

## Message from H.E. the President of Sri Lanka

I am pleased to send this message of greetings to the ceremony to present the National Awards for Science and Technology Achievements - 2014, organized by the National Science Foundation.



With increased focus towards a knowledge economy, where technological advancement is an essential factor, it is necessary to have greater emphasis on Science and Technology (S & T) as key drivers to enhance technological knowledge and foster innovation.

In a globalized economy that is increasingly competitive there is a strategic importance for the promotion of science, technology and innovation for purposes of national development. Good competition in the global market requires expansion of the knowledge base in the country by developing, attracting and retaining highly skilled S & T personnel. The recognition of their role in national development in events such as this, will help promote the improved application of S & T towards socio-economic progress in the country.

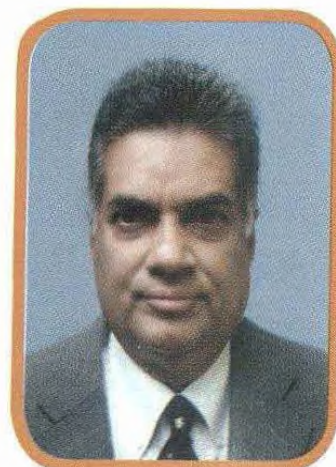
It is noteworthy that the National Science Foundation, which is under the purview of the Ministry of Highways, Higher Education and Investment Promotion is conducting this valuable awards ceremony for the 6<sup>th</sup> time.

I congratulate all Award Winners and Recipients of Certificates of Merit for their excellence in diverse fields of knowledge, and convey my good wishes for the success of this competition in the future.

**Maithripala Sirisena**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Message from the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



It is with great pleasure I send this message of good wishes on the occasion of presentation of National Awards for Science & Technology Achievements 2014 held for the 06<sup>th</sup> time in recognition of the commendable and silent role played by scientists and technologists in Sri Lanka towards the advancements of the relevant field and the socio-economic development.

Science, technology and innovation is an important segment which helps to develop an up and coming nation and enhance the quality of life of its people.

In the Global Innovation Index 2014 report, Sri Lanka is ranked at the 98<sup>th</sup> position. Sri Lanka can be uplifted certainly to a top ranking position in this index by leveraging our highly trained science and technology workforce. It is vital to recognize the outstanding contributions scientists and technologists have made in practical application of science, technology and innovation towards sustainable socio-economic development.

In this context, establishing an award scheme to give national level recognition for scientists and technologists is admirable. Thus, continued effort made by the National Science Foundation in recognizing their role and organizing this ceremony is noteworthy.

I congratulate all the award winners and the recipients of Certificates of Merit and wish every success in their future endeavours.

**Ranil Wickremesinghe**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Message from the Minister of Highways, Higher Education and Investment Promotion

Since the dawn of science and technology detonation it has contributed immensely to the betterment of the life of mankind, irrespective of religious, ethnic, caste and cultural differences. Through experience of decades it has been felt and convinced that science and technology advancements have been leading its way ahead minimizing suffering and increasing prosperity of the mankind thus, assuring survival in its maximum potential. Reaching beyond human territory, science and technology intervention made in other important territories which influence survival of mankind has fostered mutual benefits for man and the environment.

As Sri Lankans we all are beneficiaries of science and technology oriented advancements in the areas of medicine, agriculture, nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology, etc. of local and international scenarios. Further, we as a country have already taken a pragmatic shift in attitude towards promoting technology development and transfer creating an environment for in-house technology to penetrate into the society. Further, this emerges as an opportunity for public-private partnership to accomplish its social responsibility.

In bringing together the spheres of scientific knowledge, technology development and rewarding the excellence, National Science and Technology Awards scheme organized by National Science Foundation can be identified as an ideal platform. Furthermore, it demonstrates the timely importance of acknowledging the technology developers and scientists at national level thereby, encouraging their contribution further in national development. I whole heartedly congratulate the award winners and acknowledge their expertise in technology development efforts and willingness to contribute to socio-economic development of the country. I also appreciate the tireless efforts of the staff of the National Science Foundation in planning and organizing the National Science and Technology Awards 2014.

I earnestly hope that the deliberations and goodwill of the scientific community and the industrialists would further contribute to science and technology advancement at local and international levels persistently. I also wish a better future to the concept of National Science and Technology Awards conducted by the National Science Foundation.

**Kabir Hashim**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015