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தேசிய விஞ்ஞான மற்றும் தொழில்நுட்ப ஆணைக்குழு
National Science and Technology Commission

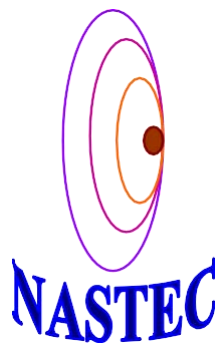


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ஆண்டறிக்கை
Annual Report

2019

National Science and Technology Commission

Annual Report 2019



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Management would like to express its gratitude to the Ministry of Science, Technology & Research, for providing facilities for training and financial assistance for the activities of NASTEC. The Chairperson and the Members of the Commission appreciate its Staff Members for the cooperation and assistance extended by them in carrying out the activities of NASTEC.

ABOUT NASTEC

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



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Auditor General’ s Department

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Act & Legislation

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.

Our Vision

"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"

Vision

Mission

Our Mission

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

FUNCTIONS AS MANDATED BY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ACT (NO 11 OF 1994)

- To advise the Government on policies and plans for the development of Science & Technology including policies and plans relating to:-
 - The application of Science & Technology to stimulate economic growth;
 - The impact of Science & Technology on the efficiency and competitiveness of Industry, Agriculture, services & economy;
 - The impact of Science & Technology on health, nutrition, and poverty alleviation, to improve the quality of life of the people;
 - The development of human and other resources needed for Science & 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 & Technology areas that are likely to be of national importance;
 - The creation of a climate conducive for buildup, retention and attraction of Science & Technology expertise;
 - The establishment of management strategies conducive to the productive application of Science & Technology;
 - The allocation of funds for Science & Technology, including the priority of funding research and development in Science & Technology institutions;
- To submit a report annually, to the government, reviewing the Science & 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 & Technology institutions, the effectiveness of public spending on Science & Technology and the use of Science & Technology by public sector undertakings;
- To review the progress of Science & Technology institutions in relation to the objects set out in section 2
- To consult relevant Science & Technology institutions before advising the government on policies and plans relevant to those institutions;
- To convene the Sri Lanka Conference on Science & Technology biennially, with the prior approval of the Minister, and to provide a forum for the discussion of Science & Technology in Sri Lanka in relation to the objects set out in section 2; and submit a report to the Minister on such discussions.

- *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

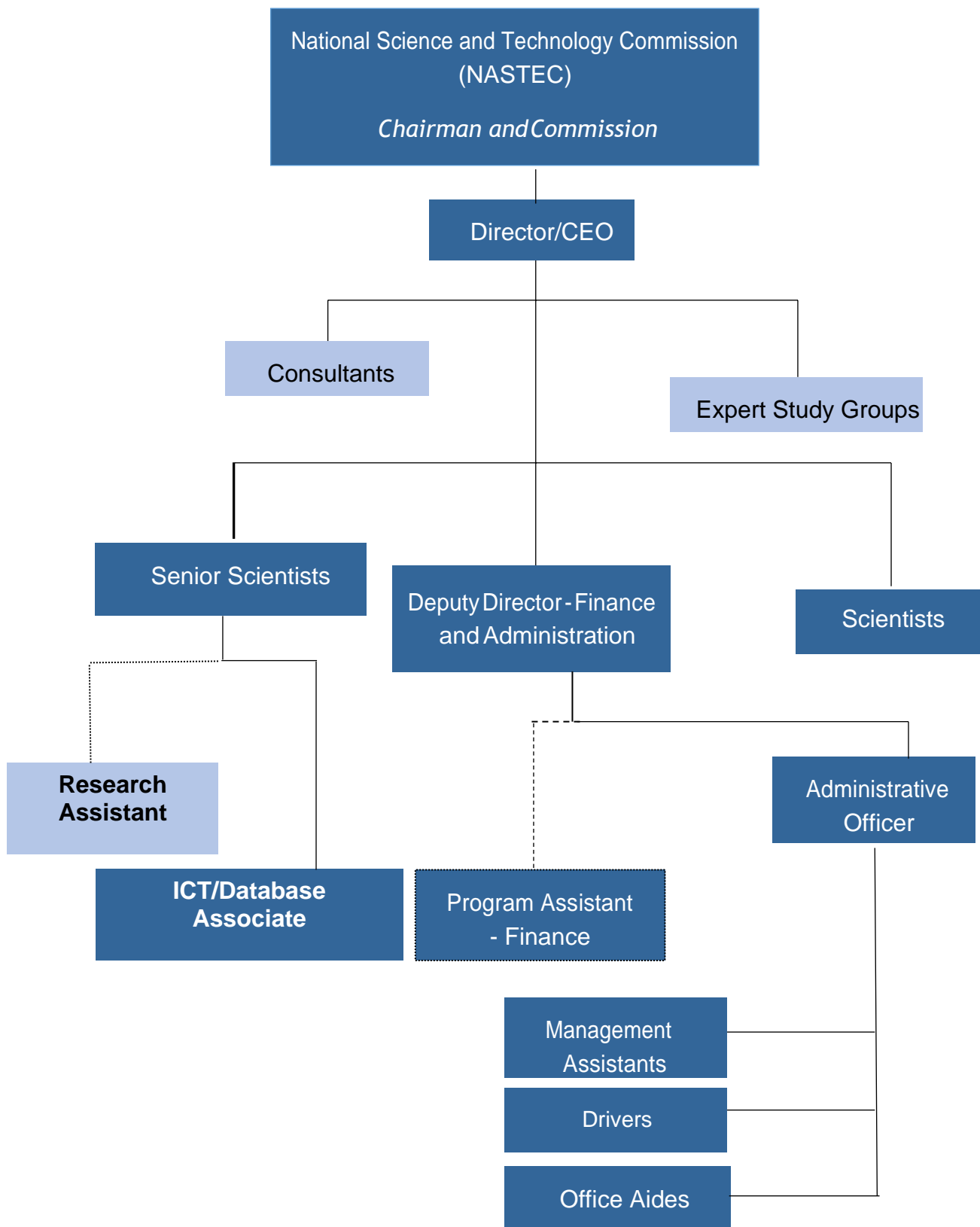


Figure 2: Organizational Structure

CHAIRPERSON'S REVIEW



As the Chairperson, it gives me a great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year 2019 even though I assumed duty as Chairperson of NASTEC on the 16th of January, 2020.

In general, development of a country is strongly associated with the growth of its science and technology. Hence in many countries, science policy and implementation are given a high prominence to advance the agriculture, health or citizens' quality of daily life. The current pandemic with Covid-19 has laid bare the importance of scientists, be they be microbiologists, virologists, epidemiologists or mathematicians.

