

## Editorial

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The Maldives National University has been conducting research, in some form or other, since it was formed 40 years ago. Much of this research remains in reports and documents generally unavailable to the public. Wider dissemination of research through publications has been constrained by cost, social demand, and more importantly, by the staff promotion system— a legacy of the general public administrative service to which all staff belonged to. However, several journals had been published in MNU in the past. Apart from the Occasional Papers, two important ones were *Fanaaru* and the *Journal of Health Science*. The former was a journal published by the Faculty of Education and the latter by the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The Maldives National University Act of 2011 requires the university to carry out research and investigations, and to disseminate the results of these endeavours for the benefit of the national and international communities. A staff appraisal and promotion system is passing through the different university committees which values research and publications as much as that of longer established universities. With the improvements in technology, it is very affordable to publish journals of very high quality with very little cost. Additionally, since the number of postgraduate courses has been increasing year after year, the demand, amount and quality of research within MNU are now unprecedented. At the same time, publication access to international journals is more competitive now, in part, due to the large number of tertiary students pursuing higher qualifications.

Although this first journal, since the university status, is published by the Postgraduate Research Centre, I hope that other journals from different Faculties and divisions of the university will be published in the near future.

Publication is not without purpose. It is not merely to add to the body of the existing knowledge of our own and wider environment. Research and publications must be aimed to improve the lives and livelihood of our and world citizens.

I would like to thank all researchers who contributed to this first issue, the consultant editors and reviewers who so generously gave their time to read through the submissions and Dr Mizna Mohamed for assisting me in editing an article. Finally, I wish to thank Ms Aishath Ali for the layout of this issue.

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*Editor*