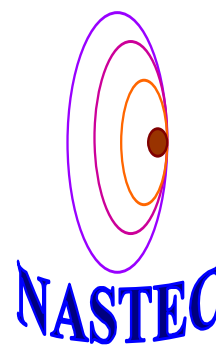


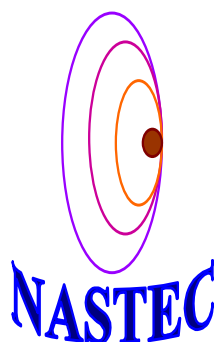
Annual Report 2018



***National Science and Technology Commission
(NASTEC)***

National Science and Technology Commission

Annual Report 2018



National Science and Technology Commission

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

About NASTEC.....	4
Vision & Mission.....	4
Chairperson's Review	5
Commission Members	7
Profile of The Organization	9
Organization Structure	10
Science and Technology Reviews and Institutional Reviews.....	11
Science & Technology Policy Studies	14
International Relations	17
Other NASTEC Activities	20
Performance Highlights of The Consultative Fora Activities.....	21
Our Staff	27
Staff News	29
Events Attended by the Staff.....	30
Financial Statement	31
Auditor General's Report.....	35

*A publication of the Secretariat
of the
National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC)*

ABOUT NASTEC

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) was established by the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 and came into operation in August 1998. It was formally inaugurated on 06 December 1998 and became a functional Commission in January 1999.

NASTEC has been designated as the apex policy formulating and advisory body on Science and Technology matters to the Government of Sri Lanka. The Commission comprised of seven members and they are appointed by H.E. the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

VISION

“To furnish the Government with policies, strategies and plans to build high national capabilities in Science and Technology, for application for sustainable development.

MISSION

“To be an excellent advisory body to the Government on the potential and use of Science and Technology to enhance the well-being and prosperity of the people of Sri Lanka”

CHAIRPERSON'S REVIEW



As the Chairperson of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) of Sri Lanka, I am pleased to issue this review of the activities carried out during the year 2018. As per the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994, NASTEC is mandated to advise the Government on policies and plans for the development of science and technology including policies and plans relating to: the application of science and technology to stimulate economic growth; the impact of science and technology on health, and competitiveness of industry, agriculture, services and the economy; The impact of science and technology on health, nutrition and poverty alleviation, with a view to improving the quality of life of the people; the development of human and other resources needed for science and technology, in consultation with the authorities responsible for education, training and research; the development and management of the natural resources of Sri Lanka; the identification and prioritization of science and technology areas that are likely to be of national importance; the creation of a climate conducive for the build-up, retention and attraction of science and technology expertise; the establishment of management strategies conducive to the productive application of science and technology; and the allocation of funds for science and technology, including the priority of funding research and development in science and technology institutions. Further, NASTEC is required to submit a report annually, to the Government, reviewing the science and technology activities in Sri Lanka in the preceding year, and on the effectiveness of measures for the development of human resources, the performance of science and technology institutions, the effectiveness of public spending on science and technology and the use of science and technology by public sector and private sector undertakings; to review the progress of Science and Technology institutions; to consult relevant Science and Technology institutions before advising the Government on policies and plans relevant to those institutions; and to convene the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology biennially, with the prior approval of the Minister, and to provide a forum for the discussion of Science and Technology in Sri Lanka and submit a report to the Minister on such discussions.

During the year 2018, the three policy study groups set up by the Commission in 2018 to develop three policies of contemporary importance viz. the Policy to Promote Knowledge Services, Basic Sciences Research Policy and Policy for Accessing the National Genome Centre and National Genome Data Repository continued to successful stakeholder consultation and finalization of the drafts. The three policy documents were approved by the Commission.

The present National Science & Technology Policy has been developed by NASTEC in 2008. Although the policy document has been comprehensive and officially accepted, its contents have not been implemented properly by the relevant implementing agencies. Further it was observed that there are areas and factors that need to be included based on the current situation. Therefore, it was decided to update the S & T policy with the inputs of the experts in the country. For this task, the Commission of NASTEC decided to appoint 05 expert committees. These expert committees-initiated discussions in 2017 and this activity continued in 2018.

NASTEC has to submit a report annually as per the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 for the preceding year in reviewing the Science and Technology (S & T) activities in Sri Lanka. To prepare this report, a survey was conducted in 40 S & T institutions in 2018 and information on human and physical resources, effectiveness of spending public funding and performance during the year 2017 was obtained. The S & T Status reports for both years 2016 and 2017 were compiled in the year 2018, according to the format established in the previous years.

Aligned with the mandate, the Commission decided to review the progress of five S & T institutions during the year 2018. Although the five institutions were identified and approached for conducting the reviews, delays in getting the Self-Assessment Reports from the institutions delayed the process and three of the reviews had to be

postponed to 2019. The review of the Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute (HORDI) was completed and submitted to the institute, while the review of the Gem & Jewelry Research & Training Institute (GJRTI), Kaduwela was commenced in the last quarter of 2018.

NASTEC, being the focal point of Sri Lanka to the Centre for S & T of the non-aligned and other developing countries (NAM S & T Centre) provided 11 training opportunities for Sri Lankan scientists in 2018. In this year, NASTEC in partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research organized the 1st Bureau meeting of the 14th Governing Council during 6th - 7th September 2018, Colombo, Sri Lanka, with the participation of delegates from many NAM member countries.

NASTEC organized a Workshop on Capacity Building in STI Policy Formulation and R&D Commercialization in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research and Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Korea based on the project concept papers submitted by NASTEC in early year of 2017. The collaborative program with STEPI is a 3-year collaboration, expected to help Sri Lanka in capacity building on S & T policy research.

Several activities of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of NASTEC were held in 2018 with the participation of many young scientists. NASTEC decided to organize an Undergraduate Research Symposium annually to encourage university academics and research students to conduct research activities proposed in the NRDF. The NASTEC Commission approval was given to organize the 02nd National Undergraduate Research Symposium 2018 in October 2019. 29 Extended Abstracts were received from undergraduates of various Universities of Sri Lanka under 10 focus areas of NRDF. However, the Symposium had to be postponed to the year 2019 due to the prevailing situation in the country.