In accordance with the powers conferred on it by the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 (S&T Act of 1994), NASTEC is mandated to advise the Government on policies and plans for the development of science and technology, to submit a report annually to the Government by reviewing the science and technology activities in Sri Lanka in the preceding year, to review the progress of Science and Technology (S & T) institutions, to convene the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology biennially and carrying out other relevant activities assigned to the NASTEC by the Hon. Minister of Science, Technology and Research.

In line with this, during the year 2019, NASTEC collected information from 38 Public sector S&T institutions in order to prepare the Annual National Science and Technology Report. In 2019, NASTEC was able to publish the National Science & Technology Status Reports of 2016 and 2017. The findings revealed increasing need for the production of marketable products and technologies, number of patents, publishing of research in high impact research journals, and fulfilling the carders of research staff.

As the continuation of the collaborative Official Development Assistance (ODA) project in partnership with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Korea, NASTEC has conducted two productive forums in relation to assessment of National Science, Technology and Innovation system in Sri Lanka with the key stakeholders in STI system in Sri Lanka and policy experts from Korea.

Also, aligned with the mandate, in 2019, NASTEC has received 04 Institutional Review Reports by conducting performance reviews of Horticulture Crop Research and Development Institute, Gannoruwa Gem & Jewellery Research & Training Institute, Kaduwela Farm Mechanization Research Centre, Mahaillupallama and Seed Certification Services Gannoruwa. Further, the performance review of Plant Protection Services and Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute also initiated and expected to be completed in 2020. These reviews were conducted by review panels consisting of experts in the relevant fields with the objective of assessing quality, cost-effectiveness, relevance and impact of the research carried out at these institutions to ensure fulfilling needs of the nation.

Being Sri Lanka's National Focal Point of the Center for Science and Technology of the Non – Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), NASTEC was associated with providing several training opportunities for Sri Lankan scientists & science administrators through NAM S&T Centre.

NASTEC has conducted two successful research symposia; 8th YSF Symposium and 2nd National Undergraduate Research Symposium providing an opportunity for young scientists to present their research findings to the Sri Lanka S&T community.

In addition to the routine work of the Commission, NASTEC has contributed to Shilpa Sena – Exposition 2019, organized by the Ministry of Technology and Research and contributed to coordinate the Tech theme called the Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G.

The effective cooperation extended by the Hon. Minister, Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research is gratefully acknowledged. I sincerely thank the Chairpersons of 2019, members of the Commission, Acting Director, and the staff of NASTEC for their cooperation and support provided throughout the year 2019.

Professor Kshanika Hirimburegama
Chairperson
National Science and Technology Commission

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION



Prof Sirimalie Fernando, Chairperson

(From 05th March 2019 to June 2019)

Prof. Sirimali Fernando started her career as a MBBS qualified medical practitioner in 1982. She started her academic career as a lecturer in Microbiology of the Medical Faculty of University of Sri Jayawardenepura in 1985. She worked as a Research Fellow and a Registrar/ Senior Registrar in Virology at St Georges medical School, London, UK for 5 years from 1989-1993 where she completed her postgraduate studies.

She has represented Sri Lanka in more than 30 international and bilateral meetings and has led the Sri Lankan delegation to UNESCO Science Commissions, ICGEB Board of Governor's meetings and SAARC S&T meetings.



Prof Niranjanie Ratnayake, Chairperson

(From 09th July 2019 to 28th Nov 2019)

Eng. Prof. (Mrs.) Niranjanie Ratnayake is an Emeritus Professor in Civil Engineering of University of Moratuwa. She was the President of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (IESL) during the session 2017/2018, and is currently serving in the Council of IESL as the Immediate Past President. Her specialist area is Environmental Engineering, and she has experience in conducting environmental assessments at project level as well as strategic level. She is currently the President Elect of the Institute of Environmental Professionals, Sri Lanka.



Prof Tuley Dayananda De Silva

(05th March 2019 to 28th November 2019) Emeritus Professor Tuley De Silva is presently the Chancellor of the University of Wayamba. He was the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and the President of the Vidyodaya Campus where he pioneered research into the standardization of Ayurvedic Medicines and formulations into modern dosage forms. He retired from UN service as Special Technical Adviser of the Chemical Industries Branch of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Vienna), Austria. He is the first Sri Lankan Director of the Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute of Sri Lanka where he initiated Ayurvedic research and development of quality Ayurveda products.

His contributions to education, research and development and the industry were acknowledged by the Award of National Honours as Deshabandu by H.E. the President of Sri Lanka and D.Sc.(Honoris Causa) by the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. He has served as the General President of the Sri Lanka Association for the advancement of Science, President of Institute of Chemistry of Ceylon etc. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka, the Institute of Chemistry - Ceylon and the Royal Society of Chemistry (F.R.S.C.) - U.K.



Prof Hewa Waduge Cyril

(05th March 2019 to 28th November 2019)

Professor Hewa Waduge Cyril started his academic carrier in 1978 as an Assistant Lecturer and currently holds the position of Head of the Department in the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Peradeniya. He has held many responsible posts in research councils, agriculture society, various Boards and reputed companies and provided technical and academic expert advises. He has also worked as the Commissioner General in the Ministry of Agriculture for two years from 2002. He was the Chairman of the National livestock Development Board in two times during the period from 2015 to 2020 and made valuable contribution to the livestock development in the country.



Dr Janaka Ratnasiri

(05th March 2019 to 28th November 2019)

Dr. Janaka Ratnasiri is an Honours Graduate in Physics of University of Ceylon with MS degree in El. Eng. from Ohio State University and PhD degree in El. Eng. from University of Illinois. He served from 1963 to 1993 at Ceylon Institute of Scientific and Industrial Research, initially as a Research Officer in Applied Physics and Electronics Section and later as a Deputy Director. Subsequently, he served at the Ministry of Environment from 1993 to 2000 as the Chief Technical Adviser, in coordinating work related to implementation of Montreal Protocol on Protection of the Ozone Layer and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. He served as a Consultant to the Petroleum Resources Development Secretariat for preparing a Report on Natural Gas Utilization in Sri Lanka and developing a National Policy on Natural Gas. He also served as a Consultant to the Ministry of Environment in the preparation of the National Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks. He is a Past General President of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (2002) and a Past President and Fellow of Institute of Physics – Sri Lanka (1982).



