

Promoting Collaborative Research between Sri Lanka and Japan: Role of Sri Lanka-Japan Study Centre

Missaka P. B. Wijayagunwardane

Director, Sri Lanka-Japan Study Centre (SLJSC), University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya 20400, Sri Lanka; missakaw@pdn.ac.lk

The Sri Lanka-Japan Study Centre (SLJSC) was established with the vision of establishing a sustainable research culture through Sri Lanka-Japan collaborative research with the approval and under the direction of the Council of the University of Peradeniya. The SLJSC has set its' mission to create a forum for scientists and experts from various disciplines to establish international collaborations, exchange ideas, and formulate concepts and practices leading to sustainable developmental research between Sri Lanka and Japan. The significance of SLJSC was highlighted in the Joint Statement issued on 14th March 2013 by the H.E. the President of Sri Lanka and H.E. the Prime Minister of Japan, when the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya officially launched it on March 29, 2013 at the Inaugural Session of the First Conference on Sri Lanka-Japan Collaborative Research; SLJCR-2013 held in Kandy.

The SLJSC is conducting several projects to further strengthen academic and research cooperation between Sri Lankan and Japanese Universities, and to strengthen student exchange programs between Sri Lankan and Japanese Universities. SLJSC also making efforts to build human capital on research methodologies and modern technological tools for research in different disciplines through finances secured through submission of proposals jointly with Japanese Universities and to improve physical capacity to undertake collaborative research between the universities of the two countries. SLJSC facilitates the coordination of research and training activities between the two countries and strives to strengthen existing linkages between different Sri Lanka Universities with Universities in Japan.

Every year, SLJSC organizes the Conference on Sri Lanka-Japan Collaborative Research (SLJCR), which allows scientists to exchange the latest advances in their fields of study and provides an environment that fosters new collaborations and shares new research ideas. Being a three year old center, the SLJSC has already able to stage three scientific forums and highlight more than 200 collaborative research findings with the participation of more than 1000 scientists representing more than 100 Sri Lankan and Japanese institutes.

The main objectives of the SLJCR are to make a common platform to present, discuss and exchange ideas on the collaborative research between Sri Lanka and Japan, and to advocate, encourage and create an open dialogue between Sri Lanka and Japanese researchers. The Fourth Conference on Sri Lanka Japan Collaborative Research; SLJCR- 2016 is scheduled to be held on 19-20 August 2016 at the Hotel Grand Kandyan, Kandy and the University of Peradeniya. The Embassy of Japan in Colombo, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Foundation, Association of Sri Lankan Academics in Japan (SLAc Japan), Sri Lankan Student Association in Japan (SLSAJ) and the International Research Centre (InRC) of the University of Peradeniya collaborate in the organization of the SLJCR.