



Dr. H N S Karunatilake (1988 – 1992)



Dr. Halwalage Neville Sepala Karunatilake was the eighth Governor, assuming duties in November 1988 and vacating position in June 1992.

Educated at Trinity College, Kandy, Dr. Karunatilake obtained his BA Degree in Economics in 1952 with an entrance from the University of Ceylon. He then began his career as a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Colombo and : Jayawardenapura (then Vidyodaya University). He joined the Central Bank in March 1953 and initially worked in the Research Department. Dr. Karunatilake pursued his post graduate education through Scholarships awarded by the Plan and Fulbright. With these opportunities, he obtained his MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics. The MPA (Harvard) and MA Economics (Harvard) degrees were obtained through his Fulbright Research Fellowship 1964-1965. He was also made a Research Fellow in Economics during his time at the Harvard University. Dr. Karunatilake awarded the PhD in Economics from the University of London in 1972.

In 1975, Dr. Karunatilake became Director of the Economic Research Department and was appointed Deputy Governor. During his career at the Central Bank, Dr. Karunatilake provided his services and expertise to a range of institutions, financial institutions, universities, Boards of research institutions, Bankers' Training Institute (presently Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka), Cabinet and several state and private sector organisations.

He was President of the Society for International Development (Sri Lanka Chapter), President of the Sri Lanka Economic Association and the first editor of the Lanka Economic Journal. He published many books on economics and banking in addition to having more than 150 articles published in local and foreign journals.

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