Dr. Aurelia Jennifer Perera

(05th March 2019 to 28th November 2019)

Dr. Perera completed her doctoral studies in Medical Microbiology in 1986 and became a Professor in Microbiology in 2001. Currently holds the position of Dean and Chair Professor in the Faculty of Medicine of University of Colombo. She has completed a PG Diploma in Medical Education and Women's studies from universities of Dundee and Colombo respectively. She has also completed a MBA from University of Wales.

Her contribution to Microbiology related sciences through conduct of research is remarkable. She pioneered the use of Molecular Biology for the diagnosis of infectious diseases in general and specifically for tuberculosis in Sri Lanka while contributing to the literature on rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis and drug resistance of M tuberculosis using molecular methods. Dr. Perera won NSF research awards and Presidential awards for more than 10 years and contributed as a resource person in many research forums. Further, she also has won numerous awards for best oral and poster presentations in scientific sessions locally and overseas.



Mr. E. M. Prasad Edirisinghe

(05th March 2019 to 28th November 2019)

A senior financier. Former CEO/ General Manager of a non-bank financial institution. Counts 35 years of experience in the Non-Banking Financial Industry. A free-lance research journalist for leading newspapers in Sri Lanka. Holds a Master Degree in Business Administration from the UK. He is a Member of Institute of Management of Sri Lanka and an Associate Member of Sri Lanka Association of Advancement of Science.



Mr. Nimal Ranamukhaarachchi

(05th March 2019 to 28th November 2019)

Nimal Ranamukhaarachchi is a private practicing lawyer. He started his long career in 1979 as an Attorney-at-Law until July 1982 and went to United Kingdom and became a Solicitor. He worked as a Solicitor for several solicitors firms in the UK. In 1986 he came back to Sri Lanka and started private practice conducting Civil and Criminal trials mostly in District Courts, Magistrate Courts and High Courts. He is a panel Lawyer for Bank of Ceylon, Peoples Bank, Sri Lanka Insurance and Sri Lanka Telecom.

TREASURY REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. M.M.C.P. Mohottigedara (From 14th March 2017 to 13th June 2019)

Senior Assistant Secretary
Economy and Policy Development
Ministry of Finance

Ms S. H. D. Kaluthantri (From 13th June 2019 to 20th August 2019)

Director
Department of Management Services
Ministry of Finance

Dr Kapila Senanayake (From 20th August 2019 to 28th November 2019)

Director
Department of Fiscal Policy
Ministry of Finance

NASTEC STAFF - 2019

Prof .Niranjanie Rathnayake	Chairperson
Mrs. D. Nandanie Samarawickrama	Actg. Director
Dr. Kalpa W. Samarakoon	Senior Scientist
Mr. Seyed Shahmy	Senior Scientist
Mrs. G.C. Kumari Peiris	Deputy Director - Finance and Administration
Mrs Rasitha Perera	Scientist
Ms M. D. Thilini	Scientist
Ms. U.K.D.L.H.K. Udugama	Administrative Officer
Mr. S.A.D.S.P. Senanayake	ICT/Database Associate Officer
Mr. R. M. T. Ratnayake	Programme Assistant - Finance
Mrs. G. M. C. N. Maharage	Management Assistant
Mrs. W. M. I. K. Wedamulla	Management Assistant
Mr. Anil Hettiarachchi	Driver
Mr. Jayashantha Prabath	Driver
Mr. Pradeep Eranda	Driver
Mr. A.D. Danapala	Office Aide
Mr. Kanishka Gimhan	Office Aide

NASTEC FUNCTION (1): Advise the Government on policies and plans for the development of Science & Technology

National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy:

Advising the Government on policies and plans for the development of Science and Technology is a NASTEC mandatory function. National Science & Technology Policy was formulated by NASTEC in 2008. The Commission of NASTEC decided to review and update the National S&T Policy at the 182nd Commission meeting held in 2017 and with the concurrence of the Commission, scientists took over the task in compiling the draft policy in accordance with the inputs of each of the relevant sub-committees appointed. The contents of draft Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy is incorporated into the validated national policy format and made available as the draft National STI policy at the moment.

Science & Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Korea / NASTEC collaborative project on Assessment of National STI system in Sri Lanka 2018-2020

NASTEC initiated a collaborative Official Development Assistant (ODA) project in partnership with the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI), Korea in 2018. The scope of the whole project was, strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy instrument in managing the sound national R&D commercialization and innovation capability via accelerating the technology transfers for entrepreneurship by contributing towards national economic growth.

After a successful workshop on ‘Capacity Building in STI Policy Formulation and R&D Commercialization in Sri Lanka’ organized by the NASTEC in collaboration with the STEPI-IICC Korea in mid of 2018, the second workshop was held in Colombo from 25th to 29th March 2019 with the participation of Heads of S&T Institutions under the purview of Ministry of Science, Technology and Research and delegations from the STEPI, Dr Chi Ung Song (Chief Director, Division of Global Innovation Strategy), Dr Wang Dong Kim (Head, Office of STI ODA Project), Dr Inkyoung Sun (Associate Research Fellow) and Mr Byung Woo Jeon (Researcher, STEPI).

On the request of NASTEC, STEPI has invited the Sri Lankan delegate team to conduct an expert meeting and seminar on Supporting Improvement of STI Policy and Institutional Framework of Sri Lanka which was held from 24th – 29th June 2019, in South Korea.



Figure 3: 2019 STEPI - NASTEC STI Policy Workshop

The 3rd meeting and discussion on the progress of the collaborative project in terms of the Assessment of National STI system in Sri Lanka was held from 19th -21st November 2019 at Centre for Banking Studies with the participation of over 40 stakeholders of the S&T sector Sri Lanka.

Prof. So Young Kim - the Chair of Graduate School of Science & Technology Policy of Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), Dr Kwanyoung Kim - the Director of Green Technology Partnership Initiative (GTPI) & Senior Researcher of Green Technology Center (GCT) of Korea Institute of Science & Technology (KIST), Dr Inkyoung Sun - the Project Manager & Associate Research Fellow of STEPI and Ms Haengmi Kim - the Associate Research Fellow Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), participated via on line for this occasion as the delegates from Korea.

NASTECS FUNCTION (2): Submit a report annually to the Government, reviewing the Science & Technology activities in Sri Lanka

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTECS) is mandated to submit a report annually to the Government, reviewing the Science and Technology activities in Sri Lanka in the preceding year. This report includes the assessment of 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 the public sector and private sector undertakings.

Science & Technology Status Report 2018

To fulfill these objectives, the NASTECS has reviewed the status of 38 state sector S&T institutions during the year 2018. In relation to this, data were collected in five broad areas: i). Human resources, ii). Physical resources, iii). Research inputs, iv). Research outputs and v). Services provided by S&T institutes in the form of a questionnaire survey.