The Biennial Conference on Science and technology, BICOST, was planned for 24,25th November 2018. Pre-BICOST activities including conducting thematic workshops were carried out. However, due to the uncertain political situation in the country, NASTEC was unable to conduct the BICOST in 2018.

I wish to thank Hon. Susil Premajayantha, and Hon Dr Sarath Amunugama, the Minister of Science, Technology and Research for the support provided to the NASTEC in 2018 to carry out its functions. The cooperation of the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research is also gratefully acknowledged. I thank the Chairman and members of the Commission, Acting Director and the staff of NASTEC for their cooperation and support provided throughout the year 2018.

Eng. Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjanie Ratnayake
Chairperson

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Prof. M.J.S. Wijeyaratne – Chairman



Senior Professor and Chair of Zoology, University of Kelaniya

Other Positions held

Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka; Dean of the Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya,

Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Directors (CVCD) of Sri Lanka; Chairman of the Board of Management of the Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology; Member of the Governing Councils of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, Arthur C Clarke Institute of Modern Technology, National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Fundamental Studies, Industrial Technology Institute, and Provincial Environmental Authority of the North-Western Province. General President of Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science, General Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences; Former President of Sri Lanka Association for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, President of Institute of Biology Sri Lanka.

Prof. R.T. Cumararatunga



Senior Professor and Chair of Fisheries Biology, University of Ruhuna.

Other Positions held

Founder Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna.; Head of the Department of Fisheries Biology, University of Ruhuna; General President of Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Science; Member of the Board of Management of National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering and National Science Foundation.

Prof. D.N. Karunarathne



Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya

Other Positions held

Visiting Professor, University of Guelph, Canada; Visiting Professor of the Open University of Sri Lanka; Visiting Scientist of the University of Waterloo, Canada; Research Fellow of the University of Kansas, USA; Research Associate and Visiting Scholar, Mahidol University, Thailand.

Prof. W.L. Sumathipala

Senior Technical Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Consultant of the Dam Safety Project, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, member of sustainable development committee.

Other Positions held

Chairman, National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka; Professor in Physics, Open University of Sri Lanka; Founder Director of the Climate Change Division and Chief Negotiator on Climate Change Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources; Member of the Adaptation Fund Board of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; Chairman of the Experts Committee on mitigation of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment; Member of the Expert Committee on Adaptation to Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy; Chief Negotiator and Senior member of the Sri Lankan delegation to Conference of parties at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Director of the National Ozone Unit & National Coordinator of the Montreal Protocol Unit of the Ministry of Environment; Head of the Sri Lankan delegation to the Open Ended Working Group meeting of parties and Regional ODS officers meetings of the Montreal Protocol; President of the Implementation Committee and Member of the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol.

Prof. Gunapala Nanayakkara

Senior Advisor of the Ministry of Education; and Member of National Salaries and Cadre Commission

Other Positions held

Director General of the National Institute of Education, Senior Professor of University of Sri Jayewardenepura; Chairman, Sri Lanka Institute of Cooperative Management; CEO of Sussex College Network under the Merchant Bank of Sri Lanka; Member of the Administrative Reforms Council of Sri Lanka; Vice President of Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA); Member of the Governing Councils of National Institute of Education, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, National Institute of Technology Education, and National Institute of Business Management, Sri Lanka.

Prof. W.A.J.M. De Costa

Senior Professor and Chair of Crop Science, University of Peradeniya; Member of the National Research Council of Sri Lanka

