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| Mr. SI. Nimsith | South Eastern University of Sri Lanka |

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

I am very much pleased to write this message on the occasion of the 7th International Symposium 2020 of the Faculty of Islamic Studies & Arabic Language of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. The International Symposium is one of the major annual events of the Faculty and has been organized successively for the seventh year in 2020. The theme of the 7th International Symposium 2020 is “The Moderate Approach to Human Development Through Islamic Sciences and Arabic Studies”.

South Eastern University of Sri Lanka continues to develop and uphold a strong and a well-established research culture through the annual research conferences held with different but timely themes. The South Eastern University of Sri Lanka promotes new research, creates new knowledge, and disseminates the knowledge through different platforms out of which this annual research symposium also plays an important role. South Eastern University of Sri Lanka also promotes and encourages national and international researchers to benefit from these research symposia in sharing their valuable research findings among well attended researchers from different regions and countries.

This conference focuses mainly on research themes related to Islamic sciences and Arabic Studies and brings together the researchers, academicians, professionals and students who are involved directly or indirectly with the discipline from all over the world to interact among themselves while presenting their research findings. A substantial number of researchers, both from overseas and local, are participating in the 7th International Symposium 2020 of the Faculty which is held online as a Webinar. This International Conference is not only allowing exchange and sharing of information and new knowledge, but also is paving the way forward to collaborative research.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the chair, co-chair and the organizing committee of the 7th International symposium 2020 for their tireless effort and commitment in organizing the event successfully. I also wish to thank all others who have contributed to make the symposium a reality. Finally, I wish the 7th International Symposium of the Faculty of Islamic Studies & Arabic Language of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka a great success.

Professor Dr. MMM. Najim
Vice Chancellor
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

As the Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic Language, I feel honored to write this felicitation message to the 7th International Symposium – 2020 organized by the Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic Language of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. The theme of the conference is “The Moderate Approach to Human Development through Islamic Sciences and Arabic Studies”. The conference theme is founded on three main components such as ‘the moderate approach’, ‘human development’ and ‘Islamic sciences & Arabic studies’, which are very relevant in the contemporary world.

Both research and development are vitally interrelated, especially in the context of human development. Progress in human development is evident in varying measures such as those for health, education, income, security, spirituality and participation. Accordingly, human development is about expanding the richness of human life rather than simply the richness of the economy, where people live. The concept of human development grew out of global discussions based on the links between economic growth and development. In terms of human well-being, the human development value is an important indicator.

The Moderate Islam is one of the concepts known in present Islamic tradition as *Al Wasathiyyah*. The moderate approach is a central notion of Islam. This is the essence of the Qur’anic verse “**Thus we have made of you a community justly balanced**”. A community of the middle path is exactly the kind of discourse that today’s communities need.

Nowadays, the Islamic scholars all over the world concentrate their dialogue on the moderation of Islam as well as ways and means of moderation. Grand Mufthi of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdulla Al-asheikh said “One of the manifestations of moderation in Islam is what is described as qualities of goodness, nobility, tenderness, justice, fairness, mercy, brotherhood, love, renunciation of unjustified violence and aggression, advocacy of forgiveness of wrong doers, patience and charity.” And Grand Mufthi of Egypt Shawqi Allam denotes that “Islam is a civilization that enters hearts before bodies, and we have seen in our history how scholars of the companions and followers when they went out of the Arabian Peninsula did not use sermons or just talk but translated the meanings of Islam in the form of behavior that captured hearts before bodies.” The renowned scholar Mohammed Hashim Kamali has written a book in detail on the title “The Middle Path of Moderation in Islam – The Qur’anic Principle of Wasatiyyah”.

Based on the above illustration, the theme of the 7th International Symposium of Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic Language is significant and timely. I am happy to state that more than 80 papers have been received from local and international researchers from different disciplines. This shows the commitment of the Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic Language in maintaining, encouraging and improving its standard in academic activities and research.

I would like to congratulate all the scholars, researchers and presenters for their participation in the symposium, which will be held virtually from the distance mode due the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to the Chief Guest, Prof. M.M.M. Najim, Vice Chancellor of SEUSL, Key-note Speaker, Prof. Raihanah Binti Haji Abdullah, Director, Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya, Malaysia, moderators, distinguished guests, scholars, presenters, the organizing committee, University administrative staff, the Faculty staff and the students for their fullest assistance and enormous co-operation to make this historic event a success. I also wish to extend my thanks to all who supported directly and indirectly during the different stages to make this symposium a successful event.

Thank you

Dr. S.M.M. Mazahir
Dean/Faculty of Islamic Studies and Arabic Language
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Oluvil