Following activities were completed:

- Data collection in the form of a questionnaire
- Data entering to databases
- Data analysis

Report writing, proofreading & publishing are to be completed by 2020. In 2019, NASTECS was able to publish the National S&T Status Report 2016 and 2017.



Figure 4: Science & Technology Status Report 2016 & 2017

NASTECS FUNCTION (3): Review the progress of Science & Technology Institutions

NASTECS has been mandated the function of reviewing S&T institutions in relation to the objects set out in section 2 of the Act.

The reviews are conducted by external panels appointed by NASTECS consisting of experts in the relevant fields to evaluate the quality, cost-effectiveness, relevance, and impact of the S&T activities carried out by these institutions to ensure that they meet the national priorities' and targets.

The review process has 4 distinctive phases

- Preparation for review
- Visits of the review team to institution
- Preparation of draft report by the review team
- Preparation and submission of the final review report by the review team to NASTECS

In 2019, NASTECS received the following review reports from the respective review panels.

- Horticulture Crop Research and Development Institute, Gannoruwa
- Gem & Jewellery Research & Training Institute, Kaduwela
- Farm Mechanization Research Centre, Mahallupallama
- Seed Certification Services, Gannoruwa

Activities conducted in relations to institutional reviews

Gem & Jewellery Research & Training Institute (GJRTI)

NASTECS commenced the review of GJRTI in the fourth quarter of 2018 and completed the activity in the year 2019. The following panel members conducted the review of GJRTI.

- Dr N.P. Wijayananda (Chairman)
- Prof. P.G.R. Dharmarathne
- Prof. R.L.R. Chandrajith
- Prof. Sirimewan Colambage
- Mr Harsha Pathberiya

The review panel made the first visit to the GJRTI Head Office, Kaduwela, on 15th February 2019. The panel met the Chairman, the Director-General and senior officials, and also inspected the training and laboratory facilities available at the institution. A meeting with the stakeholders of the GJRTI was held at Construction Equipment Training Centre, Battaramaulla on 8th March 2019 with the participation of 32 representatives from the areas of the gem industry, service providers, researchers, trainees, and several government agencies. The Panel visited the Regional Centre, Rathnapura on 11th April 2019 to observe the facilities and conducted a meeting with trade and industry representatives. On 3rd May 2019, the review panel made a 2nd visit to the GJRTI head office and held a discussion with the senior staff. NASTEC received the final review report in October 2019.



Figure 5: National Review of the Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute Report



Figure 6: Performance Review of Gem & Jewellery Research & Training Institute (GJRTI)

Farm Mechanization Research Centre (FMRC)

FMRC is an institution that works to promote effective agricultural mechanization in Sri Lanka through the implementation of farm mechanization technology to reduce production costs, improve quality, increase productivity and increase the volume of agricultural products. NASTEC commenced the review of FMRC after obtaining the consent from Director General of Agriculture. NASTEC initiated the review of FMRC in May 2019 and the following panel members took part in this review.

- Prof. N.R. Arthanayake (Chairman)
- Dr Susantha Siriwardena
- Eng. K.Y.H.D. Shantha
- Eng. T.M.R. Dissanayake

The panel made the review visits on 3rd and 04th June 2019 to FMRC, Mahalluppallama and had discussions with the senior staff and also observed the testing facilities available. On 05th July 2019, a stakeholder meeting was conducted at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Colombo with the participation of 86 stakeholders. The panel submitted the final review report to the NASTEC in October 2019.



Figure 7: Performance Review Report Farm Mechanization Research Centre Report

Seed Certification Services (SCS)

The SCS review was initiated in April 2019 with the approval of the Director-General of Agriculture. The panel carried out the SCS review consisted of;

- Dr Sarath Weerasena (Chairman)
- Mr W.A.G. Sisira Kumara
- Dr L. Nugaliyadde
- Mr A Jayawardena

The panel made several visits to the institution and other key agriculture institutions from May to July 2019. During this period, field visits to the Seetha Eliya and Dambulla substations were also made by the panel. The review team undertook several discussions with the officers of the Department of Agriculture engaged in Seed Certification, SPM development and private sector involved in SPM production, importation and marketing, and farmer organizations engaged in seed production and marketing of local seeds. A meeting with seed exporters and Seed and Planting Association was conducted on 04th July 2019 and conducted another meeting on Seed Act with officials of the Department of Agriculture on 09th August 2019. In December 2019, the panel submitted the final review report to the NASTEC.



Figure 9: Meeting with the Key members of the Seed Association in Colombo



Figure 8: Workshop on the Seed Act with leaders of farmer organizations in pressure groups at the SCPPS, Gannoruwa

Plant Protection Services (PPS)

The PPS review started on 7th October 2019, with the contribution of the following members.

- Dr. S Weerasena (Chairman)
- Prof. B. Marambe
- Dr. P.M. P. C.G. Bandaranayake
- Mr. J. A.T.P Gunawardana

The panel made several visits to the institute and held discussions with relevant authorities.



Figure 10: Plant Protection Services Stakeholders' meeting

The Stakeholders' meeting of the review was conducted on 20th November 2019 at In-service Training Institute, Gannoruwa. This activity is to be completed in 2020.

Bandaranayake Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute (BMARI)

The Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute (BMARI) is the pioneer Government Ayurveda Research Institute consists of Multi-disciplinary research complex, research hospital, laboratory complex with modern equipment and herbal garden spread over 18 acres. BMARI was established in 1962 in line with the Ayurveda act. of 1961. The scope

of this institution is to carry out research work aligning with the identified priority areas in indigenous medical sector. NASTEC initiated the review of BMARI on 22nd November 2019 with below panel members. It is expected to complete the report by mid-2020.

- Prof. D.B. Mahinda Wickamarathne (Chairman)
- Dr. P.K. Perera
- Dr. (Ms) S.R.S.N. Sudasinghe
- Dr. P. Ranasinghe
- Dr. (Ms) Thilina Wanigasekara



Figure 11: Institutional Review of Bandaranayake Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute (BMARI)

Workshop to update the Institution Review Manual

NASTEC conducts reviews using the guidelines and procedures laid down in the Review Manual developed in 2008 based on the recommendations of BICOST IV held in 2006. As the existing Manual was prepared nearly 10 years ago, the need to update by considering the current STI system of the country was considered important. In view of this, a stakeholder workshop was organized to get inputs to update the review manual with the participation of stakeholders representing the diverse fields of STI sectors on 29th October 2019 at Centre of

Banking Studies, Rajagiriya. Prof. N.T.S. Wijesekara - Senior Professor of Faculty of Engineering of University of Moratuwa moderated the event. The workshop was successfully concluded after conducting group sessions on identified priority areas of the manual.



