

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### A tribute for fifty years of dedication and teamwork

There is an increasing focus the world over on science being linked to the provision of changes necessary to find integrated, lasting and practical solutions to problems faced by the planet and its inhabitants. This underscores the importance of developing the capacity for high quality scientific research in a country.

Mandated by the National Science Council of Ceylon Act No. 9 of 1968, of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the National Science Council of Ceylon was established in 1968. The council was conferred, among other powers, to collect and disseminate information relating to scientific and technical matters, and to publish reports, periodicals and papers on matters scientific and technical. The vision and mission have prioritized the promotion of science, technology and innovation of socio-economic development of the nation.

Quality science, technology and innovation research alone does not ensure practical solutions which lead to answers for developmental problems of a country. It is extremely important for scientific information regarding insights gained through reliable and quality scientific research to reach fellow scientific peers. It is also important for this information to be communicated to the general public, the government and its management as well as the politicians to ensure their support to establish the desired changes/solutions for developmental problems.

Effective science communication is an important part of dealing with science. There are many ways in which attention to the communication aspects of science improves science itself. Good scientists are also good communicators who pay attention to both the message being communicated and the presentation aspect of a manuscript.

The National Science Council commenced the publication of Volume 1 No 1 of the Journal of the

National Science Council in 1972 with two issues per year. The scope of the journal was extended to all branches of science and technology. From 1994 to date the journal has published four issues per year in March, June, September and December. In 2006 the JNSF was published with a face-lift which was much appreciated by the readers.

The year 2006 was very special for the National Science Foundation, the scientists of the country and the state of science in the country. This was due to the journal being cited in two databases of the Thompson Scientific Index. The two databases were the BIOSIS Previews and Zoological Records. Two years later in 2008 the journal was also indexed by the Science Citation Index Expanded of the Thompson Scientific Index which is currently owned by Clarivate Analytics. The journal is now indexed in the Scopus, Biological Abstracts and Chemical Abstract as well as the indexing databases TEEAL, Ulrich's, EBSCOhost, and CAB Abstracts. All this depicts the added acceptance of the journal indicating the growth of science in the country.

Currently the Journal accepts submissions under four categories. These are Research Articles, Reviews, Research Communications and Correspondence from local and overseas researchers/scientists. The Editorial Board decision to shift to online submission of manuscripts and processing them through the Sri Lanka Journals Online platform (SLJOL) saw a considerable increase in the number of submissions as well as a reduction in the time required for processing. The journal is published both online and in print form. Additional features like the ability to access the full text of the journal through the SLJOL website <http://jnsfsl.sljol.info/> free of charge and lifting the embargo period of 06 months and becoming open access since 2013, has increased the circulation of the journal locally as well as overseas. The Impact Factor of the journal has shown an increasing trend and was 0.682 for 2022.

This special issue of the journal with the theme “Meeting Global Challenges: a Transdisciplinary and Transnational Approach” celebrates and appreciates fifty years of continuous publication. The JNSF is one of the best examples of teamwork in science in the country. It is with grateful thanks that all team members over the years are remembered for their contributions to this success story.

Often the persons at the forefront of an activity are appreciated and admired more than the persons who work hard behind the scenes. It is they who ensure that the final product is a reality. For this they deserve credit and grateful thanks. The past and present dedicated staff of the Journal Publication Division who have shouldered their daily responsibilities regarding the publication of the journal has always been the strength behind the journal.

Foremost of the JNSF team who deserve credit are the research scientists and technologists whose untiring efforts have produced meaningful research findings which they have communicated through quality manuscripts submitted for publication in the journal. Many of the insights contained in these manuscripts have contributed

to science in varying degrees and also provided answers to developmental problems of the country. The authors of these manuscripts are role models who must be followed by the young scientists of the country who have the responsibility of continuing the good practice submitting quality manuscripts for the future issues of the journal.

The Editorial Boards have been guided by the invaluable inputs of the reviewers of the manuscripts who have helped maintain the quality of the publication at a high level.

The team also includes all members of the Editorial Boards who have played key roles in the advances achieved by the journal. They have guided and given the necessary leadership to the journal. The past and present Chairman/Chairpersons and the members of the Board of Management of the National Science Foundation are thanked for their advice and guidance.

This special issue is a grateful tribute to all those who have contributed to the success of the Journal. I have no doubt that the journal will in the future achieve much more and continue to fulfil the aspirations of the scientific community of the country.

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(Editor-in-Chief/JNSF 2005-2019)