

National Science and Technology Commission – The Young Scientists Forum (YSF)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this entity shall be the Young Scientists Forum (hereinafter referred to as the "forum" or "YSF").

ARTICLE II: Established and Revised Year

The YSF established year in 2000

The YSF constitution is drafted in 2023

ARTICLE III: Office/Address

The forum will be operated under the purview of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), Sri Lanka established by the Science and Technology Development Act, No. 11 of 1994.

ARTICLE IV: Aim and Objectives

Section 1: The aim of the forum shall be:

Gathering of the Young Scientific community of Sri Lanka for the advancement of Science, Technology, Research, and Innovations in assisting and advising on the sustainable development of the country in line with the core functional activities of the NASTEC through expert advisory and consultations.

Section 2: The objectives of the forum shall be:

- i. Provide expertise in the formulation of Science and Technology related policies, plans, and decision-making of the country.
- ii. Provide expertise in various fields of Science and Technology in solving the national issues/needs in the country in collaboration with various Universities, Science and Technology Institutes.
- iii. Promotion and cooperation in Science, Technology, Research, and Innovation among Young Scientists in Sri Lanka.
- iv. Act as an interface between the scientific community and industries /relevant stakeholders to share Scientific and Technical knowledge.
- v. Motivate young scientists towards inventions and innovations which can be commercialized.
- vi. Make recommendations to NASTEC on “Advising the government on policies and plans related to the Development of Science and Technology Act, No. 11 of 1994”
- vii. Strengthening the Young Scientists to have a conducive research environment
- viii. To promote collaborative research by sharing research findings and research interests in different fields while creating a space for networking and techno entrepreneurship development.
- ix. Facilitate to offer recognition and appreciation for outstanding young scientists who contribute for the development of Science and Technology in the country.

ARTICLE V: Membership

Section 1: Membership of the YSF at NASTEC shall be open to scientists who fulfill the following criteria:

- i. 45 years of age or below
- ii. With a bachelor's degree (minimum) from a University Grants Commission (UGC) recognized Institution or equivalent qualifications and/or a postgraduate degree qualifications or equivalent professional qualification in fields of Natural and Life Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Medical & Health Sciences, Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences, Management, and Social Sciences.

Or

- iii. A minimum of 05 years of experience in the above-mentioned fields attached to a University and/or Research and Development (R&D) or Science and Technology (S&T) Institution or any other relevant Institution (Public or Private sector) in Sri Lanka.

Section 2: Full Membership: Those who serve in a permanent position in a University or Research and Development (R&D) or Science and Technology (S&T) Institution or any other relevant Institution (Public or Private sector) in Sri Lanka.

Section 3: Associate Membership (Valid for 5 years): Those who are attached in a temporary position (Research assistants/ Postgraduate students) in a University or Research and Development (R&D) or Science and Technology (S&T) Institution or any other relevant Institution (Public or Private sector) in Sri Lanka.

Section 4: Student Membership (Valid for 2 years): Undergraduate of a UGC-recognized University or Higher Education Institute (HEI)

Section 5: Full members shall have one vote at Annual General Meetings (AGM)

Section 6: The Steering Committee (SC) shall have the power to approve membership or refuse membership to an applicant, where it is considered, such membership would be detrimental to the aims, purposes, or activities of the group.

Section 7: Members have the privilege of participating in all forum-related activities and receiving related benefits

Section 8: Members are required to abide by the Code of Ethics for the forum. The SC has the power to terminate or suspend the membership of any member if he/she breaches the Code of Ethics of the Forum. (*Code of ethics shall be available to enforce this section and required to list accordingly*)

Section 9: The members who have reached 45 years can be transferred to Senior Scientists Forum (SSF) and the contribution that has been rendered to the YSF membership will be appreciated.

ARTICLE VI: Management

Section 1: The Young Scientists Forum will be administered by a SC of not less than thirteen (13) members and not more than fifteen (15) members elected at the forum's Annual General Meeting. The SC, in turn, will be overseen by the Director and Commission of NASTEC, and coordinated by a staff member of NASTEC. There shall be two additional SC members as 1st nominee and 2nd nominee elected for the SC as a reserve member.