Figure 12: Update of Review Manual with the participation of stakeholders representing diverse fields of STI sectors

NASTEC FUNCTION (4): Consult relevant Science & Technology institutions before advising the Government on policies and plans relevant to those institutions

Establishing a National Science Advice System to the Government

NASTEC is the apex body mandated by the Government of Sri Lanka to provide science advice, especially in areas stated in Section 5 of the Science and Technology Development Act 11/1994. It has been identified that NASTEC should proactively advise the Government on topics across all fields of science, technology, and innovation and regularly communicate the trends on areas of critical national interest that would support for informed decision making by the Sri Lankan Government. This was initiated in 2019 and several discussions were carried out at NASTEC working committee meetings.

Young Scientists Forum (YSF)

The Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of Sri Lanka is hosted by the National Science & Technology Commission (NASTEC). The YSF was established in NASTEC in the year 2000, to provide an opportunity for young scientists in Sri Lanka to voice out their opinion on S&T related issues. YSF currently consists of more than 400 members of young scientists in different disciplines.

YSF activities currently fall under 'Establishment of a system to advice the Government on STI' program of the NASTEC action plan.

8th YSF Symposium 2019

The YSF Symposium which was initiated in the year 2012 has become a popular event as a forum that allows young scientists to present their research work to the scientific community. The eighth YSF Symposium was held on 30th January 2019 at the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) Colombo 07, with the participation of more than 80 young and senior scientists. In response to the call for Abstracts, NASTEC received 60 extended abstracts from YSF members. Each abstract was evaluated by two senior scientists as an honorary service to the YSF. Based on their recommendations, 42 abstracts were selected for oral presentations. These shortlisted abstracts were published in Proceedings. Thirty eight presenters made their presentations at the symposium.

Oral presentations were made under the following seven themes;

- Food Science and Nutrition
- Agricultural Sciences and Biological Sciences
- Environmental Science
- Engineering & Computer Science
- Biochemistry & Chemistry
- Economics, Statistics, Humanities & Social Sciences
- Molecular Biology, Biotechnology, Medicine, Health Sciences & Microbiology



Figure 13: 8th YSF Symposium 2019

Young Scientists Forum (YSF) Steering Committee

The YSF consists of a Steering Committee (SC) comprised of 13 members. The Steering committee is led by a Chairman along with two Joint-Secretaries. Each year a new SC is elected during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is usually held along with the YSF Symposium.

2019 YSF Steering Committee

Chairman	Dr. Lasantha Weerasinghe	Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
Joint Secretary	Dr. Upanith Liyanaarachchi	Faculty of Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
Joint Secretary	Dr. Kasun Meegahakumbura	Coconut Research Institute, Lunuwila
Committee Member	Dr. Usha Hettiaratchi	Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenapura
Committee Member	Dr. Dinesh Attygalle	Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa
Committee Member	Prof. Rangika Halwatura	Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa
Committee Member	Dr. Samantha Dissanayake	Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
Committee Member	Dr. Kandiah Pakeerathan	Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna
Committee Member	Dr. Sameera Samarakoon	Institute of Biochemistry Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, University of Colombo
Committee Member	Dr. Niroshima Withanage	Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenapura

Committee Member	Dr. Janaka Wijesinghe	Faculty of Animal Science & Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka
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Committee Member	Ms. E.M.S. Isanka	Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo 07
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Committee Member	Mr. N.Y. Jayanath	Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
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NASTEC Coordinator	Ms. Thilini Munagamage	National Science and Technology Commission
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The SC meetings are held once a month at NASTEC premises and YSF activities for the upcoming year are planned and discussed during the first meeting with the new steering committee elected for that year.

2nd National Undergraduate Research Symposium (NURS) 2019

The NASTEC with the participation of large number of leading scientists, economists, technologists, policy makers and other stakeholders in Sri Lanka, developed the National Research and Development Framework (NRDF), which includes 10 focused areas where immediate interventions are needed. Planning and implementing R&D activities as suggested in the NRDF can assist the country in taking a fast-forward leap towards sustainable development, where the economy, environment and the society are equally benefitted. Therefore, with the objective of promoting the NRDF among the scientists of our country, several activities have been initiated by the NASTEC. The National Undergraduate Research Symposium (NURS) is one of these activities initiated in 2017, with the objective of increasing the number of researches that address the problems/issues identified under 10 focused areas in the NRDF among undergraduates and their supervisors in the Universities.

NASTEC organized its 2nd National Undergraduate Research Symposium on 29th March 2019 at the Centre for Banking Studies (CBS), Rajagiriya, Kotte. Prof. K.M. Nalin de Silva, Senior Professor of the Department of Chemistry of University of Colombo addressed the gathered undergraduates at the inauguration ceremony as the invited special guest & keynote speaker. Undergraduates presented their research findings in two parallel sessions under seven focused areas of the NRDF which included Food, Nutrition & Agriculture, Health, Shelter, Environment, Energy, IT and Knowledge Services, Basic Sciences, Emerging

Technologies & Indigenous Knowledge. The best presenters of each session were awarded merit certificates.



Figure 14: 2nd Undergraduate Research Symposium 2019 at Centre for Banking Studies, Rajagiriya

NASTEC FUNCTION (5): Convene the Sri Lanka Conference on Science & Technology biennially

One of the mandated functions of NASTEC is to convene the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST) biennially, with the prior approval of the Minister, and to provide a forum for the discussion of Science and Technology perspectives and road map for Sri Lanka. BICOST IX conference was scheduled to be held on 9th November 2018, but it was postponed on 4th November 2018 considering the government situation at that time.

At the 200th Commission meeting, it was decided to hold BICOST IX in 2020 by focusing more on developing a National STI strategy.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Shilpasena Exposition – Sri Lanka’s Technological Revolution

Ministry of Science, Technology and Research took an initiative to conduct a district-level Exposition – ‘Shilpa Sena - Sri Lanka's Technological Revolution’ in 2019, with the main objective of creating a platform for research commercialization while having provision for knowledge dissemination and to facilitate technology transfer at a local level. NASTEC was involved in organizing the event and contributed to coordinate the Tech theme of Internet of Things (IOT) and 5G. In such, first and the main event was held at BMICH from 18th -21st July 2019 and the second event was held in Polonnaruwa from 24th - 29th September 2019. Selected stakeholders relevant to the Tech theme such as, Dialog, Mobitel, Thingerbits, UNIVOTEC, KDU, SLIIT and IT unit of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka participated for the event. More than one hundred thousand participants including school students and the public have visited and benefitted by the IOT & 5G Tech theme stall as per the Ministry records.



