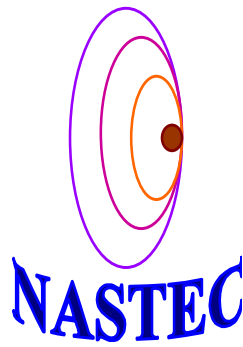


National Science and Technology Commission

Annual Report 2022



Acknowledgement

The management wishes to extend their gratitude to the Ministry of Technology and Ministry of Education for providing support for the activities of NASTEC.

The Chairperson and Commission Members express their gratitude to the staff for their cooperation and assistance in executing NASTEC's activities.

About NASTEC

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 is 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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Functions as Mandated by Science and Technology Development Act (No. 11 of 1994)

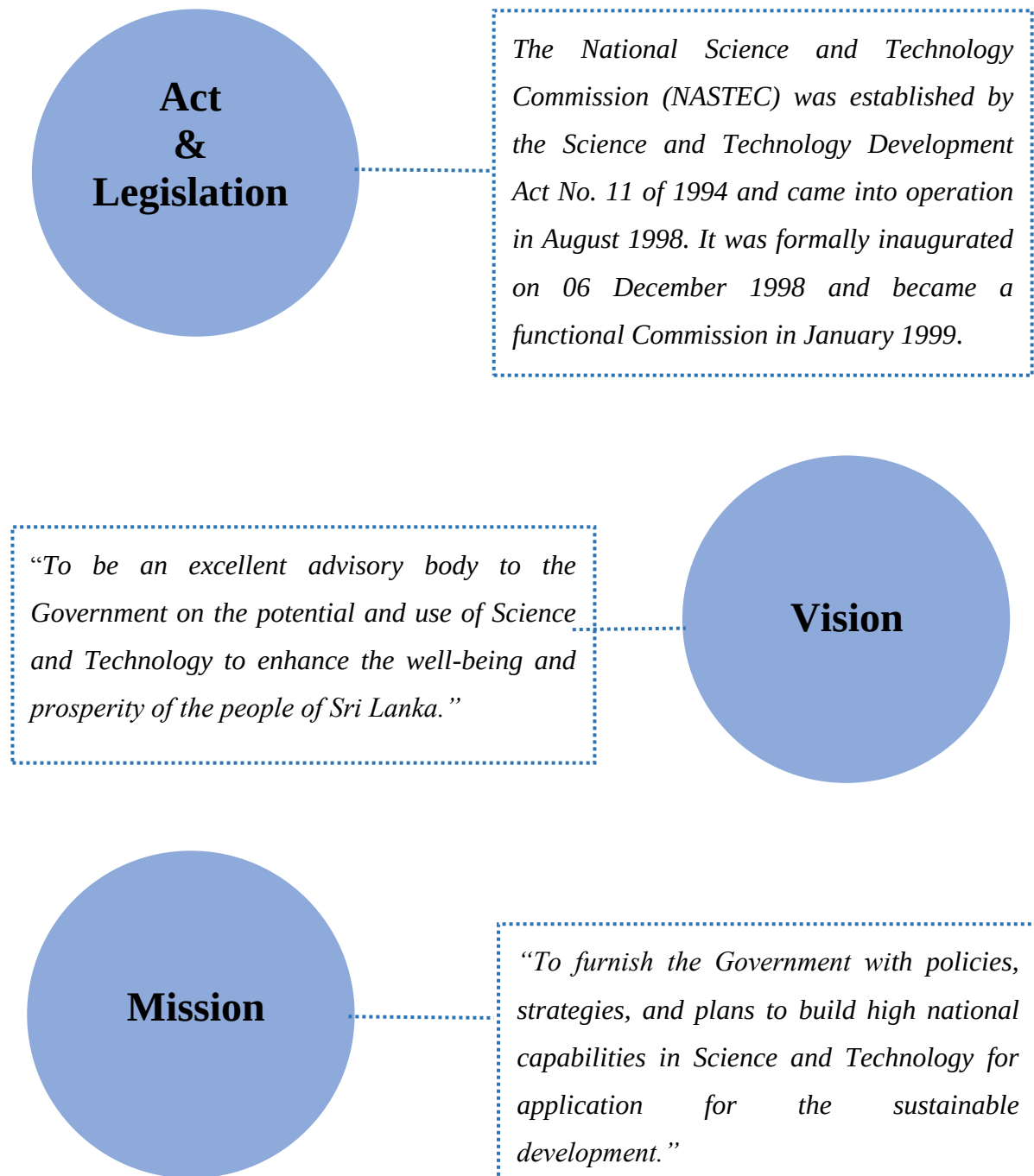


Figure 1: Act & Legislation, Vision and Mission

■ 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 the efficiency and competitiveness of industry, agriculture, services and the economy;
- The impact of science and technology on health, nutrition, and poverty alleviation, to improve the quality of life of 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 buildup, retention, and attraction of Science and Technology expertise;
- The establishment of management strategies conducive to the productive application of science and technology;
- The allocation of funds for science and technology, including the priority of funding research and development in science and 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 and technology institutions in relation to the objects set out in section 2 of the S & T Development Act.;

■ To consult relevant science and technology institutions before advising the government on policies and plans relevant to those institutions;

■ 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 in relation to the objects set out in section 2 of the Act; and submit a report to the Minister on such discussions.