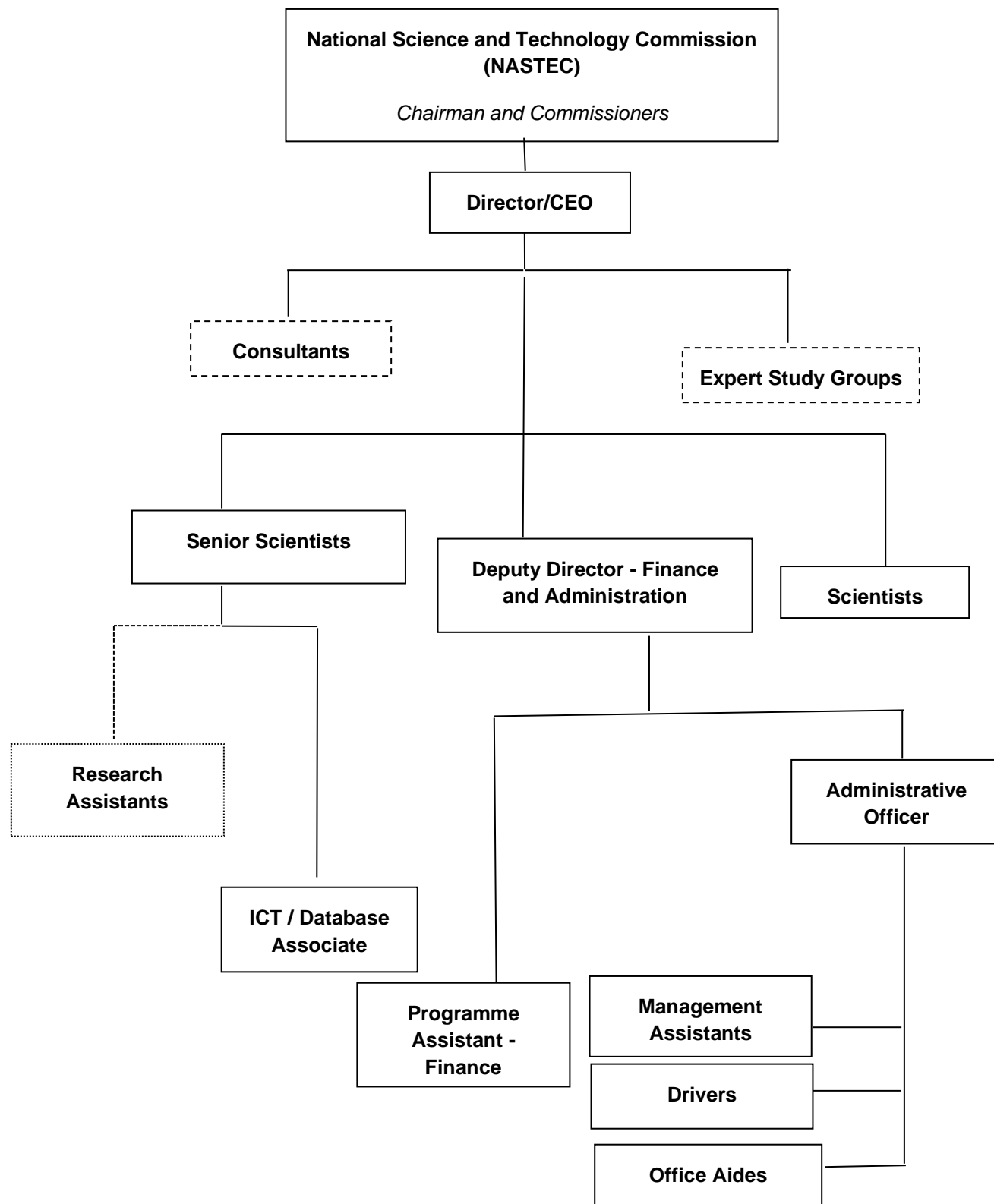
Prof. Arjuna P. De Silva

Chairman of Sri Lanka Anti-Doping Agency (SLADA); Head of Department of Medicine, University of Kelaniya; Consultant Physician at Colombo North Teaching Hospital; Chairman of the Board of study in Gastroenterology; Member of the Board of Study Sports Medicine; Member of the Board of Study in Medical Council; Member, National Institute of Education; Trainer in Gastroenterology; Associate Editor, World Journal of Gastroenterology; Council Member, National Sports Council of Sri Lanka.

PROFILE OF THE ORGANIZATION

- *The Chairman heads the Commission.*
- *The Director is the Chief Executive Officer.*
- *The Senior Scientists and scientists facilitate and manage Study Groups and Consultative fora that produce policies, plans and other S&T relevant documents.*
- *The Deputy Director - Finance and Administration manages all financial and administration matters*

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY REVIEWS

ANNUAL NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF S&T IN THE COUNTRY

NASTEC is mandated by the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 (S&T Act) to submit a report annually to the Government, reviewing the Science and Technology (S&T) activities in Sri Lanka in the preceding year. Reviewing S&T status of a country annually is needed for decision-making and policy formulation in the S&T sector.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONAL REVIEWS

NASTEC conducted a questionnaire survey in 2018 in 40 S&T institutions in the country and obtained information relevant to year 2017. To prepare the National review of the status of S&T in the country. Analysis of received S&T data ongoing from November 2018. This report covered the following main components.

- i) Human and physical resources.
- ii) Effectiveness of spending of public foundation on S&T
- iii) Performance of S&T institutions

The S&T Act mandates the NASTEC, to review the progress of S&T institution in Sri Lanka.

In 2018, NASTEC initiated Reviewing of S&T Institutions

1. Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute (HORDI), Gannoruwa
2. Gem & Jewellery Research & Training Institute (GJRTI), Kaduwela
3. Seed Certification Service, Gannoruwa
4. Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC)
5. Farm Mechanization Research Centre (FMRC), Mahalluppallama.

The Reviews are conducted by External Panels appointed by NASTEC consisting of experts in the relevant fields with the objective of evaluating quality, cost – effectiveness, relevance, and impact of the S&T activities carried out by these institutions to ensure that they meet the nation's needs & expectations.

Horticultural Crop Research & Development Institute (HORDI)

The following panel of experts conducted this review.

1. Prof. J.P.Eeswara (Chairperson)
2. Prof. D.C.K. Illeperuma
3. Prof. Palitha Weerakkody
4. Dr. K. S. Hemachandra
5. Dr. Shanthi Wilson

The first meeting of the review panel was held at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya on 13th June 2018 and the review plan was developed at this meeting. The 1st Review visit 16th & 17th August 2018 and review panel visited all the departments of the HORDI, and Food Research Unit at Gannoruwa and the 2nd Review visit was made to Regional Agriculture Research & Development Centre, Makandura on 16th October 2018. The 3rd Review visit was made to Regional Agriculture Research & Development Centre, Kahagolla, Bandarawela on 17th October 2018 and the 4th Review visit was made to Agriculture Research Station, Seethaeliya, Nuwara Eliya on 18th October 2018. The Stakeholders Meeting was held on 27th September 2018 at the Institute of Continuing Education, Department of Animal Production & Health, Gannoruwa. 29 participants representing farmers, agrochemical suppliers, private sector companies, academics, students, government institutes health and agriculture department were participated in this event. (SLCARP also included HORDI as one of their external review institutes in 2018, after a discussion NASTEC under took this review process.) The first draft of the review report was submitted to HORDI on 03rd January 2019.



Gem & Jewelry Research & Training Institute (GJRTI), Kaduwela

NASTEC received the consent from the Gem & Jewelry Research & Training Institute (GJRTI) on 25th May 2018 and Self - Assessment Report was received on 3rd August 2018. Proposed review panel was approved by the NASTEC Commission on 27th August 2018.

1. Prof. P.G.R. Dharmarathne
2. Dr. N.P. Wijayananda

3. Prof. R.L.R. Chandrajith
4. Prof. Sirimewan Colambage
5. Mr. Harsha Pathberiya

NASTEC initiated the reviewing of,

- o Seed Certification Service, Gannoruwa
- o Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC)
- o Farm Mechanization Research Centre (FMRC), Mahalluppallama and conducted in 2019.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY STUDIES

According to the S&T Act, one of the functions of NASTEC is to advise the Government on policies and plans for the development of S&T. Hence in 2017, the NASTEC decided to develop 3 policies considering the current developments and need of the S&T Sector.

These are as follows

- Policy to promote knowledge services.
- Basic Sciences research policy.
- Policy for accessing the National Genome Centers and National Genome Data Repository.

The study groups consisting of experts in these fields were appointed to develop these policies. Composition of each of these study groups is as follows.