Figure 15: 12 Areas of Shilpasena Exposition



Figure 16: Shilpasena Exposition at BMICH

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Centre 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 of 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. Seven such international events were held in Colombo and Kandy, Sri Lanka. These events have benefitted by a large number of researchers and professionals from across the globe, including many Sri Lankans. Bureau Meetings of the NAM S&T Centre Governing Councils were hosted by Sri Lanka three times in the past in 2004, 2010 and 2018.

NAM S&T Centre provides opportunities to scientists and other officials to participate in workshops, seminars, conferences and other short-term and medium-term training programs organized by the member countries of the Centre. The Centre provides airfare while the hosting country provides accommodation for the participants of these programs.

During the year 2019, the following Sri Lankan scientists participated for the events organized by the Centre.

■ **International Training Workshop on Developing Key Parameters for Ensuring Sustainability of Leather Sector in Developing Countries, Chennai, India, 28th – 31st January 2019.**

Mrs. R.D.N. Wijesinghe, Probation Lecturer, University of Ruhuna

■ **International Training Workshop on Technopreneurship for Developing Countries, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 11th -15th March 2019**

Mrs. P.N.D. Pathirana, Assistant Director - Marketing, National Engineering Research and Development Center.

■ **Joint NAM Centre – ASRT, EGYPT Fellowship Program, Egypt**

Ms. Dhakshila Niyangoda, Lecturer, University of Peradeniya

■ **International Workshop on Policy Making in Popularization of Science, Technology and Innovation, Tehran, Iran , 17th -19th June 2019**

Mr. P.M. Dharmathilake, Director, Science & Research Development, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research

■ **Joint NAM S&T Centre - NABDA Visiting Expert Fellowship Program: Call for Applications for 2019-2020, Nigeria,**

Dr. Sanjaya Deepal Nayana Kumara Bathige, Senior Research Scientist, Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC)

■ **International Training Program on ‘Entrepreneurship Skills for Innovators from the Developing Countries’, Cairo, Egypt, 23rd -25th October 2019**

Ms. Jayasamara Gunaratne, Assistant Director (Technology Transfer) of Ministry of Science, Technology & Research;

■ **International Training Course on 'Science, Technology and Innovation Diplomacy' Pretoria, South Africa, 28th November – 03rd December 2019**

Mr. K.V. Tharaka Gunawardhana, Research Scientist, Food Technology Section, Industrial Technology Institute

Other Nominees - (i) Dr. Ranil D. Guneratne, Provost, SLINTEC Academy

■ **2nd Bureau Meeting of the 14th Governing Council of the NAM S&T Centre - 5th & 6th September 2019, in Hanoi, Vietnam**

Mr. Chinthaka S. Lokuhetti, Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology & Research

Mrs. D. Nandanie Samarawickrama, Acting Director, National Science and Technology Commission

Ms. N. P. J. Dinushika, Assistant Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Science, Technology & Research

Ms. Thilini Munagamage, Scientist, National Science and Technology Commission

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NASTECS is designated as the Apex Body for policy formulation and advisory body on Science and Technology matters to the Government of Sri Lanka. To fulfill above task, NASTECS plays a vital role as a team to achieve organizational goals and objectives and strives towards the development of Science and Technology in the Country.

As per the organizational structure of NASTECS, Chairman acts as the Head of the Commission. The Director is the Chief Executive Officer. Approved Cadre of NASTECS is 18. The Senior Scientists facilitate, coordinate, and manage Expert Study Groups and Consultative Fora as well as all other scientific activities of NASTECS. The Deputy Director (Finance and Administration) is responsible for all financial and administration matters. The Scientists assist the Senior Scientists and also manage Study Groups and Consultative fora and other relevant scientific activities of NASTECS. The Supporting Staff comprises of Administrative Officer, two Program Assistants (Program Assistant-Finance & ICT Database Associate), five Management Assistants with a Receptionist Cum Telephone Operator, two Office Aides and three Drivers. Research Assistants and Consultants hired on need-basis carry out specialized tasks and assignments as required by the Commission.

Summary Information on Staff Strength as at 31.12.2019

Staff Category	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre
Top Management (HM 2-3)	01	01
Scientists (AR -2, AR – 1)	04	04
Middle Manager (MM)	01	01
Junior Manager (JM)	01	01
Management Assistants (MA – 3)	02*	02
Management Assistants (MA- 1-2)	05	02
Primary Level (PL)	05	05

02* Post of Program Assistance- Finance is personal to the holder

STAFF NEWS

- Eng. D.D. Ananda Namal, Acting Director from 09th March 2018 to 14th June 2019, and we are grateful to Eng. D. D. Ananda Namal for his service during his tenure.
- NASTEC warmly welcomed Mrs. Nandanie D. Samarawickrama, as the Acting Director of NASTEC from 20th June 2019 to 26th January 2020
- NASTEC warmly welcomed Prof. Sirimalie Fernando as the Chairperson of NASTEC from 05th March 2019
- Prof. Sirimalie Fernando resigned from her post as the Chairperson in June 2019 and we are grateful for her service
- NASTEC warmly welcomed Prof. Nirranjanie Rathnayake as the Chairperson of NASTEC from 9th July 2019
- Prof. Nirranjanie Rathnayake resigned from her post as the Chairperson on 28th November 2019 and we are grateful for her service
- Mr. Seyed Shahmy, Senior Scientist was honored with National Research Council President's Award for Scientific Research in August 2019
- National Science and Technology Commission moved to the new office premises at Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla on 19th November 2019
- Mr. Seyed Shahmy Senior Scientist was given speech on Evidence of increasing in NCD incidence in Sri Lanka and the establishment of a National Science advice system at Plenary Session, Science Advice Workshop AKEPT, Malesia on 13th August 2019



Figure 17: NASTEC moved to the new office premises at Sethsiripaya



Figure 18: National Research Council President's Award for Scientific Research in August 2019

CAPACITY BUILDING AND PRODUCTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