NASTEC Profile

- *The Chairman heads the Commission.*
- *The Director is the Chief Executive Officer.*
- *Senior scientists and scientists work with stakeholders and consultative fora to develop and produce sectorial policies, strategic plans, and other S&T-related documents.*
- *The Deputy Director (Finance and Administration) directs financial and administration management.*
- *NASTEC mobilizes experts in relevant fields to undertake Institutional Review of S&T Institutes as mandated by the Act.*

Organizational Structure

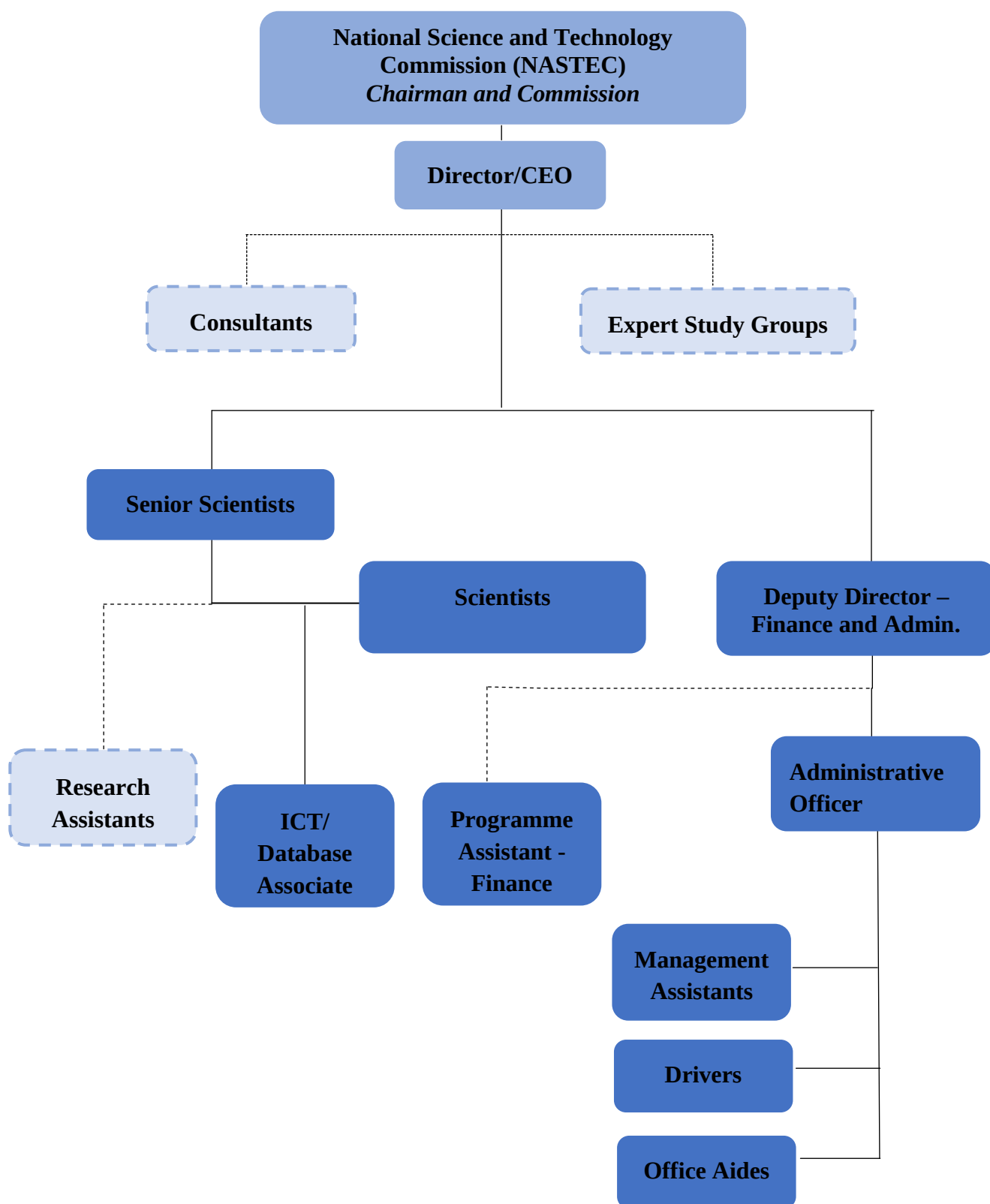


Figure 2: Organizational Structure

Chairperson's Review

In my capacity as the Chairman of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), assuming duties in October 2022, I would like to commend the Commission's employees on their noteworthy advancements in fulfilling the NASTEC-mandated activities. Consequently, it is with great pleasure I would like to present the Annual Report for 2022 which encapsulates the tasks carried out by the Commission within this year.

NASTEC provides the Government with essential policy advice and acts as the apex policy-formulating and advising organization for S&T policy development. Accordingly, in 2022, NASTEC actively participated in formulating national policies such as the National Policy on Genome Centers and the National Genome Data Repository; and facilitating the policy-making processes of line-Ministries such as incorporating indigenous perspectives into National Health Policy. With the goal of offering significant policy recommendations, pre-conference policy drafting for BICOST 2023 concentrated on important topics including Agriculture, Climate Change, Energy, Nutraceuticals, and Mineral value addition.

NASTEC carried out informed decision-making using a variety of approaches, including performance assessments, S&T data collection, and consultative fora. As a major activity, institutional reviews resumed in October 2022, resulting in approved reports for implementation. I convey extended gratitude to expert panels and institutions involved in this review process. As part of compiling the S&T status report, NASTEC created a digital platform for real-time data capture which will be beneficial in efficient data collection.

The 10th Annual Research Symposium of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) promoted the National Research and Development Framework's (NRDF) 10 focus areas and emphasized promoting the research in the key areas in the National S&T Policy. These efforts align with cabinet-approved national policy frameworks, underscoring NASTEC's commitment to advancing science and technology in Sri Lanka.

As international collaborations in 2022, NASTEC facilitated the participation of eight Sri Lankan scientists in international workshops and fellowships organized by the NAM S&T Centre, India. With the coordination of NASTEC as the focal point, the Secretary of the Ministry of Education also presided over the 2nd Bureau meeting of the 15th Governing Council of the NAM S&T Centre. Additionally, NASTEC hosted two virtual international workshops in collaboration with the International Science Council and the DST-Centre for

Policy Research of the Indian Institute of Science, fostering global knowledge exchange in Science Diplomacy and Scientometrics for the local scientific community's advancement.

