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திகதி

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008

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1942 - 1992

FIFTY YEARS OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

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பேராதனைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், ஸ்ரீ லங்கா  
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

අපගේ යොමුව:

எமது இல

Our ref: VC/SC/BDM

ඔබගේ යොමුව:

உமது இல

Your ref:

Mr. Rohan Pethiyagoda,  
Managing Trustee,  
The Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka,  
117, Park Road,  
Colombo 5.

Dear Mr. Pethiyagoda

### Biodiversity Museum at University of Peradeniya

With reference to your letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007 on the proposal to donate the WHT voucher specimen collection of selected Sri Lankan animal groups towards establishing a 'Biodiversity Museum' at University of Peradeniya and the series of meetings and visits that followed, I am pleased to inform you that the University of Peradeniya has favourably considered your proposal.

The Faculty of Science of this University under my direction and in consultation with other relevant stakeholders in the University has taken the initiative to submit a proposal to the University Senate to establish and maintain a Biodiversity Museum through a Management Committee using the WHT specimens as the core collection. This proposal has now been approved by the University Senate and the Council of this University (A copy of this document is attached herewith).

Consequently, I am now in a position to formally accept your generous donation detailed in your proposal on behalf of the University in accordance with the rules and regulations of the country that govern the establishment of a University Museum and housing the collection of preserved biological specimens for the purpose of teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge on the conservation management of biodiversity of Sri Lanka. We are in the process of writing to the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation in this regard.

It is my bounden duty to thank you profusely for placing trust and confidence in selecting our University which is in the forefront in teaching, research and dissemination of knowledge on biodiversity in Sri Lanka to house this collection of international repute. This will undoubtedly be an invaluable asset to further improve our current understanding of biodiversity for its better management. My sincere hope is that this museum, once established, would pave the way to develop in to a 'Centre of Excellence' in biodiversity science in this resource-rich island and beyond. We also appreciate your sponsoring of the visits of our Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Dean/Science to the Raffles Museum at the National University of Singapore for them obtain a sound knowledge of the activities and the management structure of this internationally recognized Biodiversity Museum.

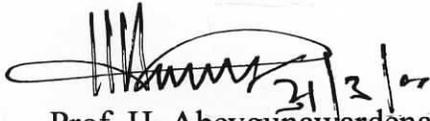
The management committee headed by the Dean/Science and represented by an ensemble of active biodiversity researchers nominated by the relevant faculties is now in a position to initiate the first phase of securing and renovation/rehabilitation of the selected building (University House No: AQ/70 ) and landscaping its surroundings .

I have been informed by the Dean of the Faculty of Science that at its 179<sup>th</sup> meeting in which the nominees to the committee was discussed, that you have been nominated as one of the two outside members of eminence to represent the management committee. I am very much pleased to let you know that we look forward to your visionary insight and active contribution in guiding this fledgling establishment to reach greater heights in the field of Biodiversity Science.

On behalf of the University of Peradeniya, I wish to extend my thanks to you once again for your proposed donation of the WHT collection of voucher specimens and also for the financial and technical support that you have so generously pledged towards this venture during its initial phase.

We look forward for your continuing cooperation towards this as well as for other future initiatives.

With Best Wishes,



Prof. H. Abeygunawardena  
Vice Chancellor,

Prof. H. Abeygunawardena  
Vice - Chancellor  
University of Peradeniya  
Peradeniya  
Sri Lanka