Expert Study Group to Develop the Policy to Promote Knowledge Services

The Expert Panel Members are,

Prof. D. A. Tantrigoda

Prof. W.L. Sumathipala

Dr. Ruwan Weerasinghe

The Committee has decided to get the consultancy or use any policies developed in other countries which can be complying to the Sri Lankan context are to be followed in preparing the particular policy. Until doing so technical committee discussions were held up.

Expert Study Group to develop the Basic Science Research Policy

The Expert Panel Members are,

Dr. G. Bandarage

Prof. M. A. K. L. Dissanayake

Prof. S. H. P. P. Karunaratne

Prof. P.R.T. Cumararatunga

Prof. W. D. G. Dharmaratna

Prof. Siril Wijesundara

Stakeholders meeting was held on 16th May 2018 at National Institute of Fundamental Studies (NIFS) with the participation of 40 experts representing Universities and other S&T institutes. The feedback given by the stakeholders were incorporated into the policy draft. The expert panel finalized the draft and submitted to the NASTEC Commission for approval. The Commission granted the approval

Expert Study Group to Develop the Policy for Accessing the National Genome Centre and National Genome Data Repository

This Study Group Initiated in May 2017. 04 meetings were conducted in 2017 & 03 meetings were conducted in 2018.

The Expert Study Group Panel Members are,

Prof. Vajira Dissanayake

Prof. W. A. J. M. Costa

Prof. Athula Perera

Prof. Kamani Tennakoon

Dr. Gamini Samarasinghe

Dr. Darshana De Silva

Stakeholders meeting was held on 11th May 2018 at SLIDA with the participation of 55 experts representing universities and other respective government & private institution. Period of one month was given to the stakeholders to send their comments. Based on the comments the expert panel finalize the draft and submitted to the NASTEC Commission for approval. The Commission granted the approval

National S&T Policy Update

In 2017, the Commission decided to update the National S&T policy which has been developed in 2008. For their purpose five expert committees were appointed. National S&T Policy amendment by 5 sub-committees in progress. Stakeholders Meeting conducted. Final compilation ongoing with the composition of each committee is as follows,

Expert committee 01

1. Prof. Arjuna P. de Silva – **Committee Chairman**
2. Prof. K.M. Nalin De Silva
3. Eng. D.D. Ananda Namal
4. Dr. Shanthi Wilson
5. Dr. G.B. Gunawardana
6. Dr. T.A.R.J. Gunasekara

➤ ***Expert committee 02***

1. Prof. W.A.J.M. De Costa - **Committee Chairman**
2. Prof. D.A. Tantrigoda
3. Prof. Jayasingam
4. Mr. L.H.D. Bandusoma
5. Mrs. W.N.N. Satharasinghe

➤ ***Expert committee 03***

1. Prof. Gunapala Nanayakkara - **Committee Chairman**
2. Prof. M.J.S. Wijeyaratne
3. Prof. Ruchira Cumarathun
4. Dr. N.P. Wijayananda
5. Dr. K. Arulananda

➤ ***Expert committee 04***

1. Prof. Nedra Karunaratne – **Committee Chairperson**
2. Prof. Ananda Jayawardana
3. Prof. Nalini Ratnasiri
4. Prof. M.M.M. Najim
5. Dr. Gerry Jayawardana

➤ ***Expert committee 05***

1. Prof. W.L. Sumathipala - **Committee Chairman**
2. Prof. J.C.N. Rajendra
3. Dr. Sirimal Premakumara
4. Dr. Thamara Dias
5. Mrs. G.R.Ranawaka
6. Mr. Mathugama Seneviruwan
7. Mrs. Nilmini Wickramarachchi

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Center for Science and Technology of the Non – Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre)

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre, www.namstct.org), an inter-governmental organization hosted by the Government of India since August 1989, is very active in promoting South-South cooperation in science and technology. Sri Lanka is one of the 47 esteemed member countries of the Centre spread over the Latin American, African, Asian and European continents. It provides the privilege on collaborations with mutual benefits among scientists, technologists and scientific organizations with non-aligned to other developing countries. So far NAM S&T Centre has organized 110 international workshops and training courses in various developing countries on a range of scientific and technical topics, including seven such international events in Colombo and Kandy. Which have benefitted a large number of researchers and professionals from across the globe, including quite a large number from Sri Lanka. Governing Council Bureau Meetings were hosted by Sri Lanka two times in the past 2004 and 2010.

In this year, NASTEC in partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research was organized the 1st Bureau meeting of the 14th Governing Council during 6th - 7th September 2018, Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Science, Technology and Policy Institute (STEPI), Korea

NASTEC was organized a Workshop on Capacity Building in STI Policy Formulation and R&D Commercialization in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research and Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Korea based on the project concept papers submitted by NASTEC in early year of 2017. This programme was held at SLIDA, Colombo during 30th May to 4th June 2018 with the participation of senior level officials and managers of the related STI government agencies, academia and research institutions in the areas of STI policy formulation and implementation tools and R&D commercialization.

Scope of the overall programme was to strengthen the Science, Technology and Innovation sector of Sri Lanka in order to enhance the contribution of STI driven industrial sector for national economic growth via development of Human Resources in the areas of STI policy and R&D commercialization.

Programme Co-coordinators and Korean Experts

1. Dr. Hyum Yim, Senior Research Fellow, KISTEP, Korea.
2. Prof. Young-Rak Choi- Senior Research Fellow, Emeritus, STEPI, Korea
3. Dr. Hyun Woo Park - Senior Research Fellow, KISTI
4. Dr. Deok Soon Yim, Senior Research Fellow, STEPI, Korea

Sri Lankan Experts

1. Dr P.R.M.P. Dilrukshi Ranathunge - Head, National Science and Technology Policy Division, NSF.
2. Prof. Sirimevan Colombage - Open University of Sri Lanka



Following official nominations for each of the respective programmes have forwarded by NASTEC to NAM S&T Centre as per the workshops, training programmes and conferences announced in this year.