NASTEC also explored potential international policy collaborations with the S&T Policy Institute of South Korea (STEPPI), aiming for joint technology transfer projects. A successful outcome in this direction could bolster sector capacity and yield financial gains.

As Chairman of this Commission, I have the honor of seeing firsthand the development and successes of our institute in the hands of our dedicated staff. I am also are grateful to the Ministry, and Commission members for their commitment to fulfilling our activities. Together, we'll persist in creating societal impact and excellence.

I wish NASTEC all the success in the upcoming years as well.

Prof. Veranja Karunaratne

Chairperson

August 07, 2023

Director's Report

In accordance with the authority granted under the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 (S&T Act of 1994), NASTEC is assigned with providing advices to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) regarding policies and strategies concerning the advancement of Science and Technology. Furthermore, it is committed to present an S&T review report to the Government, which necessitates an evaluation of the scientific and technological activities undertaken in Sri Lanka during the preceding year. Additionally, NASTEC is responsible for monitoring the progress of various Science and Technology (S&T) institutions and organizing the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology biennially.

In 2022, NASTEC actively involved in the development of national policies, notably contributing to the formulation of initiatives such as the National Policy on Genome Centers and the establishment of the National Genome Data Repository. Moreover, NASTEC played a pivotal role in aiding respective Ministries in their policy-making activities, particularly in the integration of indigenous perspectives into the National Health Policy. In preparation for BICOST-IX 2023, extensive efforts were dedicated to drafting pre-conference policies focusing on pivotal topics such as Agriculture, Climate Change, Energy, Nutraceuticals and Mineral value addition, subjecting to provide substantive policy recommendations.

NASTEC performed diverse approaches to facilitate informed decision-making, enclosing performance evaluations, the gathering of Science and Technology (S&T) data, and consultative forums. Notably, institutional assessments reinitiated in October 2022, yielding endorsed reports composed for implementation. I extend my profound appreciation to the expert panels and institutions to this review activities. Subsequently, in assembling the S&T status report, NASTEC initiated the development of a digital platform tailored for real-time data acquisition, anticipated to streamline the data collection process effectively.

Furthermore, the 10th Annual Research Symposium organized by the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) served to advocate for the 10 focal points outlined in the National Research and Development Framework (NRDF), with a particular emphasis on enhancing research endeavors in alignment with the key sectors identified in the National Science and Technology (S&T) Policy. These initiatives are in compliance with the national policy frameworks endorsed by the cabinet, highlighting the dedicated commitment of NASTEC in the advancement of science and technology within Sri Lanka.

NASTEC has initiated discussions regarding prospective international policy collaborations with the S&T Policy Institute of South Korea (STEPI), with the objective of undertaking collaborative technology transfer initiatives. A positive outcome from these deliberations has the potential to enhance sectoral capabilities and generate economic benefits.

Hence, in this regard, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Chairman, as well as the Commission of NASTEC for their invaluable guidance. Further, I commend the dedicated staff, which constitutes greatest asset of the NASTEC, respectively.

Ms. Geethani S. Kannangara
Acting Director/CEO

Members of the Commission



Prof. Veranja Karunaratne

Chairperson

Prof. Karunaratne is a renowned emeritus professor in chemistry and is currently the vice chancellor and CEO of the SLTC Research University.

Currently, he serves on a number of statutory boards.



Ms. Deepa Liyanage
Commission Member

Ms. Deepa Liyanage is an Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister.



Dr. D. M. Suratissa Dissanayake
Commission Member

Dr. D.M. Suratissa Dissanayake, a Paleobiologist, is attached to the Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences, University of Colombo. Presently working as a Director/ Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance on secondment basis.



Prof. D. S. A. Wijesundara
Commission Member

A Research Professor attached to the National Institute of Fundamental Studies.



Dr. K. G. I. Amarasinghe
Commission Member

Dr. K.G.I. Amarasinghe is the former Secretary/Chief Executive Officer at the Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy.



Dr. Nirmali de Silva
Commission Member

Dr. Nirmali de Silva is a Chartered Textile Technologist and has been at the forefront of Textile and Fashion Education in Sri Lanka and is a promoter of Quality & Productivity concepts and certification.



Mr. Thushara Vajera Perera
Commission Member

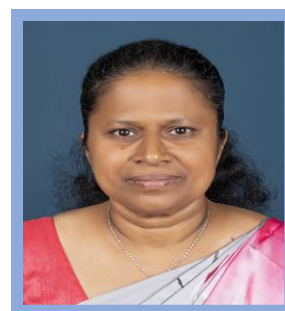
Mr. Thushara Vajera Perera, is a Advisor to the HE the President on Scientific Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka. Presently serve as a Board member of National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC) and the Council Member of the University of Moratuwa.

Treasury Representatives



Dr. D. G. G. S. Dayanath
(From 22nd September 2021 to
05th December 2022)

Dr. D. G. G. S. Dayanath served as a Treasury Representative at the NASTEC Commission from 22nd September 2021 to 05th December 2022.



Mrs. Dilupa Fernando
Treasury Representatives
(From 23rd December 2022)

Mrs. Dilupa Fernando is a Director of the Department of Management Service (DMS) in the Ministry of Finance Economic Stabilization and National Policies.