No.	Name	Designation	Description	Date	Venue
1	Ms. H.A.C Sanjeevani	Management Assistant	Property Assistance, Maintenance of Fixed Assets	29 th January 2019	SDFL
2	Mr. Jayashantha Prabath	Driver	Duties and Responsibilities of Drivers and Minor Staff	11 th & 12 th March 2019	SDFL
3	Mr. Kanishka Gimhan	Office Aide	Ethics and Disciplines for Driver and Minor Staff	18 th & 19 th March 2019	SDFL
4	Ms. Lakmini Udugama	Administrative Officer	Recruitment Procedure	13 th June 2019	Grand Oriental Hotel
5	Mr. Shashantha Senanayake	ICT/Database Associate Officer	Procurement of IT Goods	27 th June 2019	SDFL
6	Ms. Ishara Kulshani	Receptionist	Duties and Responsibilities of Leave Clerk	25 th & 26 th July 2019	SDFL
7	Ms. Nishanthi Maharage	Management Assistant	Writing Official Letters and Minutes	31 st October 2019	National Institute of Labour Studies
8	Mr. Thusitha Rathnayake	Program Officer	Salary Conversion	28 th November 2019	Sri Lanka Foundation
9	Mr. Thusitha Rathnayake	Program Officer	Salary Conversion	19 th December 2019	Sri Lanka Foundation

OUTBOUND TRAINING PROGRAM

The ‘Outbound Training’ is a capacity building programme used to enhance the efficiency of employees through Experiential Learning. It helps in improving teamwork abilities and leadership qualities, in resolving intergroup or personal conflicts, nourishes interpersonal skills, nurtures personal and intergroup relations and improves communication skills.

NASTEC staff participated in an outbound training program at NERD Center from 09th - 10th May 2019. This is the 2nd such training program in which the NASTEC staff participated.



Figure 19: Outbound Training Program at NERD Center

FACILITATION FOR HIGHER STUDIES

Mrs. Kumari Peiris, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration continued her second year of the Master of Public Management (MPM), at Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) which was funded by the NASTEC.

IN HOUSE TRAINING PROGRAMS

NASTEC organized in-house training program on ‘Office Procedures’ on 30th December 2019. Resource person who conducted the session was Mr. J. U. Priyanath (Administrative Officer; Election Commission). He provided valuable insights extracted from his theoretical and practical experience regarding the subject. It was successful programme where NASTEC employees had opportunity to share their experiences and able to learn new.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

NASTEC Welfare Society was established on 14th April 2014. The Chairman at the time of inauguration was Prof. Dhammika Thantrigoda. First President is Mr. Nishantha Piyadasa, Office Aide and First Secretary is Ms. Nilmini Perera, Management Assistant. First Annual get together was organized for its members in April 2017. Following are the programs and events carried out by this Welfare Society.

Events

- Organized Day Outing - Kanneliya in 2016
- Participated for Flood Relief Program Campaign in 2016

Regular Activities

- Providing annually low interest loan facility for Staff for Sinhala and Tamil New Year

Programs

- Printing NASTEC t-shirts for Staff in 2019

PARTICIPATION FOR FOREIGN TRAININGS / WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS / SYMPOSIUMS

Name	Designation	Training / Workshop / Seminars / Symposiums	Country	Period
Dr Kalpa Samarakoon	Senior Scientist	Training Workshop on developing effective Science Technology & Innovation policy	India	6 th to 8 th March 2019
Mrs. D. Nandanie Samarawickrama	Acting Director	STEPI Policy workshop	South Korea	24 th - 29 th June 2019
Dr Kalpa Samarakoon	Senior Scientist	STEPI Policy workshop	South Korea	24 th - 29 th June 2019
Mr. Sheyed Shahmy	Senior Scientist	STEPI Policy workshop	South Korea	24 th - 29 th June 2019
Mr. Seyed Shahmy	Senior Scientist	East Asia Capacity Building Workshop on Non-Communicable Diseases-Science Advice	Malaysia	13 th & 14 th August 2019
Mrs. D. Nandanie Samarawickrama	Acting Director	2 nd Bureau Meeting of the 14 th Governing Council of the NAM S&T Centre	Hanoi, Vietnam	5 th & 6 th September 2019
Ms. Thilini Munagamage	Scientist	2 nd Bureau Meeting of the 14 th Governing Council of the NAM S&T Centre	Hanoi, Vietnam	5 th & 6 th September 2019



Figure 21: Training workshop on developing effective Science Technology & Innovation policy



Figure 20: STEPI-NASTEC STI Policy Workshop 2019



Figure 22: East Asia Capacity Building Workshop on Non-Communicable Diseases-Science Advice



Figure 23: 2nd Bureau Meeting of the 14th Governing Council of the NAM S&T Centre

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2019

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION			
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE			
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019			
<small>(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)</small>			
		2019	2018
Revenue			
Recurrent Grant		25,579,500	29,134,006
Capital Grant - Research and Development	12	3,160,500	13,332,325
Capital Grant - Capacity Building		430,000	157,000
Amortization of Government Grants - Depreciation		4,317,572	4,359,709
Income	13	111,538	166,078
		33,599,110	47,149,118
Expenses			
Personal Emoluments	14	14,092,911	13,075,247
Traveling	15	461,916	752,381
Supplies and consumables used	16	675,097	683,688
Maintenance	17	1,875,013	912,966
Contractual services	18	9,655,675	8,527,823
Transfers	19	4,335,387	3,997,861
Capacity Building	20	439,225	218,380
Research and Development	21	2,932,708	9,307,966
Meeting Expenses	22	161,471	802,497
Depreciation and amortization expenses	6	4,317,572	4,359,709
Total expenses		38,946,975	42,638,608
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		(5,347,865)	4,510,610
Financial Cost			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		-	-
Vehicle Insurance Claim		-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		(5,347,865)	4,510,610

Figure 24: Statement of Financial Positions for the Year Ended 31.12.2019 - 1

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019
 (all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

	Notes	2019	2018
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	2,365,493	7,420,521
Trade and other receivables	2	-	-
Inventories / Stocks	3	93,110	100,112
Prepayments	4	128,513	1,039,219
Staff Loans - Short-term	5	225,792	205,796
		<u>2,812,908</u>	<u>8,765,648</u>
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	5,087,612	8,107,344
Refundable Deposit	7	260,670	1,275,500
Staff Loans - Long-term	8	425,511	443,303
		<u>5,773,793</u>	<u>9,826,147</u>
Total Assets		<u>8,586,701</u>	<u>18,591,795</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	9	5,508,452	7,856,423
Non - current liabilities			
Differed Income	10	1,444,461	774,243
Provision for Gratuity	11	3,489,111	2,780,798
		<u>4,933,572</u>	<u>3,555,041</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>10,442,024</u>	<u>11,411,464</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>(1,855,323)</u>	<u>7,180,331</u>
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
Accumulated fund		1,907,071	1,904,910
Revaluation Surplus		6,159,307	9,849,258
Reserves		(9,921,701)	(4,573,837)
		<u>(1,855,323)</u>	<u>(1,855,323)</u>
Total Net assets/equity		<u>(1,855,323)</u>	<u>7,180,331</u>

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.


