

Message from the Country Director of the British Council



It is with great pleasure that I am writing this foreword to the Sri Lankan English Language Teacher Educator Conference (SLELTEC) 2020 proceedings. The conference with the theme *English language teacher education in the 21st Century* was one of the very last events that I attended before Sri Lanka went into lockdown due to Covid-19. All the more important than that just a few months later we are able to reconnect with you all albeit in the on-line environment.

Participants - all teacher educators – came from across the island, from both the in-service and pre-service sector, from the National Colleges of Education, the Teacher Training Colleges, the Teacher Centres, the Regional English Support Centres. In addition, provincial In-Service Advisors attended. We were so pleased to welcome participants from Afghanistan and Nepal and speakers from the UK and the US.

These papers therefore represent the scope and the breadth and indeed depth of the presentations and discussions that took place and covered the themes of digital trends, observation and feedback, teaching literature, and the challenge of speaking and listening. They are truly impressive for the very first conference for teacher educators in Sri Lanka.

The British Council has been present in Sri Lanka for 70 years and from the very beginning conferences and training for teachers of English was at the heart of our work.

SLETEC represents an important step in terms of creating a forum for continuing professional development for teacher educators. I would like to thank all speakers, participants and organisers for their hard work and dedication that has made this publication possible.

Gill Caldicott