NASTEC Staff – 2022

Prof. Veranja Karunaratne	Chairperson (From 10 th October 2022)
Mrs. Nazeema Ahamed	Acting Director/CEO (Up to 14 th March 2022)
Mr. Janaka S. Geekiyanage	Acting Director/CEO (From 15 th March 2022)
Mr. Seyed Shahmy	Senior Scientist
Ms. G.C. Kumari Peiris	Deputy Director - Finance and Administration
Ms. M. D. Thilini	Scientist
Ms. Rasitha Perera	Scientist
Ms. U.K.D.L.H.K. Udugama	Administrative Officer
Mr. R. M. T. Ratnayake	Programme Assistant - Finance
Mr. S.A.D.S.P. Senanayake	ICT/Database Associate Officer
Mrs. W. M. I. K. Wedamulla	Management Assistant (Up to 03 rd July 2022)
Mr. Anil Hettiarachchi	Driver
Mr. Jayashantha Prabath	Driver
Mr. Pradeep Eranda	Driver
Mr. A.D. Danapala	Office Aide

Performance Highlights - 2022

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

01. Incorporating indigenous perspectives into National Health Policy

The NASTEC review of the Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute (BMARI) emphasised the need for a national **Indigenous Medical Policy**. This will provide provisions for the development and update of an indigenous medicine/Ayurveda pharmacopoeia, which is the long-time desire of the nation to standardize indigenous medical products. The matter was brought to the relevant agencies, and as a result of it, a steering committee with the representation of NASTEC was appointed to guide the policy formulation subcommittee under the purview of the Ministry of Health and the Department of Ayurveda. The committees are working on drafting the proposed policy to be ready to submit it to the Cabinet in 2023.

02. The work on developing the National Policy on Genome Centres and the National Genome Data Repository that was drafted by NASTEC in 2018 has been re-initiated to submit to the Cabinet. In this regard, a number of meetings were held with the policy formulation expert committee and submitted to the subject ministry of science and technology to expedite the cabinet submission.

03. There are four policy recommendations as technical reports on the following subjects that have been identified to work as pre-BICOST activities that would continue in 2023:

- a. Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security
- b. Nutraceuticals and lead medicinal compounds from endemic bio-resources in Sri Lanka
- c. Natural Resources and Minerals of Sri Lanka, Value Edition
- d. Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen, and Energy Storage

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

NASTEC 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 an assessment of 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 the public sector and private sector undertakings.

➤ Science and Technology Status Report 2019-2020 and 2021

The process of data collection for 2019–2020 and data analysis were completed. The zero-drafted versions of the respective reports were compiled. A digital data collection platform to gather the 2021 data was developed by emulating an entire paper-based process chain and ensuring real-time data entry.

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

NASTEC has been mandated to review 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 the NASTEC with the approval of the Commission and 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 is undertaken based on the manual and the self-assessment report (SAR) submitted by the respective institutes. Additional information is collected from the stakeholder consultations.

The review process has four distinctive phases.

-  Preparation for review
-  Visits by the review team to institutions
-  Preparation of draft report by the review team
-  Validation and submission of the final review report by the review team to NASTEC

The NASTEC institutional review process was temporarily withheld until the appointment of the Chairman and the Board. The process was reinitiated with the appointment of the new commission in October 2022. The Commission granted approval for the following review reports, which were conducted during 2019-2021.

1. The National Engineering Research and Development Centre (NERD)
2. The National Science Foundation (NSF)
3. Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology (SLINTEC)
4. The National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka (NAQDA)
5. The Industrial Technology Institute (ITI)
6. The Rubber Research Institute (RRI)

On November 24, 2022, these reports were officially handed over to the Hon. Dr. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education, at a special event held at the NASTEC.



Figure 3: Official handover of NASTEC Review Reports to the Hon. Minister

As new institutional reviews could not be initiated for 2022, NASTEC focused on other desk work, including a preliminary analysis of the highlights of review findings, a monitoring and evaluation method for the reviewed institution, and the development of user guidelines for the NASTEC review manual.

The commission has decided to present two best performance awards at BICOST-IX in March 2023 to institutions that were reviewed by NASTEC, with the goal of encouraging science and technology institutions to continue their efforts. As a result, baseline work was started, and the marking criteria were created.

NASTEC FUNCTION (4): Consult relevant science and technology institutions before advising the Government on policies and plans relevant to those institutions.

Mobilizing scientists, engineers, and researchers to identify policy gaps and needs

01. The Senior Scientist's Forum (SSF)

The Senior Scientists Forum (SSF) is one of the consultative forums initiated by the NASTEC with the objectives of encouraging and strengthening cooperation in the science and technology sector among scientists in Sri Lanka and involving scientists in the formulation of science, technology, and innovation (STI)-related policies and reviews. The SSF, which was inaugurated in 2001, was active for a decade until 2010. Due to various challenges, the SSF was not operational for the period from 2011 to 2020. The Forum was reactivated in 2021.

- The forum organised two online events in line with National Science Day celebrations for 2022 in November. The details of the events were a flash talk on “Science, Technology, and Innovation Diplomacy” and a certificate workshop on “Introduction to Scientometrics”. They were collaboratively organised with their foreign counterparts, an expert from the International Science Council and the Department of Sciences and Technology—Centre for Policy Research India, respectively. There are more than 100 participants who attend the event on a first-come, first-served basis.

02. The Young Scientists' Forum (YSF)

The Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of Sri Lanka is being hosted by NASTEC since 2000 to provide an opportunity for young scientists in Sri Lanka to create a platform for knowledge sharing while creating a space for networking. YSF currently consists of more than 400 members in different disciplines.

I. The Steering Committee of the Young Scientists' Forum (YSF)

The YSF consists of a Steering Committee (SC) comprised of 13 members. The Steering Committee is led by a Chairperson, who is assisted by two Joint Secretaries. Each year, a new SC is elected during the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The 2022 Steering Committee was elected during the AGM held on 18th March 2022 as a virtual meeting.

II. YSF Annual Research Symposium

The YSF Research Symposium, which was initiated in 2012, has become a popular event with the main objective of providing a platform for young scientists to promote collaborative research by sharing research findings and research interests in different fields while creating a space for networking and techno-entrepreneurship development.