 Chairperson


 Actg. Director


 Deputy Director -
 Finance and Administration


 Member of the Commission

Figure 25: Statement of Financial Positions for the Year Ended 31.12.2019 - 2

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

My No. TEC/A/NASTEC/03/03/2019

22 July 2020

The Chairman
National Science and Technology Commission

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 2019 in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

The above mentioned report is sent herewith.

Signed: W.P.C. Wickramaratne
Auditor General

Copies to:

01. Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation
02. Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic and Policy Development

The Chairman
National Science and Technology Commission

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 2019 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 2019 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019 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 2019, 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 scepticism 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*;

Reference to law/ direction

Description

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| (a) | 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 02 Audit Committee meeting during the year 2019. |
| (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, the Commission had not taken action against the responsible officers for providing a concessionary motor vehicle permit to the Director of the Commission who has not completed 12 years of continues service. |

- 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.

According to Section 5(b) of the Science and Technology Development Act, No. 11 of 1994, although a Review Report on activities of the Science and Technology relating to the use of Science and Technology in Sri Lanka conducted by the Public and Private Sector Business Organizations during the previous year should be prepared in the year under review, this activity had not been completed. The report for the year 2019 is also at the initial stage.

- 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 of the Board of Governance dated 19 June 2018, he has been sent on compulsory leave with effect from 09 July 2018. Hence, the salaries and allowances amounting to Rs.3,036,619 paid to this officer during the period from 01 March 2018 to 31 December 2019 has become an uneconomic expenditure.
- (b) According to the Action Plan 2019, it was observed that only 10% of the activities have been performed out of the activities to be completed during the year under review with regard to the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) strategic development activities of the Science and Technology (S&T) Related Policy and Strategic Plan Development Project.
- (c) It was observed that out of the policy development activities related to Science and Technology (S&T), only 50 were completed during the year as per the Action Plan for 2019.
- (d) Although it was planned to develop the database of the Science and Technology (S&T) Quality Assessment Project of Sri Lanka in the year under review, only 60 per cent of it was completed during the year under review.
- (e) 2019 for the purpose of launch working groups consisting of scientists from senior scientists, young scientists and scientists from other professional organizations in connection with the project to establish a system to advise the government on science, technology and innovation (STI) matter, only 06 meetings were held.
- (f) Although a sum of Rs. 337,300 had been paid to a private organization for the management of the Biennial Conference on Science and Technology IX, this conference had not been held.

Signed by: W.P.C. Wickramaratne
Auditor General.

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 2019 in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

The Replies to the Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements and other Regulatory Requirements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31st December 2019 in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

2. Nom compliance with any applicable written law, general and special directions issued by the governing body.

- (a) Although four audit committee meetings were scheduled for 2019, there was no commission in January, February and December, and no commission meetings in April and May. Further, an Audit Committee meeting requires a two-member composition of the Commission. The two members of the Commission to this Committee were appointed only on June 2020 at 201st meeting of the Commission. Therefore, only two audit committee meetings could be held this year.

3. Other audit observations

- (a) The former Director of the Institute was sent on compulsory leave by the 193 Commission Meeting held on 9th July 2018. During that commission session it was decided to pay the former Director the basic salary and allowances (Cost of Living Allowance and Professional Allowance). Accordingly, the payment of the salary was effective until the completion of the preliminary examination, that is, until June 2020. However, after the new Chairperson of the Commission took office on 16 January 2020, much attention was paid to this matter and the Preliminary Investigation Report with the Acting Director was brought down in April 2020. The recommendations for this report were submitted to the Commission meeting held in June and ratified. Accordingly, decisions were taken to suspend the service of the former Director without pay from 01 July and to issue a charge sheet to him. The charge sheet prepared by the Preliminary Investigation Officer was forwarded to the former Director with the approval of the Commission. Further investigations in this regard will be completed soon.

- (b) Under the Science and Technology Promotion Act No. 11 of 1994, the National Science and Technology Commission organized policies, strategies, planning and development programs related to enhancement of science and technology (S&T). The program to identify and launch new science and technology (S&T) policies for the year 2019 was intended to be identified in conjunction with 9th Biennial Science and Technology Conference. The 9th Biennial Science and Technology Conference was decided not to be held in 2019 by the 200th Commission meeting held in March 2019. It was decided to hold this conference in the year 2020. The administrative problem of the institution also affected this. The identification and preparation of new policies is expected to be completed by 2020 in line with the Prosperity Vision Policy Statement and we would like to mention that this has already been discussed.

Note: STI stands for Science, Technology and Innovation.

- (c) The revision of the National Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy was initiated in 2018 with the approval of the Commission and is scheduled to be completed in 2019. This draft policy has been finalized and the launch and publication of those policies were scheduled to conclude in conjunction with the 9th Biennial Science and Technology Conference, but the National Science and Technology Commission has decided not to organize and hold the conference in 2019 as decided by 200th meeting of the Commission. Therefore, the National Science and Technology Policy was not launched in 2019. Under the present health situation, the biennial conference is expected to be held later part of this year and the initial steps to achieve the goals of the Prosperity Vision are expected to be implemented. Accordingly, it is hoped to formulate the proposed National Science Technology and Innovation Policy or Strategic Plans.
- (d) Data collection for the report on Science & Technology Status (S&T Status) for the year 2018 was carried out after August 2019, and the collection, compilation and analysis of data extended to 2020 due to delays in the submission of that data by the Institute of Science and Technology. Data collection is currently done by existing Server Computer at NSF and NASTEC hopes to acquire a Server Computer in later part of this year. This is expected to make the development of this database more efficient.
- (e) Although 10 Steering Committee meetings of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) is scheduled to be held in 2019, the committee members could hold only 6 meetings due to their busy schedule and as all the committee members are academics and lecturers working in other institutions / universities. But this forum of young scientists was more proactive and met the expected contribution.
- (f) The 9th Biennial Conference on Science and Technology which hold biennially by the National Commission for Science and Technology was scheduled to be held on 8th and 9th of November 2018 at the BMICH under the patronage of His Excellency the then President. All the activities related to the conference were being carried out by the staff of the Commission at that time. However, on the verbal instructions of the Secretary to the President, the entire conference was postponed to 05 November 2018 at the last minute due to the prevailing political situation in the country. At the staff meeting chaired by the former chairman of the Commission on that day, the staff of the institute and all parties involved in the work of the conference were officially informed about this.

Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama
Chairperson