

## FROM THE EDITOR...

---



Transportation has been one of the key factors for economic, social and cultural development of a country. Sri Lanka has had a long history of having efficient transportation facilities connecting all geographical regions in the country. Ancient remains, such as the stone bridge over Malwathu Oya in Anuradhapura, Bogoda bridge in Badulla are living examples for the ancient legacy of an efficient transportation system. The British started to construct a vast network of road and rail transport in Sri Lanka from early decades of 19th century to the Independence, making it one of the best countries in terms of transportation density. At present, it is needed to conduct high quality research studies in the area of transportation engineering to withstand challenges due to increasing urban population of the country.

University of Moratuwa, being a fore frontier in engineering education and research, started in providing necessary inputs to the country since 1980's in the area of transportation engineering. Transport Research Forum (TRF) is an annual conference organised by the Transportation Engineering Division of the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa. The prime objective of this conference is to create a platform for researchers in the transportation engineering field to build up their research career and to share their research findings with other colleagues and the industry. Practitioners, researchers and academics including a number of international experts in the areas of Highway Engineering, Transportation Engineering and Planning are the participants for this annual event. Further, representatives from the industry and the related government institutions are also invited every year.

Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa conducted the first ever Sri Lanka Transportation Forum in 1983 and since late 90's the Transportation Engineering Division of the university has organised many Transport Research Conferences at local and international levels. Later, the TRF was established and two conferences were held initially and since 2010 TRF was held consecutively every year. Therefore, TRF 2020 is the 13th Transportation Research Forum conducted by the Transportation Engineering Division. Many of the research findings presented in TRFs have been put in to practice and the one of the main objectives of TRF is to come up with solutions to address transport related issues in the country and disseminate knowledge to the industry. Honouring contributions of TRF, the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka publishes selected peer-reviewed full papers of the proceedings of TRF 2020 in this special issue of "ENGINEER" journal.

**Eng. (Dr.) P.A.K. Karunananda**  
**BSc. (Eng.) (Hons.) (Peradeniya), MPhil. (Peradeniya), MEng. (Ehime),**  
**DEng. (Ehime), C.Eng, MIE(SL)**  
**Editor, 'ENGINEER', Journal of The Institution of Engineers.**