NASTEC planned its 10th Annual Research Symposium to be held on 18th March 2022 as a virtual event, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the symposium. Both Extended Abstracts (EA) and Full Papers (FP) were accepted. In response to the call for research papers,

NASTEC received 80 research papers consisting of 57 Extended Abstracts (EA) and 23 Full Papers (FP) related to the 10 focus areas identified in the National Research & Development Framework (NRDF) which include Health, Food, Nutrition & Agriculture, Environment, Water, Energy, Shelter, Mineral Resources, Information Communication Technology & Knowledge Services, Basic Sciences, and Emerging Technologies & Indigenous Knowledge. Each paper was evaluated by two Senior Scientists on a double-blind review process and 56 papers including 39 Extended Abstracts (EA) and 17 Full Papers (FP) were selected to be presented at the symposium via virtual platform. Selected papers will be published in the E-Proceedings of the symposium.

Mr. Jayantha De Silva, Secretary, State Ministry of Digital Technology & Enterprise Development addressed the gathering as the Guest of Honor at the symposium inauguration ceremony, and Prof. Neelika Malavige, Professor and Head of Department of Immunology and Molecular Medicine, University of Sri Jayawardenapura presented the keynote address under the title “Impactful Research during an Economic Crisis”.

During the latter period of year 2022, YSF also planned the 11th YSF Research Symposium, to be held on January 2023 and called for both extended abstracts and full papers and received 60 research papers consisting of 41 EAs and 19 FPs. Each paper was evaluated by two Senior Scientists on a double-blind review process and 53 papers including 36 Extended Abstracts (EA) and 17 Full Papers (FP) were selected to be presented at the symposium via virtual platform in January 2023.

III. Knowledgeable webinar series on national priorities and issues in the country

The YSF organized a series of webinars online as part of the YSF activity plan for 2022. The main objective of these webinars is to create awareness and disseminate knowledge amongst young scientists about current and emerging scientific affairs in the country. Based on the above objective, three knowledgeable webinars were organized within the year 2022.

i) YSF Webinar on Food solutions for possible food crisis through underutilized/neglected crop species and varieties in Sri Lanka

The 1st Webinar of a series of online knowledge sharing sessions organized by the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) for the second consecutive year of 2022, was held on 05th July 2022. The webinar was focused on “Food solutions for possible food crisis through underutilized/ neglected crop species and varieties in Sri Lanka” and Prof. Gamini Pushpakumara, Senior Professor, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, addressed the online audience as the guest speaker and resource person explaining potential approaches to overcome the current food crisis through underutilized/neglected crop species and varieties using existing land-use systems in Sri Lanka. The webinar concluded successfully after a Q&A session with the participation of around 60 participants.



Figure 4 : YSF Webinar on Food solutions for possible food crisis

ii) YSF Webinar on Human Immunity to Dengue Virus Infections

The 2nd Webinar of a series of online knowledge sharing sessions organized by the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) for the second consecutive year of 2022, was held on 22nd August 2022. The webinar was focused on ‘Human Immunity to Dengue Virus Infections’ and Dr. Anmol Chande, Group Leader, Emory Vaccine Center, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi, India, addressed the online audience as the guest speaker and resource person. The webinar concluded successfully after a Q&A session with the participation of around 30 participants.



Figure 5 : YSF Webinar on Human Immunity to Dengue Virus Infections

iii) YSF Webinar on Invention/Innovation towards Sustainability

The 3rd Webinar of a series of online knowledge sharing sessions organized by the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) for the second consecutive year of 2022, was held on 19th October 2022. The webinar was

ii. YSF skill development workshop on Strategies to Secure National and International Research Grants

The 2nd skill development workshop of a series of online workshops organized by the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) was held on 20th September 2022. The workshop was focused on ‘Strategies to Secure National and International Research Grants’ and Prof. Meththika Vithanage, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Dr. Hasintha Wijesekara, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka conducted the online workshop as the resource persons with the participation of more than 90 interested participants. Dr. Anushka U. Rajapaksha, University of Sri Jayewardenepura coordinated the event.

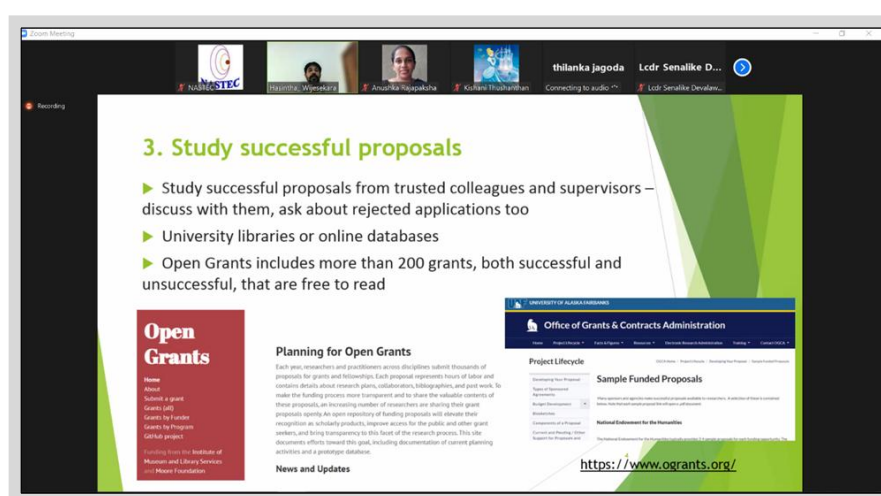


Figure 8 : YSF workshop on Strategies to Secure National and International Research Grants

V. YSF publication series on national priorities and issues in the country

The YSF initiated publishing a chapter e-book as one of its key activities in 2021 and continued to 2022. The main objective of this e-book is to provide a comprehensive review of the information available on an identified topic and to identify policy gaps. Based on the review, recommendations for policy implementation/interventions and new policy areas will be highlighted to incorporate scientific aspects into policy formulation and implementation processes while creating a space for young scientists to become part of the policymaking process.

The title of the e-book is “Environment sustenance and food safety: the need for more vibrant policy initiatives for Sri Lanka” and 11 book chapters on various topics under the above title have been received from YSF members, which was compiled into a chapter e-book after a thorough review process. The E-book with an ISBN number was launched at the 10th YSF Symposium held in 18th March 2022.

