

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The Link Natural Digest, completes a decade since it was first published. The original objective was to tell the stories relating to the development of natural products, or herbals as they are sometimes termed, in a form that is true to their scientific features, and yet of interest to readers who belong, in addition to the scientific community, to the informed general public as well.

Over the past decade the Digest has been able to successfully increase awareness of themes related to herbal products, the science behind the features relating to therapeutic properties and organoleptic characteristics that turn these plant-derived products into medicines and fragrances. Of equal interest has been the historical aspects of the development of medicines in the several regions of the world and the origins of the well established product commodities of this day. So the Digest has brought to its readers a wealth of information. Without being pretentious, it may be claimed that the Link Natural Digest has brought to those readers who would not normally indulge in reading scientific journals, a type of literary magazine which fulfils a void in their pursuit for scientific

knowledge. This would be true particularly of a community interested in herbal products like herbal medicines, natural fragrances, essential oils, spices, and such products derived from nature's sources.

The Digest has also explored the fascinating history of medicine and cosmetics which seem to have sprung from similar beginnings as mankind emerged fighting dreaded diseases and adorning the environment, from prehistoric times. The legends of the eminent medical giants of ancient Arabia of Greece and India and the original creators of what is today known as traditional Chinese medicine feature in the well researched articles of the Digest. These articles are such features of history that will not dim with time. These are such stories that will resonate for long.

One of the features of herbal medicine for instance that continues to fascinate the modern lay mind is how modern research brings up to the modern market place products that have enjoyed a history of traditional use as medicaments and how new research seeks to use traditional fragrances that were deemed to alter or enhance moods. The search for more indulgence in things that are natural and even connected to natural life styles is an understandable trend in the search for new agents for the marketplace. In the pages of the digest is revealed some of these trends as well as the rationale that drives them along.

It is our endeavour to keep the digest at its high creative level while maintaining its mission to provide interesting fare in the print medium to illustrate the wonder within nature's repertoire of constituent agents that can benefit and enhance the well being of human beings.

***Devapriya Nugawela***