

Snr Prof. Sampath Amaratunge **Independent Non-Executive Director**

Professor S.P.P. Amaratunge is a distinguished academic, administrator, business consultant, and humanist. He currently serves as the Chairman & Senior Professor of Business Economics at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. Previously, he held the position of Chairman of the University Grants Commission and served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. In 2019, he was appointed Chairman of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Directors of Sri Lanka (CVCD)

Professor Amaratunge holds a BA (Hons.) in Economics from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, an MA in Economics from the University of Colombo, an MSc in Economics of Rural Development from Saga National University, and a Ph.D. from Kagoshima National University, Japan. With over 31 years of service at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, he has made significant contributions to higher education, research, and economic development.

In recognition of his efforts in strengthening Sri Lanka-Japan relations, he was awarded the “Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon” by the Government of Japan in 2024—one of the highest honors conferred on foreign nationals by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

An authority in Rural Economic Development, Professor Amaratunge has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Research Excellence Award (2002) from the Kyushu Society of Rural Economics, Japan. He has over 75 refereed publications to his credit, both locally and internationally. As Dean of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (2008–2014), he led major infrastructure development projects and established specialized facilities for undergraduate and postgraduate education. As Vice Chancellor (2014–2020), he played a pivotal role in expanding the university’s faculties, establishing the Faculties of Engineering and Technology.

Beyond academia, he has held key positions, including serving as Chairman of the Federation of University Teachers Associations (FUTA) from 2007 to 2009, during which he introduced impactful initiatives such as research grants for academics and facilities for faculty members' children. He was the youngest appointed member of the University Grants Commission in 2010 and has served on several state commissions of national importance.

In addition to his contributions to academia, Professor Amaratunge serving as an Independent Director on the boards of leading companies, including Laugfs Gas PLC, Laugfs Power PLC, Citizens Development Business Finance PLC, Raigam Wayamba Salterns PLC, Raigama Southern Salt Company (Pvt) Ltd, and Raigam Wayamba Cereal (Pvt) Ltd.

Professor Amaratunge’s leadership, expertise, and dedication to education, governance, and corporate strategy make him a distinguished professional in both academic and corporate spheres.