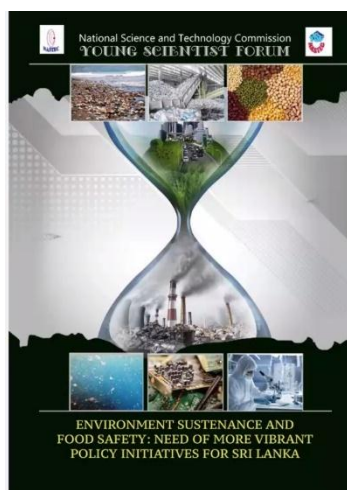


Figure 9 : YSF Thematic E-publication - Environment sustenance and food safety

After the successful publication of the 1st thematic e-book, in 2022, YSF also called for book chapters for YSF 2nd thematic publication under the title “Multisectoral Approaches to Accelerate Economic Transformation in the Face of Crisis in Sri Lanka” and the compiled publication will be launched in 2023 during the YSF Symposium event.

The YSF also requested scientific articles that highlight national priorities and current S&T-related issues in the country, from its members and three such articles were published in NASTEC official website in 2022

VI. Young Scientist Award

NASTEC honours the Young Scientist (YS) Award to an outstanding young scientist selected from the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) each year. As per the decisions of the sub-committee appointed by the Commission, it was decided to present the YS Award in two categories; “Young Scientist Award for Research”, and “Young Scientist Award for Technology” from the year 2021, mainly to promote demand-driven research. For this process, after revising and finalizing the selection criteria marking schemes for two awards, NASTEC called for applications from young scientists in Sri Lanka to apply for the awards. A total of 42 applications were received by 2022, which was shortlisted as per the eligibility, and one awardee in each category was selected based on their ranking by an expert panel appointed by the Commission. The two YS Awards will be presented at the upcoming BICOST-IX event in March 2023.

International Affairs

The 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 located in 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 collaboration with mutual benefits among scientists, technologists, and scientific organizations that are non-aligned with other developing countries. NASTEC acts as the focal point of the NAM S&T Centre for Sri Lanka.

So far, the NAM S&T Centre has organized around 91 international workshops and 45 training courses in various developing countries on a range of scientific and technical topics, including seven such international events held in Sri Lanka. These events have benefited a large number of researchers and professionals from across the globe, including a large number of scientists from Sri Lanka.

I. 2nd Bureau Meeting of the 15th Governing Council of NAM S&T Centre

The 2nd meeting of the Bureau of the 15th Governing Council (GC) of the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) was held on 21st September 2022 in Virtual Mode which was hosted by the Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence (HCIE), Government of the State of Palestine. 44 delegates from 12 countries including Focal Points of the NAM S&T Centre in Member Countries; representatives from the diplomatic missions of Egypt, South Africa and Sri Lanka; senior officials of HCIE; and representatives of the NAM S&T Centre Secretariat attended the meeting.

After the Inaugural session, the Working Level Discussion of the Bureau Meeting was attended by the delegates from Sri Lanka (President), Egypt (Vice-President), Mauritius (Vice-President), Palestine (Vice-President); Focal Points and other delegates from various Member Countries of the NAM S&T Centre; and the Director General and other officials of the Centre's Secretariat. The Meeting was presided over by Mr. M. N. Ranasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Education Sri Lanka and the President of the 15th GC of the NAM S&T Centre. Mr. Janaka S. Geekiyanage, Acting Director of NASTEC and the Scientists of NASTEC also attended the meeting as representatives of the focal point of NAM Centre in Sri Lanka.

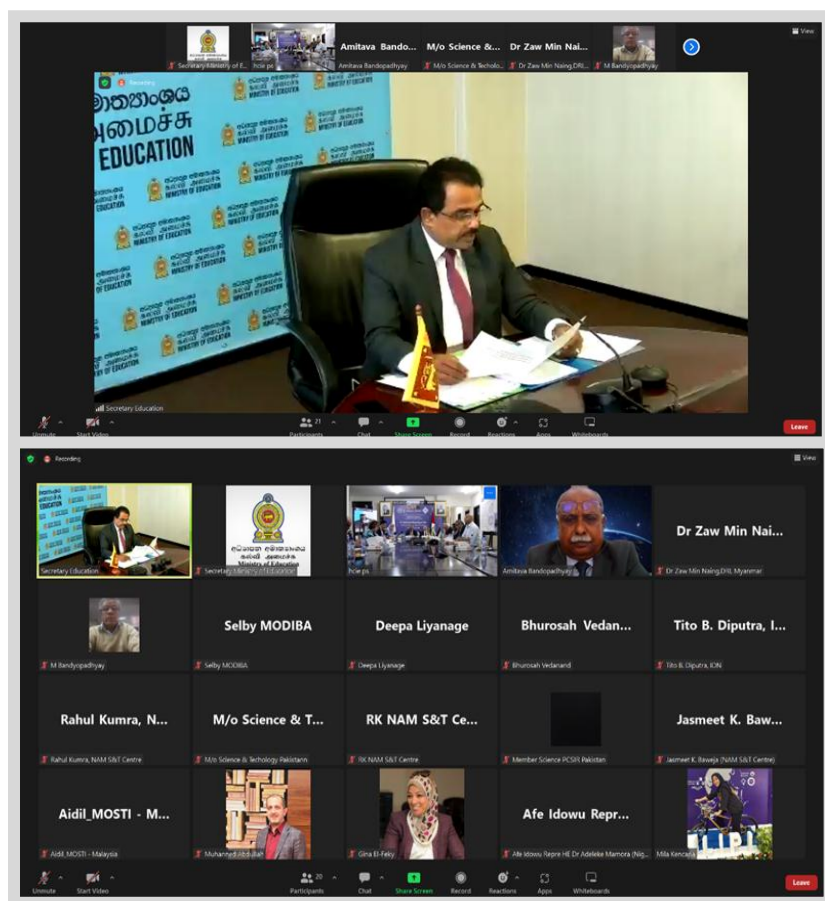


Figure 10 : 2nd Bureau of the 15th Governing Council Meeting of NAM S&T Centre

The NAM S&T Center provides opportunities for scientists and other officials to participate in workshops, seminars, conferences, and other short-term and medium-term training programmes organized by the member countries of the Centre. Due to the prevailing COVID situation, the events organized by the NAM Centre in 2022 were held in virtual mode and the following Sri Lankan scientists had the opportunity to participate in NAM Centre events:

