As you are all aware the entire country is facing a very dire situation. It is our fervent hope that we will be able to recover strongly without much loss of time and resources. The construction industry whose contribution to national income was stagnant at 7% in the last four years was just hoping a better future with the new political regime, when the COVID 19 brought matters to a halt.

As the apex body for the Construction Industry Development in the Country, we wish to address all stakeholders of the construction industry and appeal to them, to treat all contracts with a very pragmatic view simply because the COVID 19 is not an unforeseen situation that had been considered when formulating the condition of contracts and associated agreements. It is very important for our industry to survive during this difficult period hence it is our obligation to work as a team with a collective vision in order to ensure the survival of each other, while resorting to the options benefiting a majority. It is important that financiers to consider special terms and rates, consultants and clients to consider flexible time limits, extensions, compensation packages, redesign output levels and timely payments to contractors, contractors to ensure the minimum delay in the progress of work and supply of material, the regulators to revisit the policy directives and requirements for registrations, licensing and guidance materials.

Even prior to the COVID 19, the contractors were facing liquidity issues that had been quoted as delay in payments and delay in certification. The present health regulations of the government, the work from home, the lock down and curfew also has created a very difficult situation even to the best of the contractors. The contractors need to be kept afloat at this difficult time and hence we all need to hold hands to rescue the industry to make sure its increased contribution to drive the national economy

Professor N.T.S. Wijesekera
Chairman, CIDA