No	Name of The Workshop	Country and Duration	Official Nominee
01	International workshop on Technological Innovation and Management for Sustainable Development	India 27-29 March 2018	Mrs. Dilrukshi Pathirana (Assistant Director Marketing- NERDC Centre)
02	International workshop on modern and emerging trend in vaccine development	Abuja, Nigeria 22-24 May 2018	Ms. Maheshi Athapaththu (Research Scientist- ITI)
03	International workshop on STI Policy and Management for Developing Countries	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 6-10 August 2018	Dr. Kalpa Samarakoon (Senior Scientist- NASTEC)
04	ZMT Bremen (Germany) Fellowship in Tropical Coastal Marine Research: Call for Applications for 2018	Germany	Ms. K P G Kanishka Piumi Guruge (Lecturer, Uva Wellassa University)
05	International workshop on Antimicrobial Resistance and Strategies for its Mitigation	Ludhiana , Punjab, India 10-13 July 2018	Dr. Dharshana Wickramasinghe (Consultant Microbiologist, General Hospital Ampara)
06	International workshop Developing Thinking Skills Through Inquiry Based Science Education	Kuala Lumpur Malaysia 22-26 October 2018	Dr. Prashan Francis (Director General- Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute)
07	International Training workshop on Drugs Development from Herbs and Marine Medicinal Materials	Hai Phong, Vietnam 10-12 December 2018	Dr. Nimal Karunasiri (Medical Officer, BMARI)
08	Science Forum South Africa	South Africa 12-14 December 2018	Dr. A. D. A. de Silva, (Director, Dept. of Science, NIE)
09	International Training workshop on Developing Key Parameters for Ensuring Sustainability of Leather Sector in Developing Countries	Chennai, India 28- 31 January 2019	Mrs. R.D.N. Wijesinghe (Probationary Lecturer, University of Ruhuna)

OTHER NASTEC ACTIVITIES

02nd National Undergraduate Research Symposium (NURS) - 2018

NASTEC formulated the National Research and Development Framework (NRDF) to orient R&D activities of the country towards finding solutions to the problems/issues identified under ten focus areas. It is expected that R&D institutions and universities would take up research activities proposed in the NRDF as their research projects and priorities.

NASTEC decided to organize an Undergraduate Research Symposium annually to encourage university academics and research students to conduct research activities proposed in the NRDF. The NASTEC Commission approval was given to organize the 02nd National Undergraduate Research Symposium 2018 at the meeting held on 9th July 2018. Flyers with the symposium information was sent to 188 University Faculties & Departments along with a letter to encourage undergraduates to submit abstracts for the symposium on 27th August 2018.

29 Extended Abstracts were received from undergraduates of various Universities of Sri Lanka under 10 focus areas of NRDF. Abstract submission deadline was 25th September 2018, later the deadline further extended to 3rd October 2018.

Review panel for the abstract review was selected & abstracts were sent for review. NURS Symposium which was to be held on 31st October 2018 was postponed due to BICOST IX activities. Symposium was scheduled to be held on 2019 March.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONSULTATIVE FORA ACTIVITIES

Young Scientists Forum (YSF)

The young Scientists Forum (YSF) of Sri Lanka hosted by the National Science & Technology Commission (NASTEC), under the Ministry of Science, Technology & Research was established in the year 2000 as a result of the idea came out from the world conference on science for the 21st century held in Hungary in 1999. That conference was attended by a team led by Minister of Science & Technology and Chairman of NASTEC. The main objective of the YSF is to provide an opportunity for young scientists in Sri Lanka to voice their opinion on Science & Technology related issues. YSF currently consists of more than 400 members of young scientists in different disciplines.

YSF Annual General Meeting – 2018

The 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Young Scientists Forum was on 19th January 2018 at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.

The following members were elected to the YSF Steering Committee for year 2018 at the AGM

Dr. Kalpa W. Samarakoon (Coordinator)

Senior Scientist, National Science and Technology Commission

Dr. Usha Hettiaratchi (Chairperson)

Senior Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Dr. Lasantha Weerasinghe (Joint-Secretary)

Senior Lecturer, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya

Mr. Akila Jayasanka Herath (Joint-Secretary)

Lecturer, ICT Centre, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka,

Dr. Meththika Vithanage (Former Chairman)

Senior Lecturer, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura,

Dr. Sameera Samarakoon

Lecturer, Institute of Biochemistry Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo,

Dr. Upanith S Liyanarachchi

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Nano Science Technology, Faculty of Technology,
Wayamba University of Sri Lanka,*

Dr. Dinesh Attygalle

*Senior Lecture, Department of Material Sciences and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Moratuwa,*

Dr. Janaka Wijesinghe

*Senior Lecture, Department of Export Agriculture, Faculty of Animal Science & Export
Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka,*

Dr. Tharmarajah Thiruvaran

*Senior Lecturer and Head, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Faculty of
Engineering, University of Jaffna,*

Dr. Prasad Jayasooriya

*Senior Lecturer, Department of Bioprocess, Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of
Sri Lanka,*

Dr. Kasun Meegahakumbura

Senior Research Officer, Coconut Research Institute,

Mr. Pradeep Piyathilaka

*Communication and Media Officer, Science Education and Dissemination unit, National
Institute of Fundamental Studies,*

Dr. Niroshima Withanage

*Department of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri
Jayewardenepura,*

7th YSF Research Symposium 2018

The major annual event of the YSF is YSF Research Symposium. Its 7th YSF Research symposium was held on 19th January 2018 at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka. For this year's symposium, 69 extended abstracts were received. The papers were sent to reviewers after a screening by the editorial board, and 46 extended abstracts were selected through a double-blind review process and published in the proceedings. 40 presenters were made their outstanding research findings in 8 sessions including, Biochemistry and Chemistry I & II, Economics & Statistics, Humanities & Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Medical & Health Sciences, Biological sciences & Agriculture, Microbiology, Molecular biology & Biotechnology and Food Science & Nutrition

in four parallel sessions. 3 best presenters in each session were awarded the merit certificates at the symposium



Young Scientist Award -2017

Steering committee of YSF 2017 was decided to resume awarding the Young Scientists Award annually. Panel of experts appointed by YSF steering committee evaluated 15 applications after an initial screening done for 23 applications by a committee appointed by the steering committee. Dr. L.D.B. Suriyagoda, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya was selected as the best Young Scientist for the year 2017 and awarded at the 7th YSF symposium held at Wayamba University of Sri Lanka on 19th January 2018.