1. NAM International Training Workshop on ‘Use of Analytical & Modeling Tools Tailored to Country Needs’, April 6-7, 2022 (Virtual)

1. Prof. Bilesha Perera, Professor, Department of Community Medicine, University of Ruhuna
2. Mr. Mohamed Nafrees, Instructor in Computer Technology, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

2. NAM International Workshop on "Development of Food Green Cities for Urban Sustainability" - April 26-27, 2022 (Virtual)

1. Dr. Varuni Jayasooriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

3. NAM International Virtual Workshop on 'Role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals - 2030', 24-25 May 2022 (Virtual)

1. Ms. K.B. Madhushani, Undergraduate, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

4. Project on "Reducing Arsenic Exposure from Food and Water in Developing Countries - A Road Map for Technological Solutions for the Future" under partial support from PGTF/G-77

i) Country Coordinator for the collaborative project on "Reducing Arsenic Exposure from Food and Water in Developing Countries - A Road Map for Technological Solutions for the Future"

Dr. A.G. Piyal Aravinna, Chemical & Environmental Section, Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau

ii) International Workshop on "Water Purification Technologies, Arsenic Removal from Groundwater and Integrated Water Management" during 28-30 June, 2022

Dr. A.G. Piyal Aravinna, Chemical & Environmental Section, Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau

5. Joint NAM S&T Centre - ZMT Bremen (Germany) Fellowship: "Blue Economy in Tropical Coastal Marine Research" - Call for applications for 2022

1. Prof. Amila Sandaruwan Ratnayake, Professor in Geology/Head, Department of Applied Earth Sciences, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Uva Wellassa University

6. Joint Nam S&T Centre - JSS AHER, Mysuru, India Fellowship - Call for Applications for 2022-23

1. Sithara Vinodani, M.Phil (reading), Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

7. NAM International Workshop on "Leveraging Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Sustainable Industrialization", November 17-18, 2022 (Virtual)

1. Eng. Dr. K.M.W. Abeykoon, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Technology University of Moratuwa (ITUM), University of Moratuwa, Diyagama, Homagama

Human Resource Management

NASTEC 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 the above task, NASTEC plays a vital role as a team in achieving organizational goals and objectives and strives toward the development of science and technology in the country.

As per the organizational structure of NASTEC, the Chairman acts as the Head of the Commission. The Director is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Senior Scientists and Scientists assist and collaborate with stakeholders and consultative fora in developing and producing sectorial policies, strategic plans, and other S&T-related documents. Under the direction of the Deputy Director, (Finance & Admin) the financial and administration management of NASTEC is carried out. The supporting staff comprises an Administrative Officer, two Program Assistants (i.e., Program Assistant-Finance & ICT Database Associate), five Management Assistants, two Office Aides, and three Drivers. Research Assistants and Consultants are outsourced for specific tasks and assignments on a demand basis with the approval of the Commission.

Staff News

- The renowned emeritus professor in Chemistry, Veranja Karunanratne, PhD, FRSC, FNAS has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) and he assumed the duties on October 10th, 2022, at the office of the Chairman, NASTEC



Figure 11 : Prof. Veranja Karunaratne assumed duties as the Chairman of NASTEC

- Mrs. Nazeema Ahamed resigned from her post as the Acting Director/CEO on 14th March 2022 and we are grateful for her service.
- NASTEC warmly welcomed Mr. Janaka Geekiyanage as the Acting Director of NASTEC from 15th March 2022.
- Mr. Seyed Shahmy, the senior scientist, was selected to attend the Summer School of modern diplomacy conducted by the United Nations University – CRIS (through a highly competitive scholarship offer scheme).
- Ms. Ishara Wedamulla resigned from her post as the Management Assistant on July 03rd, 2022 and we are grateful for her service.

Welfare Activities

➤ Regular Activities

As a regular activity a sum of Rs. 35,000 with a low-interest loan facility was provided for each officer for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2022.

Corporate Governance Report

The powers and functions of National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) are vested to the Chairman and Commission that consists of seven (07) members appointed by the His Excellency president under the provision of Science and Technology Development Act No,11 of 1994.

The quorum of the Commission was absent from January 2021 to October 2022, and the Chairperson of the commission was not appointed until September 2022, a period of nearly two years. The Research and Development activities of the Commission have to be strictly aligned with the guidance of the Commission while executing them for a fiscal year as per the mandate. Such annual activities include identifying the science and technology institutions for reviews, appointing the expert panel committees to conduct the reviews of such institutions, getting approval for the draft review reports as well as Science and Technology status reports prior to dissemination, informing the government that they need to formulate timely and necessary policies, strategies, and plans, and convening the biennial conference of Science and Technology to provide a forum for the stakeholders to discuss all the activities related to the above.

The constitution of the Commission as at 31st December 2022 was as follows.

Prof. Veranja Karunaratne – Chairman

Ms. Deepa Liyanage - Commission Member

Dr. D. M. Suratissa Dissanayake - Commission Member

Prof. D. S. A. Wijesundara - Commission Member

Dr. K. G. I. Amarasinghe - Commission Member

Dr. Nirmali de Silva - Commission Member

Mr. Thushara Vajera Perera - Commission Member

Mrs. Dilupa Fernando - Treasury Representative

Commission held 02 meetings in the months of November and December after appointment and taken following policy decisions.

- To hold BICOST IX conference on March 23rd and 24th, 2023 on the theme of "Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development in the Era of Climate Change,"
- To Adopt an effective mechanism for S&T institutional review.

