevailing situation, and a virtual event will be held in due course. It is being coordinated by Prof. Nadira Karunaweera, Fellow of NASSL.

##### **5.4 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress**

This will be postponed/cancelled due to the prevailing situation.

## **6. AFFILIATED BODIES**

### **6.1 The Sri Lanka National Chapter of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (SLNC OWSD)**

This workshop, which had been scheduled for March 2020, was cancelled due to the prevailing situation, and a virtual event will be held in due course. It is being coordinated by Prof. Nadira Karunaweera, President, SLNC OWSD and Council member of NASSL.

## **7. NOMINATION OF NEW FELLOWS – 2019/20**

Twenty-two (22) nominations for consideration of electing as new Fellows were received. Among them, three nominations were withdrawn, and four nominations did not conform to the stipulations of the Rules of NASSL; and therefore, fifteen (15) nominations were recommended by the Council for election. The total number of nominations, including two from the previous year, to be considered for election in the year 2020 is seventeen (17).

## **8. FOREIGN RELATIONS**

### **8.1 Association of Academics and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA)**

The Academy is involved in preparing a Chapter reflecting the Sri Lankan context regarding Current Practice & Issues for Improvement in STEM Education up to K12, for inclusion in a book to be published by AASSA. Prof. Nadira Karunaweera, Fellow of NASSL, coordinates this activity. A similar chapter on 'Climate Change and Health' is also to be completed later in the year.

### **8.2 Collaboration with University College London (UCL)**

NASSL has registered at UCL as a service provider. Consequently, a project titled Re-SCHOOL, involving a survey of coastal school resilience to natural disasters, is being coordinated by Prof. Priyan Dias, Vice President of the Academy.

### **8.3 American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS)**

Details of collaborations were discussed at a Zoom meeting held on 08 May 2020, and information was provided to the Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC) for further action. Prof. Nadira Karunaweera coordinates this activity.

### **8.4 Inter-academic Partnership (IAP) Statement**

The proposal on urbanization submitted by NASSL has been accepted by IAP. Further, an initial draft, "Draft Zero Report" of the IAP statement submitted by NASSL has been sent to all members of IAP. The Statement Governance Committee of IAP will appoint the Statement Working Group. Dr. Locana Gunaratne, Fellow of NASSL, is leading this activity.

## **9. NATIONAL RELATIONS/SERVICES**

- NASSL has collaborated with the National Research Council (NRC) of Sri Lanka in the following areas:
  - A project on Minimization and Management of Polythene in schools, led by Prof. Namal Priyantha, Fellow of NASSL, was successfully completed in the North-Central Province. This project was undertaken on behalf of the National Research Council (NRC) of Sri Lanka.
  - A list of Fellows with their specialization was made available for NRC so that NRC could select competent personnel to evaluate research grant proposals submitted to NRC.
- A Statement on the Covid-19 Crisis written by NASSL appeared in Island (Annexure I).
- Dr. Ranjith Mahindapala, President, NASSL, participated the inauguration ceremony of the International Conference organized by Sri Lankan Academy of Young Scientists (SLAYS).

## **10. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Annual grant award of Rs. 500,000.00 was received from NRC to conduct collaborative activities. The Academy wished to place on record its appreciation to NRC on this grant.

## **11. ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Although the AGM of NASSL had been scheduled to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020, it was not held due to the prevailing situation in the country and it would not be possible to hold the AGM physically in the foreseeable future. According to the 'Act of Incorporation and the Rules' of NASSL, the AGM shall be held no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March (Rule 15.1), at which the members of the Council shall be elected (Rule 11.1). Under these circumstances, as per Rule 12.2, the Vice President shall succeed to the Office of the President without an election.

The Council also decided, as an exceptional case, to electronically circulate the recommendations of the Council on new Council members among the Fellows, to obtain their approval or otherwise, on or before 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The Council authorized the General Secretary to formalize the new appointments to the Council if there are no objections from the General Body.

## **12. FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

- A concept paper on "Perspectives on Risks" has been submitted to AASSA for a possible joint workshop. This was however not selected, since a similar topic had been dealt with previously.
- Involvement in formulating national research priorities will be explored.

- The Academy will continue its efforts in identifying risk factors and possible solutions, especially in fast-emerging national issues.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF NASSL OFFICE**

- (a) A smart TV was purchased for the NASSL office. This would cut down the use of hard copies for meetings and presentations at NASSL.
- (b) Web services for the Academy are provided by Infinity labs.
- (c) Ms. Thamal Jayasekara continued her services as the Administrative Assistant in the Office of the NASSL. Due to the Covid-19 situation, the Office is open only on some working days.

Prof. Namal Priyantha  
General Secretary/NASSL  
07 October 2020



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## **Statement on the Covid-19 Crisis by the National Academy of Sciences, Sri Lanka**

Covid-19 is proving to be a challenge for the entire world. As an academy of science with links to fraternal academies throughout the world, the National Academy of Sciences, Sri Lanka affirms the proven potential of science to tackle such challenges.

Decisions taken must rely on evidence-based reasoning. This requires both data and inference. Where inference is concerned, scientists ranging from virologists and epidemiologists to economists and sociologists need to be consulted and their voices heard. The channels for such voices can indeed be the institutions they are a part of, but professional associations should also be heeded. Scientific pronouncements should be judged only on their evidence-based merits. We should also listen to the global community of scientists who continue to work and publish on various aspects of the crisis. While traditional knowledge may be useful, its conclusions must be supported by empirical evidence.

Data are the pre-requisite to make good inferences. Although most of the data may be in the state sector, other players could also be possessing data, perhaps in transformed form for better interpretation. It is important that the data be shared so that proper inferences can be made from them. Science is a communal enterprise, and those who share data will be seen as leaders in this community.

In issues such as Covid-19, decision making involves the balancing of options. We have currently a tension between a country's health and its economy. The arrival at science-based compromises is the specialty of mathematical modellers and decision/data scientists; and we need to nurture and tap into such expertise. What is important is that the goals and objectives be made public, in addition to the assumptions made in decision-making. All members of the public are stakeholders in such social decisions, and their concerns, especially those of weaker segments, should be addressed.

Today's technology offers opportunities like never before. We have already seen the use of technology to assist social distancing. In some cases, the way we usually do things may improve through practices we have been forced to adopt during these times – for example online meetings that reduce distance and travel; and online teaching that could enable students to learn at their own pace. We must of course be cautious about technology since it shapes us even as we try to shape it; and also compensate for the “have nots” in the technological sphere. We call upon our scientists and technologists to use their skills in problem solving to find innovative solutions for the current crisis.

Covid-19 has made us deeply aware of our limitations as humans, though we often see ourselves as “lords of the earth”. We can, however, survive and thrive in nature and culture, if we pursue excellence in a spirit of humility. We wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to be on the frontlines of the disease and its control, or in delivering essential services at this critical time.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF SRI LANKA**

**Report on the Financial Statements**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2019, and the statement of comprehensive income and statement of changes in reserves and, cash flow statement for the year then ended.

**Council's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Council is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view, in accordance with the Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not- for -Profit Organizations and for such internal control as Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**


My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Academy as at December 31, 2019, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not- for -Profit Organizations.

  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT  
Colombo.  
Date: 11-09-2020

