

## **Journal of Environmental Professionals Sri Lanka**

### **Editorial Forward...**

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It is with great pleasure that I present to our readers Volume 14, Issue I of the Journal of Environmental Professionals Sri Lanka [JEPSL]. This issue continues our tradition of publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed research that addresses pressing environmental challenges and provides practical solutions for sustainable development.

The articles in this volume reflect both scientific rigor and applied relevance, showcasing the diversity of research interests among Sri Lankan and international scholars. The opening paper, Piezoelectric Energy Harvesting from Human Energy Waste, offers a timely review of how innovative materials such as PVDF and PZT can be utilized to generate renewable energy from human footsteps. Equally significant is the contribution on Blue Carbon Stocks in Mangroves, Seagrasses, Salt Marshes and Algae in Northern Sri Lanka. This work provides critical baseline data on the carbon sequestration potential of coastal ecosystems, demonstrating that mangroves and seagrasses in particular offer immense opportunities for climate mitigation. The findings underline the urgent need to conserve and restore these habitats, which not only act as powerful carbon sinks but also provide invaluable ecosystem services for coastal communities. Further, the issue includes an important study on the Identification of Least Authentic Timber Species based on IAWA Classification. This research addresses a long-standing gap in the reliable identification of timber species in Sri Lanka. By employing detailed anatomical and physical analyses, it provides a framework to distinguish authentic from non-authentic species, thus supporting sustainable forestry practices and consumer protection. Together, these contributions exemplify the journal's mission to serve as a platform for advancing knowledge and practice in environmental sciences, management, and policy.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I extend sincere appreciation to the authors for their dedication, to the reviewers for their critical insights, and to our readers for their continued support. It is our hope that this volume will inspire further research, dialogue, and action toward the stewardship of our natural environment.

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