



National Conference



on



# “COVID 19: Impact, Mitigation, Opportunities and Building Resilience”

Date: 27-28 January 2021

Theme  
“From Adversity to Serendipity”

## About the Event

The global mortality rate of COVID-19 currently less than 5%, which is much lower than those of SARS (≈10%), MERS (≈35%) and Ebola (≈50%). However, it is more infectious and differs from other pandemics in terms of the infectious period, transmissibility, clinical severity and the extent of community spread. When compared with many developed countries, Sri Lanka has made great strides in combating COVID-19 and keeping the mortality rate low. For instance, the case fatality rate (ratio of confirmed deaths to confirmed cases) thus far observed in Sri Lanka is only about 0.4% as against 17.4 % in France, 14.3% in Italy, 8.0% in Canada, 5.5% in China, 3.5% in Cuba, 2.6% in India and 2.1% in S. Korea as reported by WHO on 14.07.2020.

Therefore, the achievements of Sri Lanka are commendable in a global context and is among the few countries that effectively managed COVID-19. They were made possible by a combination of the relevant authorities fulfilling their mission with dedication, devotion and distinction and the resolute and effective leadership of the country at a time when the whole globe was shaken by an unprecedented pandemic.

In the course of combatting COVID-19, a wide range of lessons were learnt, many best practices were identified, and new knowledge, insights, competencies and experiences were gained. They ought to be further studied, refined, analyzed, interpreted and documented for the benefit of posterity. This should be done without delay lest a lot of the valuable information gathered, and the knowledge gained is lost forever.

Against this backdrop, the NSF will conduct a 2-day national conference titled “COVID-19: Impact, Mitigation, Opportunities and Building Resilience” under the theme “From Adversity to Serendipity” in January 2021. It aims at bringing all the key players of the relevant public and private sector institutions under one roof to deliberate and reflect on the above aspects of the pandemic so as to build a robust and resilient community and economy in Sri Lanka.

The proceedings of the conference will be edited and published in a landmark treatise which will be valuable not only to Sri Lanka, but also to the rest of the world in coping with, and mitigating the impact of, such pandemics in the future.

## General Objective

To produce a comprehensive and authoritative scholarly volume on how to manage a pandemic to minimize its economic, social and psychological impact.

## Specific Objectives

1. To collect, collate, systematize, analyze, interpret, and document information and data gathered on important aspects of the impact of and recovery from COVID-19
2. To document lessons learnt, best practices and strategies identified, innovations achieved, and knowledge and experience gained in combating the pandemic, mitigating its impact and building resilience
3. To determine and address needs in human capital development and capacity building to plan, prepare, manage and recover in pandemic situations and build resilience
4. To ascertain and address logistical deficiencies and inadequacies in infrastructure and competencies for developing effective and robust relief operations and supply chains in crisis situations
5. To learn from failures and successes of other countries in combating COVID-19
6. To formulate policies to combat any future epidemics and pandemics effectively with minimal impact and improved resilience based on lessons learnt

## Conference Tracks

The 2-day conference will have the following tracks in relation to the objectives of the event:

- Health
- Society
- Economy
- Resilience
- Mental health and well-being
- Natural and built environment

### Cross-cutting themes:

- Governance
- Research, inventions, and innovations
- Building a robust and resilient supply chain

## Call for contributions

In addition to hand picking leading, established national research groups in respective areas to contribute, the organizing committee invites and encourages research teams, preferably of inter-institutional and inter-disciplinary nature to submit original papers relevant to the scope and objectives of the event.

## Key Dates

- Expression of interest: 05 August 2020
- Submission of extended abstract: 20 August 2020
- Confirmation of acceptance: 05 September 2020
- Submission of full paper: 25 November 2020
- Submission of reviewers' comments: 25 December 2020
- Submission of revised paper: 15 January 2021

Prospective contributors are strongly urged to express interest before 5th August 2020 and start reviewing literature and collating data from now on so that in the event of acceptance of the abstract, there will be around 5 months for the preparation of the paper. Also, it will assist the organizers to identify reputed subject specialists for reviewing of papers in order to ensure that the Conference hosts authors with seriousness of purpose and substance in their work.

Abstracts and papers should be submitted online and further information is available on the conference website

## Salient Features

- Leading scientists from North and South America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania will join online to share their knowledge and experience
- Renowned outstanding scientists and professionals in relevant fields in Sri Lanka will be hand-picked to contribute to the conference and the resulting volume
- Conference proceedings will be published within 50 days after the event

## Key Output

A landmark source book on “Management of pandemics with minimal impact”, including a “How to” component with special focus on Sri Lanka, but with contributions from the key regions in the world, making the product globally important and relevant.