Section 2: The SC shall consist of a President, Vice-president, two Joint Secretaries, and other committee members. The elected SC shall be responsible for all administrative duties of the forum.

Section 3: The President shall have the power to establish and maintain operational procedures of the forum, call meetings, and answer for all conducts of the other officers. The President shall be able to vote on all decisions affecting the forum.

Section 4: The Vice-president shall assist the President with all administrative duties and assume those duties in the absence of the President.

Section 5: The Joint Secretaries shall keep accurate and detailed records of all meetings and affairs, send/transmit all official forum correspondence, and coordinate the preparation and distribution of forum flyers, handouts, and publications, etc.

Section 6: The composition of other SC members should represent different subject areas mentioned under Article V, Section 1 Clause ii. The other SC members will assist President and other office bearers to execute the functions of the forum.

Section 7: The SC shall meet at least once a month on a date that is scheduled with the consent of the SC.

Section 8: The quorum of the SC shall be two-thirds of SC members (consider including a number according to the number of SC members 13 (Minimum)/15 (maximum) if SC members are 13 quorum shall be 9 or if SC members are 15 quorum shall be 11).

Section 10: Voting at SC meetings shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote, then the President shall have a second vote.

Section 11: Power to set up sub-committees/groups and working groups as deemed necessary who shall be accountable to the committee.

ARTICLE VII: Elections

Section 1: The SC shall be elected by the members of the forum to serve a term of one year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in the first quarter of the year. Selection for the positions of President, Vice-president, and Joint-secretaries shall be held at the first regular SC meeting of the forum.

Section 2: The term of office for all officers shall begin from the date of the AGM and end on the next AGM of the following year.

Section 3: Nominations of candidates for SC positions shall be made by any YSF full member and seconded by another full member. Nominees for officer positions must be YSF full members.

Section 4: Voting shall take place after the close of nominations for each officer if there is more than one nomination for the position. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of those SC members present, provided that the quorum is met.

Section 5: Vacancies occurring in any of the elected offices shall be officially filled by the 1st nominee at the next SC meeting following the occurrence of such a vacancy or vacancies.

ARTICLE VIII: Termination from the steering committee

Section 1: If a SC member is absent for three consecutive meetings without giving justifiable reasons, SC membership shall be terminated.

ARTICLE IX: Meetings

Section 1: Annual General Meetings (AGM) shall be held once a year with additional extraordinary GMs convened by the Secretary by the request of the President of the SC as needed. Notice of such meetings must be given to all YSF members in the timeliest manner possible, usually not less than one week.

Section 2: The SC shall meet at least once a month when called by the President and convened by the Secretary.

Section 3: At which the election of SC officers will take place, official notice of the meeting must be provided to all members not less than two weeks prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE X: Funding

Section 1: The expenses of the activities of YSF are borne by the NASTECC subject to Commission approval for the Annual Action plan and Annual Budget of YSF for the upcoming year.

Section 2: Membership is free.

Section 3. Sponsorships for the activities organized by the YSF may be accepted through NASTECC whenever necessary.

ARTICLE XI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to this constitution shall be adopted by two-thirds of (Number) vote of the SC members present at two consecutive SC meetings at which the amendment has been read with the concurrence of the NASTECC. The proposed amendment is confirmed by two-thirds of the members present at the AGM.

Date of creation: Date of SC approves (06.07.2023 & 08.08.2023)

Adoption of the Constitution

This constitution was adopted by the members present at the AGM held on: 26th January 2024

Signed:



Prof. Kalpa Samarakoon, Chairperson, YSF Steering Committee



Dr. Ruwandi Ranasinghe, Joint-Secretary, YSF Steering Committee



Dr. Chamila Kadigamuwa, Joint- Secretary, YSF Steering Committee

*Dissolving the forum can only happen by special resolution as per directives of the Commission.