

# Editorial

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The Maldives National University (MNU) “will enhance its local, national and international standing for excellence in research, particularly in the areas relevant to the nation.” These words from the current Strategic Plan of the university emphasise the vision of MNU to enhance research. In particular, those that can be applied outside academia and support policy formulation is a firm keystone for an academic institution. I am happy that MNU is geared towards enhancing research in areas of national relevance.

In 2013 MNU achieved two key milestones in its advancement towards research: the establishment of the Postgraduate Research Centre and the inception of a research journal— the Maldives National Journal of Research (MNJR). This second issue includes research articles from a range of disciplines that includes education, journalism, political history and language studies. This range shows that our research outstretch is expanding and expert areas are growing. I hope these important achievements are not merely isolated events but the harbinger of greater things yet to be.

Another important measure for advancing research is the rising number of staff and students engaged in research. In June 2013 the first PhD students of MNU started research in education. Earlier this year, we had the confirmation of the research proposal of our first PhD students. This is a remarkable feat and demonstrates that the pace of progress of MNU is quickening. Although, currently our PhD students are researching in the area of education, I hope other academic areas will follow swiftly.

I hope our research programmes gain in strength and diversity. Of course, funding is one facet of research that is essential. MNU has earmarked Maldivian Rufiyaa three million for research grants. To continue research activities such commitments from the university as well as external parties are needed and welcomed. These are promising new developments and shows MNU’s serious commitment towards achieving its strategic goals relating to research. I hope MNU will continue in this line and the research outputs would benefit the wider community.

I cannot conclude this editorial without a few words of gratitude. I would like to thank the authors as well as the reviewers who have contributed to the completion of this issue. I especially wish to thank Dr. Hassan Hameed for his vision for research in the Maldives and his toil and labour that have seen the birth of this research journal. I am very thankful to him for entrusting me to carry out this editorial role. Indeed, I have big shoes to fill. I am also thankful and appreciative of the time and guidance given by Dr. Ali Shareef in this work.

M.Mohamed