

## **Message from The Dean**

I am delighted to send this message on the occasion of Annual Academic Sessions of the University of Colombo which will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2010.

Traditionally, research has been one of the main functions of the University. This function differentiates the University from other Institutions of Higher Education. One of the salient and unique characteristics of the University is that it is engaged in dissemination of higher level knowledge and encourages creation of new knowledge through its research activities. About two centuries ago German Professors started teaching disciplines based on their area of research. This was known as integration of teaching and research.

The Academic Forum of this nature provides a great opportunity for the university academics to present their research findings for the academic community to process their research and make it acceptable to the rest of the world. It is well known through the studies done by American scholar Robert Merton that only after the scrutiny and acceptance by the academic community research findings become authentic. The relationship between the proliferation of research and various sociological factors and processes has been well documented in the study of Sociology of Science.

It is also noteworthy that the University of Colombo will be focusing on the theme 'Knowledge Economy and Higher Education' in keeping with the International trends in respect of Higher Education and Economy. Needless to say the emerging knowledge economy has to concentrate on assimilation, dissemination and creation of new knowledge. It is the primary duty of the Universities world over to work towards this objective related to Knowledge Economy.

I hope the Academic Sessions will highlight the multifaceted dimensions of the knowledge economy and pave the way for Sri Lanka to enter the new era in which knowledge economy would flourish for the betterment of Sri Lankan polity.

**Prof. S.Sandrasegaram**  
**Dean**