

COMMENTARIES AND NOTES

Appreciation : Emeritus Professor J.N.O. Fernando



Professor Jerence Nansel Oleap Fernando, JNO to most of us, was born on the 29th February 1944. He had his school education at the Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa and St. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia. He had his undergraduate education at the University of Ceylon where he was awarded a 1st Class B.Sc. degree in Chemistry. His post-graduate education was from the Imperial College, University of London, which awarded him a Ph.D. degree.

He served the Sri Lankan University system for a continuous period of 43 years and retired as the Senior Professor of Chemistry at the Open University of Sri Lanka. He also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Open University for a period of 6 years. In recognition of his services, the Open University bestowed on him the honour of Emeritus Professorship.

His major interests were in chemical education and distance education. Many students with an interest in science who could not further their education, particularly

through the conventional university system, benefitted from alternate programmes where Professor Fernando played a major role.

Professor Fernando was recognized by many national level institutions for the significant contributions made by him. He was a Past General President of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the National Academy of Science and the Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon. He also served as a member of the Public Service Commission.

JNO was totally committed to opening up new avenues for chemical education. He contributed very significantly over a period of 25 years to the establishment and development of the Graduateship Programme in Chemistry conducted by the College of Chemical Sciences of the Institute of Chemistry. JNO gave his time and effort to science education unstintedly. He was a strict disciplinarian and a good teacher. His students and colleagues will always remember, appreciate and value his services and friendship.

Nalini Ratnasiri