

## **- Message from Conference Chair -**

It is my great pleasure to send this message to 4th SLAAI-International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and the 16th Annual Sessions of Sri Lanka Association for Artificial Intelligence (SLAAI). In 2000, SLAAI was established to promote AI Education and Research in Sri Lanka. SLAAI was founded as the successor to the AI Research group in Sri Lanka (AIRLK). In this year, SLAAI has reached the 21st milestone of its journey by exemplifying its constant contribution to (a) popularize AI among general public, (b) promote AI research and developments, (c) establish industry academia partnership in AI in Sri Lanka. SLAAS has a partnership with SLASSCOM which is the apex body of the Sri Lankan Software industry. Over the last 20 years, SLAAI has popularized AI in numerous ways including, talks at schools, AI meetups - organized jointly with Virtusa (Pvt) Ltd., AI-Asia Summit jointly organized by SLAAI and SLASSCOM has been a forum for popularizing AI, building industry-academia partnerships, and deliberation of research and developments in AI at the international level.

Among other initiatives, SLAAI - International Conference on Artificial Intelligence (SLAAI-ICAI) has been a popular forum for an international community to present and publish their researches covering a wider spectrum of areas of AI including Ontology, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Machine Translation, Robotics, Bioinformatics, Multi-Agent Systems, Evolutionary Computing, Fuzzy Logic, Theory of computing, and Brain Machine Interfacing. SLAAI promotes theory and practices of both symbolic-AI and non-symbolic-AI. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, although the number of research papers submitted for SLAAI-ICAI-2020 has shown a slight reduction, we manage to select high quality papers with 40% acceptance rate. Research papers submitted to SLAAI go through a rigorous double-blind peer review process and ensure selecting high-quality research papers for the conference. All the papers selected and presented online at SLAAI-ICAI-20 will be published in the SLAAI conference proceedings. All papers from the proceedings undergo through a review process and selected and revised papers will be published in a SCOPUS index source.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the keynote speaker, session chairs, reviewers, panel of judges, authors of the papers, program committee and council members of SLAAI for their untiring effort to make this event a success despite this difficult pandemic situation.

**Prof. Asoka S Karunananda**  
**Conference Chair / SLAAI-ICAI-2020**  
**01.12.2020**