

Message from the Director of Education of the English and Foreign Languages Branch at the Ministry of Education



The Ministry of Education, and specifically the English and Foreign Languages Branch, is proud to be launching the proceedings of the Sri Lankan English Language Teacher Education Conference 2020 in partnership with the British Council. I addressed the conference in March earlier this year and spoke of the importance of English language teacher education for the future of the children in our country. In this Covid-19 era, it is even more important that children come out of school with the skills they need for the economic marketplace they will find themselves in. English is one such skill that is increasingly important for employment.

The conference addressed themes that are very relevant today. One of these - digital trends - has come to the fore because of the shift from face to face to online teaching. Another – the speaking and listening challenge – is very relevant today. We are working on developing and assessing speaking and listening skills in the secondary school English curriculum and hope to add these skills into the O level exam in the future. The other two themes – observation and feedback and teaching literature are also important. Only through proper systems of observation and feedback can we hope to maintain the quality of pre and in-service English language teacher education. Through adapting the teaching of literature to make it accessible through hard copy and digital means we can stimulate the creativity of our next generations.

The conference and now the papers collected together in these proceedings rightly addressed these four pertinent and important themes in our education sector. I hope that together we can take these forward and make progress in all these areas.

B M Weerasuriya