

# Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda and NARESA

**Prof. Priyani E. Soysa**

My cordial and friendly association with Prof. Nandadasa Kodagoda dates back to nearly two and a half decades of academic life in the Colombo Faculty of Medicine. He was then a Senior Lecturer in Forensic Medicine.

At the request of Mr. Premadasa Udugama, we jointly authored a book on the Preschool Child, myself for expert knowledge and himself for his very special versatility of the Sinhala language.

Prof. Kodagoda served in three Boards of the Natural Resources, Energy and Science Authority (NARESA) along with other members of the Board appointed in 1992 by Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, then Minister of Industries and Science. He was also Chairman of the Steering Committee on Science Education from 1992. Prof. Kodagoda functioned to his utmost capacity, capability and cooperation, with me as Director-General and Chairman of 'the Authority'. He was reappointed to the Board, when in 1994, a Ministry of Science, Technology and Human Resources Development was given a position of Cabinet rank, with Hon. Bernard Soysa as Minister.

Then again in 1997, Hon. Bernard Soysa appointed him to the Board, when he became Minister of Science and Technology (but with Human Resource Development also within

his purview). He was with us on this Board until his demise.

Prof. Kodagoda's contribution to Board activities was indeed illuminative, coming from his own scientific background and experience as an administrator as Head of Department of Forensic Medicine, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice-Chancellor in the University of Colombo. He also had other experience serving with various NGO's. All this wisdom and experience made him special among us on these Boards.

He was therefore on many sub-committees on revision of recruitment and review of promotions and salaries, firstly in 1994 when there was the imminent change of NARESA to the National Science Foundation, overhanging in 1994. There was a change of cadre and a need to upgrade appointments under consideration. This work continued as a Board activity up to his demise.

He also functioned in other sub-committees, so willingly and also inquiring officer with his knowledge of law in addition to his administrative capability. Though his decisions were necessarily judicious, he conferred a very human judgement with a resource of flexibility which should be an example to many a bureaucrat.

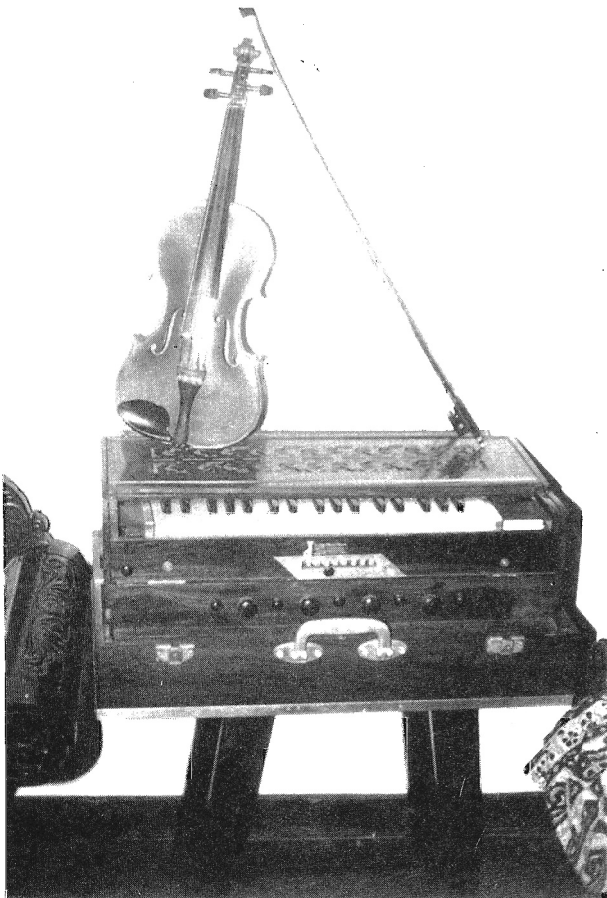
He was a source of great inspiration in the Board's work, culminating in a policy and Action Plan on Science and Technology, which was presented to the late Mr. Bernard Soysa (as Minister of Science & Technology). He was also present when this was approved by H.E. the President and the late Minister acceded to H.E.'s request to popularize this document among the people. Prof. Kodagoda wrote the Sinhala version of a paper for disseminating the need for Science & Technology Policy; but alas he was too ill to finish the last paragraph.

In sending condolences to the bereaved family, the Board expressed the need for a publication on him which was taken up by the Steering Committee for Science Education.

The authors of Chapters would give more apt descriptions of his contributions outside NARESA. Therefore the constraints of space to amplify this message is obviated.

His existence has been liberated in Samaya (peace) and vimukthie (satisfaction).

May he travel onwards on his forward path to ultimate nibbana.



Serpina and violin used by the Professor who was well versed in music.



Vishva Prasadini Award