Skills Development Workshops

1. Awareness program on Nano Science Technology for School Students.

Awareness program on “Nano Science Technology” in collaboration with the Department of Nano Science Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka was held on 23rd May 2018 at Devi Balika Vidyalaya, Colombo. The prime objective of the awareness programme was to inculcate the creativeness and innovativeness culture by promoting independent, logical, lateral thinking and inquiring mind in respect to ‘Nano Science Technology’ among the school students. Prof. C.A.N. Fernando, Head of the Department of Nano Science Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka was invited as the resource person and 383 school students participated from the invited schools.



2. One day workshop on ‘Current and Future trends in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biotechnology’ for University students and academics

One day workshop on ‘Current and Future Trends in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biotechnology’ was successfully held on 07th August 2018 at IBMBB auditorium, University of Colombo with 68 participants



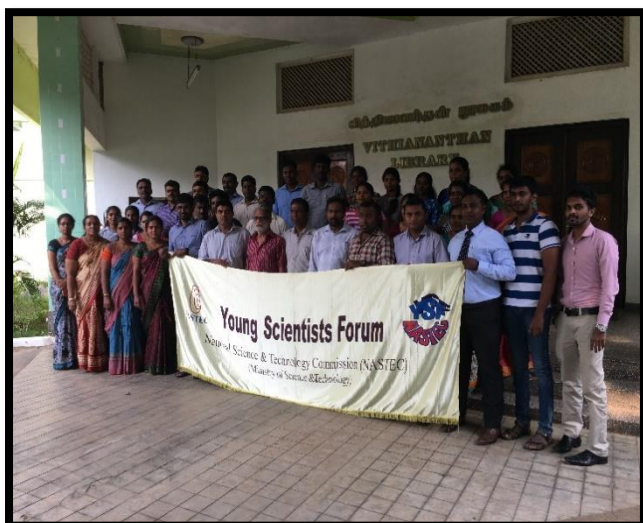
3. One day workshop on Emerging Contaminants in the Environment: Source to Treatment at IESL, Sri Lanka.

One day workshop on ‘Emerging Contaminants in the Environment: Source to treatment’ was organized by YSF with the collaboration of Water Forum of the Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) and Ecosphere Resilience Research Center, University of Sri Jayewardenepura was held on 03rd October 2018 at the Wimalasurendara auditorium, IESL, Colombo 07.



4. Two-day workshop on Statistics for Research, at University of Jaffna

Two-day workshop on Statistics for Research was organized by YSF with the collaboration of Faculty of Sciences, University of Jaffna. It was held successfully in the computer lab



of the faculty of Science, University of Jaffna with more than 35 participants on 24th and 25th November 2018

9th Sri Lanka Biennial Conferences on Science and Technology (BICOST IX)

NASTEC, eight biennial conferences have been held under various themes. This year, NASTEC is organizing its 9th Sri Lanka Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST IX) on the theme ‘**Science, Technology, Innovation and Commercialization for Sustainable Development**’. Under the theme suggested, NASTEC held consultations with Scientists, Technologists, Industrialists, Administrators and other stakeholders to discuss matters pertaining to STI policy and its implementation strategies toward the national development of the Sri Lanka. Draft National Science, Technology & Innovation Policy prepared in 2018 is based on the National S & T policy which was formulated in 2008 by NASTEC. In consultation with all stakeholders, NASTEC has decided to prepare working documents to rectify the identified shortcomings and limitations in the STI system.

In order to prepare working documents NASTEC has appointed three Working Committees under the following themes:

1. Roadmap for a conducive Science, Technology and Innovation Ecosystem chaired by Prof. Ananda Jayewardene
2. R & D Commercialization chaired by Dr. Chandra Embuldeniya
3. Institutional Coordination and HR development chaired by Prof. K.M. Nalin de Silva

The output of each committee will be compiled and presented to H.E. President at the 9th Sri Lanka Biennial Conference on Science & Technology (BICOST IX).

Since BICOST IX has been postponed due to the turmoil situation is prevailing at the country, it is scheduled to be held on the first quarter 2019.

OUR STAFF

Chairman,

Prof. W.L. Sumathipala

Senior Technical Advisor, Ministry of Environment and Consultant of the Dam Safety Project, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, member of sustainable development committee.

Acting Director

Eng. D. D. Ananda Namal, B.Sc. (Eng), C. Eng.M.I.E. (S.L.)

M. Sc. (Energy Technology)

Senior Scientists

Dr. Kalpa Samarakoon, B.Sc., M.Sc. (Colombo), Ph.D. (JNU, Korea), M.I.Biol

Mr. Seyed Shahmy, (B.Phram)(Pak),MSc (Biostat-Pera),MCPM (SL),ACAM (UK)

Deputy Director – Finance and Administration

Mrs. Kumari Peiris, B.Com (Sp- Accountancy)(J'pura), CBA (ICASL), APFA(ICASL)

Scientists

Ms. Thilini Munagamage, B.Sc. (Kelaniya), M.Phil. (Kelaniya)

Ms. Rasitha Perera, B.Sc. (J' Pura), M.Sc. (Peradeniya)

Administrative Officer

Miss. Lakmini Udugama, B.A(Sp) Sabaragamuwa

ICT/Database Associate

Mr. Sasintha Senanayake, B.Sc.(Hons) Computing (Teesside University) (UK)

