

USING VALUE CHAIN APPROACH TO DECIDE ON RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATE SCARCE RESEARCH RESOURCES

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Abstract: Every year thousands of man hours spent on Civil Engineering Research in Sri Lanka resulting in hundreds of theses. When we bid farewell to one of the most loved and respected lecturers and a prominent researcher of our University, Prof. S. R. De S. Chandrakeerthy, time is opportune for us to reflect on the priorities of Civil Engineering Research in Sri Lanka that could provide solutions to the problems faced by the masses, provide a thrust to the developmental agenda of the Country, lead to rediscovery of our engineering heritage, minimize the impact on the environment, enhance the productivity of our workforce and reduce their fatigue, accidents and sicknesses, and give competitive advantages to our own construction industry. Perhaps, times has come to research on research and agree on the priorities, strategies and deliverables. The tax regime introduced by the last two budgets has introduced an environment conducive for turning research into a self-propelling industry. In this regard we may use the Value Chain Approach to agree on research priorities and allocate the scarce research resources to the areas that promise the best results.