



**Dr. S.U.K. 'Suki' Ekaratne**

**The Spirit of ICED Award**

Dr Suki Ekaratne has made an outstanding contribution to advancing the aims of ICED. He has helped partner organisations develop their capacity for academic development in higher education through the sharing of good practice, problems and solutions, both in Sri Lanka and in the many other countries where he has been invited to contribute to events.

He established the Sri Lankan Association for Improvement of Higher Education Effectiveness (SLAIHEE) and has encouraged academic development in Sri Lanka and other developing countries.

As a member of ICED Council, presenter at ICED conferences and other member organisations, Suki has demonstrated outstanding leadership in academic development. In his quietly charismatic and inspirational approach, he has brought about real change, not just in the way people carry out their practice, but in the ways they see themselves, as academic developers and as teachers.

His achievements include the establishment of qualification courses at the University of Colombo for both junior and more experienced staff, including administrators and managers from across all Sri Lankan Universities. He has also built capacity in these other institutions through his 'training the trainers' events, thereby building a genuine community of practice. He is a powerful and significant role model who has created a worthy and credible career path in educational development in Sri Lanka.

Suki was recently awarded two US Fulbright Senior Fellowships, one in his original academic discipline (marine ecology) and one in academic development, thereby allowing him to develop and share his expertise across two domains.

Dr Ekaratne has promoted the aims of ICED through his practice and engagement with others across the world. His achievements have been acknowledged worldwide by the recognition of his peers, national and international bodies, and the awarding of grants to further his work. He has also continued to research, publish, teach and supervise doctoral students in his original discipline. Further, he has pursued his twin track career through a war in his country, at considerable risk to himself.

Dr Ekaratne has been recognised by ICED Council members as a worthy recipient of the Spirit of ICED Awards.

29<sup>th</sup> June, 2010.