Programme Assistant – Finance

Mr. Thusitha Rathnayake, MAAT, HNDA

Management Assistant

Mrs. Nishanthi Maharage

Mrs. Ishara Kulshani Wedamulla

Mrs. Sewwandi Fernando

Mrs. Chathurika Sanjiwani

Ms. Sherin Fernando

Drivers

Mr. Anil Kumara Hettiarachchi

Mr. Jayashantha Prabath

Mr. Eranda Pradip

Office Aides

Mr. A.D. Danapala

Mr. Kanishka Gimhan

STAFF NEWS

- ☺ NASTEC warmly welcome Eng. D.D. Ananda Namal as the Acting Director of NASTEC on 09th March 2018.
- ☺ Prof. M.J.S. Wijayarathne, Chairman resigned from the service of the National Science and Technology Commission on 17th April 2018.
- ☺ NASTEC also warmly welcome Prof. W.L. Sumathipala as the Acting Chairman of NASTEC from 19th April 2018 and he also appointed as the Chairman on 11th July 2018.
- ☺ In September 2018, Mr. Sasintha Senanayake joined as the ICT/Database Associate.
- ☺ In October 2018, Mr. Seyed Shamy joined as the Senior Scientist.
- ☺ In October 2018, Mrs. Chathurika Sanjeewani and Miss. Sherin Fernando joined as Management Assistants.
- ☺ In December 2018 Mrs. Sewwandi Fernando resigned from the service of the National Science and Technology Commission and NASTEC wishes her all the success.

EVENT ATTENDED BY THE STAFF


- ☺ Ms. Lakmini Udugama, Administrative Officer participated at a workshop on “Duties & Responsibilities of Leave officer” on 19th February 2018 at National Institute of Labor Studies.
- ☺ Ms. Lakmini Udugama, Administrative Officer participated at a workshop on “Procurement Training” on 14th 21st 28th May 2018 at National Institute of Labor Studies.
- ☺ Ms. Ishara Kulshani, Management Assistant participated at a Workshop on “Telephone Skills & etiquette training for front office staff & Customer service Officers” on 13th & 14th June 2018 at the National Institute of Labor Studies.
- ☺ Ms. Lakmini Udugama, Administrative Officer participated at a Workshop on “Institutional Management” on 13th November 2018 at the Grand Oriented Hotel
- ☺ Thusitha Rathnayake, Programme Assistant- Finance participated at a Seminar on Financial Statements on 18th December 2018 at the Grand Oriented Hotel


FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2018
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

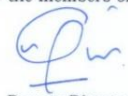
	Notes	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	7,420,521	249,813
Trade and other receivables	2	-	192,935
Inventories / Stocks	3	100,112	90,835
Prepayments	4	1,039,219	929,252
Staff Loans - Short-term	5	205,796	161,710
		8,765,648	1,624,545
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	8,107,344	11,887,053
Refundable Deposit	7	1,275,500	1,275,500
Staff Loans - Long-term	8	443,303	447,027
		9,826,147	13,609,580
Total Assets		18,591,795	15,234,125
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	9	7,856,423	5,836,906
Non - current liabilities			
Differed Income	10	774,243	858,800
Provision for Gratuity	11	2,780,798	2,173,546
		3,555,041	3,032,346
Total liabilities		11,411,464	8,869,252
Total Net Assets		7,180,331	6,364,873
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
Accumulated fund		1,904,910	1,904,910
Revaluation Surplus		9,849,258	13,544,410
Reserves		(4,573,837)	(9,084,447)
Total Net assets/equity		7,180,331	6,364,873

The Accounting policies on pages 01 to 02 and Notes on pages 07 to 11 form an integral part of these Financial Statements. The members of the Commission is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these Financial Statements. These Financial Statements were approved by the members of Commission and signed on their behalf.


Chairman


Member of the Commission


Actg. Director


Deputy Director -
Finance and Administration

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

		2018	2017
Revenue	Notes		
Recurrent Grant		29,134,006	24,868,643
Capital Grant - Research and Development	12	13,332,325	4,676,825
Capital Grant - Capacity Building		157,000	177,000
Amortization of Government Grants - Depreciation		4,359,709	4,482,372
Income	13	166,078	186,833
		47,149,118	34,391,673
Expenses			
Personal Emoluments	14	12,339,312	10,847,081
Traveling	15	752,381	319,395
Supplies and consumables used	16	683,688	426,140
Maintenance	17	912,966	859,962
Contractual services	18	8,527,823	8,816,049
Transfers	19	3,971,448	3,536,903
Capacity Building	20	218,380	232,797
Research and Development	21	9,307,956	8,083,580
Meeting Expenses	22	1,564,845	854,037
Depreciation and amortization expenses	6	4,359,709	4,482,372
Total expenses		42,638,508	38,458,316
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		4,510,610	(4,066,643)
Financial Cost			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		-	(73,110)
Vehicle Insurance Claim		-	(2,200)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		4,510,610	(4,141,953)

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31 December 2018 in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31 December 2018 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018 and statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and Finance Act No. 38 of 1971. My report to Parliament in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (6) of the Constitution will be tabled in due course.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Commission as at 31 December 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

1.2 Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibilities, under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

1.3 Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Commission's or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

As per Section 16(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Commission is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, to enable annual and periodic financial statements to be prepared of the Commission.

1.4 Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

2. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 includes specific provisions for following requirements.

- I have obtained all the information and explanation that required for the audit and as far as appears from my examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Commission as per the requirement of Section 12 (a) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.
- The financial statements presented is consistent with the preceding year as per the requirement of Section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.
- The financial statements presented includes all the recommendations made by me in the previous year as per the requirement of Section 6 (1) (d) (iv) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

Based on the procedures performed and evidence obtained were limited to matters that are material, nothing has come to my attention;

- to state that any member of the governing body of the Commission has any direct or indirect interest in any contract entered into by the Commission which are out of the normal cause of business as per the requirement of Section 12 (d) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.
- to state that the Commission has not complied with any applicable written law, general and special directions issued by the governing body of the Commission as per the requirement of Section 12 (f) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 *except for*;

	<u>Reference to law/ direction</u>	<u>Description</u>
(a)	Section 5(b) of the Science and Technology Development Act, No. 11 of 1994	Activities of the Science and Technology Review Report relating to the activities with regard to use of Science and Technology in Sri Lanka conducted by the Public and Private Sector Business Organizations during the previous year had not been completed. The report for the year 2018 is also at the initial stage.
(b)	Section (1)(f) of the Circular No. 1/2010 dated 10 December 2010 issued by the Secretary to the Treasury.	Officers of the public enterprises and non-academic staff of the Universities who completed twelve years of continuous service in a “Senior Level” holding an Executive Post are eligible to obtain the concessionary motor vehicles permit. However, in contrary to the provisions of the Circular, the Director of the Commission has imported a vehicle on 08 June 2011 by obtaining a concessionary motor vehicle permit even though he has permanent in this post only on 31 July 2003. Nevertheless, the Commission had not been taken action to take necessary measures in this connection after conducting an examination.
(c)	Paragraph 7.4.1 of the Public Enterprises Circular No. PED/12 of 02 June 2003	Although the Audit Committee should summand at least once in 03 months, the Commission had

conducted only one Audit Committee meeting during the year 2018.

