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இலங்கையின் பிரதம அமைச்சர்

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Message

The rapid penetration of Internet across the world, with more than five billion in 2020, which comes closer to sixty percent of the total population having access is indeed amazing. With the advent of Unicode, Internet has become accessible in many scripts worldwide, paving the way for the Multilingual Internet.

It is also heartening to know that the content on the Internet in Non-Latin Scripts, like Sinhala and Tamil, has increased sharply over the last few years. For Sri Lankans, language and technology are not barriers to working on the Internet due to the efforts of many.

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the work of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in Sri Lanka to achieve the above. I note that ICANN has worked closely with Sri Lankan Academia, Internet Service Providers, ICTA (GAC), and LK Domain Registry in capacity building for the last ten years.

We are glad that Sri Lanka became one of the first countries in the world to be delegated two Non-Latin Country Code Top Level Domain Names (ccTLDs) as Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in 2011: .ලංකා (dot Lanka in Sinhala) and .இலங்கை (dot Illangai in Tamil).

I am confident that when people learn to use new user-friendly text input, such as voice input, people will move towards using Sinhala and Tamil IDNs. Adopting Sinhala and Tamil IDNs will be very useful for all who like to work in local Scripts.

I understand that, while IDNs will keep the Sri Lankan identity intact on the Internet, they will not only preserve our scripts for posterity, but Sinhala and Tamils IDNs will provide better Search Engine Optimization for Sinhala and Tamil Domain Names.

I was also told that a certain portion of email addresses in Sinhala and Tamil has been allocated to the government organizations like the Dictionary Compilation Institute under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

With pleasure I offer my best wishes for ICANN's Universal Acceptance Project, of which Sri Lanka has become the fifth global project and assure the government's support to it.

I like to send good wishes to all countries which celebrate Global Universal Day throughout the world in March and April with Sri Lanka.

Dinesh Gunawardena,
Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

28th April 2023