All Vice Chancellors
Rectors of Campuses
Directors of Institutes,

Ref: Request for Cooperation –
Survey of Online Learning in Higher Education in Sri Lanka

As you may recall, we conducted rapid assessment on online learning in higher education to understand impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) based upon the request from the Office of the President through the Presidential Taskforce on Sri Lanka's Education Affairs. The results of the online survey were published with the support of ADB (https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/635911/online-learning-sri-lanka-during-covid-19.pdf) and it became useful inputs for addressing online higher education.

However, new challenges could emerge due to long closure of higher education institutions, and understanding current challenges could be also useful to think about blended learning approach when higher education institutions could reopen their campus. With this backdrop, I would like to seek your support in conducting follow-up surveys on online learning in higher education. Similar to last year, the survey will use the same online platform called *SurveyShare* with the support from Asian Development Bank (ADB). The final report will be made available and respective university can use it as a reference for future development of online higher education.

The specific objectives of the follow-up survey are;

(i) to assess the current utilization of online learning of students in universities and higher education, particularly under COVID-19
(ii) to understand the challenges faced by university administrations, their faculty members, and students in online learning
(iii) to help define programme opportunities for online learning in Sri Lanka.

Respondents

As we did last year, three separate online surveys would be administered to three groups of respondents: students, faculty and university/HEI administration. The information is encrypted and will be kept strictly confidential, not be shared with any third party, and the analysis will be conducted in aggregate form and will not be used to identify specific individuals.

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Website

Deadline

We would like to collect as many completed surveys as possible through this online survey. The deadline for submission is 30 November 2021 (Tuesday).

Survey data collection procedure

There are two ways of inviting the respondents to participate in the survey:

1) Through an email message from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

2) For those with no email addresses, a survey access link provided below can be sent through a text message to the respondent using any social media application such as Messenger/Facebook, WhatsApp, or Viber or other social media.

In order to facilitate communications with each of the 3 groups of respondents, three survey links addressed to three (3) separate groups: the students, the faculty, and the administration staff are given below for your reference and information;

Student Survey: >>>>> http://www.surveyshare.com/s/AYA9LDB

      Respondents: All students

Faculty Member Survey: >>>>> http://www.surveyshare.com/s/AYAQLJD

      Respondents: All Professors, Associate Professors, Lecturers, Assistant Lecturers and other Academic Staff
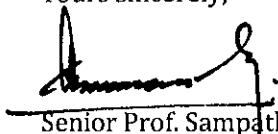
University/HEI Administration Survey: http://www.surveyshare.com/s/AYAQ3AB

      Respondents: Vice Chancellor, Rector, all Deans, all Chairman/Heads of Faculty/Department, Registrar

Your cooperation and understanding is highly appreciated.

Please nominate a focal point from your university for this survey.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge
Chairman

CC.   Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovations
       Country Director, ADB Sri Lanka Resident Mission
       Statistician/MIS/UGC