- to state that the Commission has not performed according to its powers, functions and duties as per the requirement of section 12 (g) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.
- to state that the resources of the Commission had not been procured and utilized economically, efficiently and effectively within the time frames and in compliance with the applicable laws as per the requirement of section 12 (h) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

3. Other Audit Observations.

- (a) The Director of the Commission had been sent on transfer to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research with effect from 20 February 2018 and according to the report dated 19 June 2018 of the Board of Governance, he has been sent on compulsory leave. Hence, the salaries and allowances amounting to Rs. 1,460,595 paid to this officer during the period from 01 March 2018 to 31 December 2018 has become an uneconomic expenditure.
- (b) A sum of Rs. 5,628,000 had been allocated for the year 2018 to conduct the Biennial Conference on Science and Technology IX and out of that an amount of Rs. 4,803,561 has been received from the General Treasury during the year. However, the Commission had not been taken actions to conduct this conference even up to the date of this report.
- (c) Although 06 Institutions have been reviewed in in the year 2018 under the Institutional Reviews, out of that reviews relating to 03 Institutions i.e. Rice Research and Development Institute, National Resources Management Centre, Horticultural Crop Development Institute only have been fully completed.
- (d) It was failed to complete the reporting and recommending the policies which planned to perform during the year 2018 by the Study Group on review the significance of science and technology issues at present.
- (e) All 03 policies on National Science and Technology which should be completed thorough the Science and Technology Study and Prevention Project had not been completed in the year under review.

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31 December 2018 in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

The Replies and Explanations to the Report No. TEC/A/NASTEC/04/03/2018 sent by the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31 December 2018 in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 are given below.

2.

- (a) Due to delay in submission of information to the Science and Technology Review Report for the year 2017 by the relevant Science and Technology Institutions, it was not possible to prepare and complete the report in the year 2018 by including and analyzing the relevant data. The review report for 2018 is scheduled to be completed by the end of the final quarter of the year 2019.

At its inaugural commission meeting held in March 2019, the new Commission has accepted the need for data collection and report preparation to be more efficient and the proposals have been passed to make necessary changes.

- (b) Director of the Commission Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara was recruited on 1st January 1999 as the Scientific Program Manager (Grade II) for two years on a contract basis. This contract has been extended from time to time till 30th July 2003 in the above post.

On 31 July 2003, he was given a permanent appointment in the above post.

In the meantime, he has been absorbed into Grade 1 of MM 1-3 Salary Category as at 13.02.2007 as per the provisions in DMS 30 Circular.

On 01 July 2013, he was absorbed into the AR-2 salary scale. This information is shown in the table given below. He was appointed to the post of Director on 01 August 2010 on acting basis.

Post	from	to	Status of the Post
Science Program Manager - Grade II	1999.01.01	2003.07.30	Contract
Science Program Manager - Grade II	2003.07.31	2007.02.12	permanent
Science Program Manager (MM 1-3 - Grade 1)	2007.02.13	2013.05.30	permanent
Senior Scientist	2013.06.01	-	permanent

(AR-2)

Accordingly, when taking into our consideration about the vehicle license obtained by him in 2011, he has completed a minimum of 12 years of active service with the contract period and the minimum period of 12 years will not be fulfilled if the contract period is ignored.

Circular No. TTIP / 01/2010(1) relating to the year 2011 does not clearly state that the active period is include/does not include the contract period.

- (c) Although it was planned to conduct 04 audit committee meetings during the year, 03 audit committee meetings could not be held due to the employee crisis in the organization, absence of a chairman and the situation prevailed in the country at the end of the year, and other inevitable reasons.

Mr. M.M.C.P. Mohittigedara (Chairman), Prof. Jennifer Perera and Mr. Prasad Edirisinghe were appointed as members to the Audit Committee by the Commission which met in March 2019. The committee is scheduled to be met in June 2019 and three more audit committee meetings will be held this year.

3. **Other Audit Observations.**

- (a) As three-member committee appointed to look into the internal issues of NASTEC is continues investigation, the Director has been sent on compulsory leave for a longer period of time and this expenditure has to be incurred, as it should pay the salaries for the period of compulsory leave.
- (b) Although Biennial Conference on Science and Technology IX was scheduled to be held in November, 2018 under the patronage of His Excellency the President, due to the prevailed situation in the country, the conference was not held as scheduled and the Commission was decided to hold this conference in the year 2019.
- (c) We have not been able to complete the review process in the year 2018 due to failure to submit the Self-Assessment Report by 03 institutions out of six approved institutions which to be submitted those reports for the review in 2018.

The new Commission is in the process of issuing a gazette notification in accordance with the powers conferred by the National Science and Technology Development Act, with the objective of enhance the efficiency in data collection by the institutions.

Replies for (d) and (e)

Three policy reports planned to prepare in the year 2018 have been completed up to draft level.

It was planned to prepare three National Science and Technology Policies in aligned with Biennial Conference on Science and Technology IX and accordingly, the respective panel of experts had been held. However, due to inability of hold the conference in the year 2018, those policies could not be able to complete in that year.

It is strongly accepted that the activities of the National Science and Technology Commission should be more expedite to contribute to the economic and social development of our country and the Commission is being worked for that.

Professor Sirimali Fernando

Chairperson



*A publication of the Secretariat
Of the
National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC)*

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