



On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 Professor Angela Little presented a CREATE –Institute of Education, London lecture on ***The Sri Lankan Education Reforms of 1997: the double-edged sword of political will*** at the University of Colombo's Faculty of Education. The lecture was well attended by about 70 persons from among the University's staff and research students, the Institute of Education's IOE alumni society and Sri Lanka's

policy community. A lively discussion involving past and present members of the National Education Commission, former Secretaries of the Ministry of Education and members of the education research community followed. The lecture drew on material from a recently published ***CREATE Pathways to Access Monograph (no. 38, June 2010)*** and a paper on the same theme to be published in 2011 in a CREATE special issue of the Journal of Education Policy.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> Professor Little delivered a lecture on ***The Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015: connecting education and health*** at the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science's Annual Conference. This lecture draws on recent research conducted by Little and others at the London International Development Centre ([www.lidc.org](http://www.lidc.org)) and published in advance of the UN summit on the Millennium Development Goals by **The Lancet** journal (Sept.13th 2010).

On December 4<sup>th</sup> Professor Little was presented with the Tamil Sahithiya Viza Viruthu (Tamil Literary award) by the Ministry of Education-Tamil, Hindu Culture and Industries of the Central Province for her 'outstanding contribution to the development of primary education in the plantation schools of Sri Lanka'. Her development work across the plantation sector nationwide between 1982 and 1996 resulted in improvements in access to and in the quality of primary education in c. 500 schools. Her subsequent research on education access and quality resulted in the book ***Labouring to Learn: towards a political economy of plantations, people and education in Sri Lanka***. First published in 1999 in English, the book was subsequently translated and read widely in Sri Lanka in Tamil and Sinhala.