

Citation: Professor Mahinda Siriwardana

Professor Mahinda Siriwardana joined UNE in August 1986 as Lecturer in Economics in the then Department of Economics. He was later promoted to Senior Lecturer (1993), Associate Professor (2001) and Professor (2009). He has recently retired from UNE (November 2020) after serving the University for more than 34 years. Professor Siriwardana taught Microeconomics, International Trade and Payments, and Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modelling during his time at UNE. He successfully mentored many early career economists at UNE and abroad.

Professor Siriwardana is an internationally renowned researcher in the field of CGE modelling. CGE modelling involves the formulation and use of economy-wide models based on economic theory and empirical data for the analysis of past, present and future economic policies. In the early part of his career, he applied this quantitative analytical approach to shed light on different historical settings that had lasting impacts on Australia's economic development, including the pre-federation trade policy in Victoria, recovery policies during the Great Depression and the inter-war period trade policies. In more recent years, he has developed and used multicountry CGE models (e.g. the GTAP model) to analyse trade liberalisation in South Asia, Southeast Asia (particularly China and Japan) and Africa, all regions with expanding influences on the Australian economy. Since 2008, Professor Siriwardana has devoted his research efforts to advance environmental and energy policy modelling. Papers from his research were published in international refereed journals and books with high impact.

Professor Siriwardana has received substantial research funding from a variety of sources during his time at UNE. He held four prestigious ARC grants, including an ARC Linkage grant that supported most of his climate change and energy policy research to date. Through these grants, Professor Siriwardana promoted close research collaborations between industry (e.g. AGL Energy Ltd) and UNE. His research findings were requested by the Labor Government's Multiparty Parliamentary Committee on Climate Change that led the development of the Australian carbon tax legislation in 2012.

Professor Siriwardana has successfully supervised 23 PhD students to completion, together with a large number of Masters and Honour students at UNE. One PhD graduate co-supervised by Professor Siriwardana, received the UNE Chancellor's Doctoral Research Medal (2016). One Masters student supervised by him was awarded the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Prize (2005) for her thesis while another PhD Graduate won the D H Drummond Memorial Prize (2019) for her thesis.

Professor Siriwardana is the author of 9 books, 89 refereed journal articles, and 9 book chapters in addition to numerous conference papers. His work has been widely cited in the economic literature. Professor Siriwardana's recent publications in journals such as *Environmental and Resource Economics*, *Energy Economics*, *Energy Policy*, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, *International Journal of Global Warming*, and *Climate Change Economics* have generated considerable impact. As a result, he is a sought after reviewer for specialised journals and books on energy and climate change economics published by high-profile publishing houses such as Elsevier, Routledge and Springer. He was recently awarded a "Certificate of Outstanding Contribution in Reviewing" by Elsevier. He is an assessor of ARC grant applications.

In recognition of his outstanding teaching, research leadership and many other contributions to the academic life of the University and his discipline nationally and internationally, the UNE Council is pleased to award the title of Emeritus Professor to Professor Siriwardana.