Audit & Management Committee Report

Audit & Management Committee (AMC) of NASTEC has been properly constitute and the meetings held on regular basis to oversee the short comings & control over financial aspects of the operations & performance of the institute. It is accountable to the Commission.

It plays an important role in facilitating the oversight functions of the institute efficiently and effectively.

According to the Guidelines on Corporate Governance and Operational Manual for SOEs, AMC of NASTEC consist of two Commission members and Treasury Representative serve as the Chairman of the AMC. The quorum for the AMC is the simple majority of members. A representative from the National Audit Office/External Auditor and the Chief Internal Auditor of the Line Ministry serve as observers.

The AMC meets at least once in three months and report its recommendations to the commission along with the minutes of the meeting to facilitate taking corrective measures.

The committee had 02 meetings (22nd February & 14th November 2022) during the year and reviewed all the reports submitted by the National Audit Office.

Financial Statements

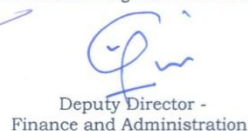
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

	Notes	2022	2021
ASSETS			
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	1	20,572,306	1,642,696
Refundable Deposit	2	-	75,500
Staff Loans - Long-term	3	507,333	484,500
		<u>21,079,639</u>	<u>2,202,696</u>
Current assets			
Staff Loans - Short-term	4	248,000	243,833
Prepayments	5	6,883	7,551
Inventories / Stocks	6	153,345	96,453
Cash and cash equivalents	7	1,381,089	1,023,097
		<u>1,789,317</u>	<u>1,370,934</u>
Total Assets		<u>22,868,956</u>	<u>3,573,630</u>
LIABILITIES			
Non - current liabilities			
Differed Income	8	402,890	758,012
Provision for Gratuity	9	4,524,786	4,244,226
		<u>4,927,676</u>	<u>5,002,238</u>
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	10	1,416,791	9,862,883
Total liabilities		<u>6,344,467</u>	<u>14,865,121</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>16,524,489</u>	<u>(11,291,491)</u>
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
Accumulated fund		1,907,459	1,907,459
Revaluation Surplus		23,026,677	3,741,947
Reserves		(8,409,647)	(16,940,897)
Total Net assets/equity		<u>16,524,489</u>	<u>(11,291,491)</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.


Chairman


Actg. Director


Deputy Director -
Finance and Administration

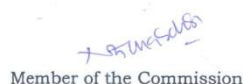

Member of the Commission

Figure 12: Financial Statement - Page 1

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

		2022	2021
Revenue	Notes		
Recurrent Grant		20,179,000	19,029,100
Capital Grant - Research and Development		2,040,000	1,619,000
Amortization of Government Grants - Depreciation		3,587,878	551,393
Add Back - NAM Centre subscription Payable	11	6,897,700	-
Income	12	37,344	30,728
		<u>32,741,922</u>	<u>21,230,221</u>
Expenses			
Personal Emoluments	13	10,389,312	10,120,018
Traveling	14	9,280	2,734
Supplies and consumables used	15	225,271	297,765
Maintenance	16	455,349	656,690
Contractual services	17	7,855,381	7,412,177
Transfers	18	380,973	4,486,086
Research and Development	19	961,583	1,333,158
Meeting Expenses	20	345,649	81,360
Depreciation and amortization expenses	5	3,587,878	551,393
Total expenses		<u>24,210,676</u>	<u>24,941,381</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		<u>8,531,246</u>	<u>(3,711,160)</u>
Financial Cost			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		<u>8,531,246</u>	<u>(3,711,160)</u>

Figure 13: Financial Statement - Page 2

Report of the Auditor General

04th August 2023

Chairman

National Science and Technology Commission

Auditor General's Report on Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December 2022 and other legal and regulatory requirements of the National Science and Technology Commission in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2022 of the National Science and Technology Commission and the Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December 2022 consisting of the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Change of Equity and Cash Flow Statement and Notes for Financial Statements for the year ended on that date with summarized significant accounting policies were audited under my direction in terms of provisions in the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 to be read together with Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Finance Act No. 38 of 1971. My report in terms of Article 154(6) will be tabled in Parliament in due course.

Except for the impact of the facts given in the part titled 'The basis for qualified opinion' in my report, it is my opinion that Financial Statements of the Commission reflect a true and fair situation with regard to financial position as at 31st December 2022, its financial performance during the year ended on that date and cash flows, in compliance with accounting standards of the public sector in Sri Lanka.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

An excess of Rs. 3,587,878 had been recorded during the year under review for the reason that the Commission had put an amount of amortization of Rs. 3,587,878 as revenue in the Statement of Annual Performance not in compliance with Sri Lanka Public Accounting Standard 11.

I conducted my audit in conformity with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuS). My responsibility under these auditing standards have been further explained in the section titled Auditor's Responsibility on Auditing Financial Statements in this report. I believe that audit evidence I have gathered are sufficient and appropriate to form a basis for my qualified opinion.

1.3 Other information in the Annual Report – 2022 of the Commission

Other information means information contained in Annual Report – 2022 of the Commission scheduled to be handed over to me after the date of this Audit Report and, however, not included in my Audit Report on the subject. The Management is responsible for this other information.

Other information is not covered by my opinion on Financial Statements and I do not make any certification or express any opinion on it.

My responsibility in terms of my audit on the Financial Statement is to read other information identified above when available and to consider whether other information does not comply quantitatively with Financial Statements or my knowledge gathered at the audit or in any other form.

If I were to conclude in my reading of the Annual Report – 2022 of the Commission that it contains quantitative misrepresentations that information should be communicated to administrative authorities for due rectification. If misrepresentations remain further unrectified, they will be included in the report to be tabled in Parliament in due course in terms of Section 154(6) of the Constitution.

1.4 Responsibilities of the management and administration on Financial Statements

The management is responsible to determine an internal administration required to enable preparation of these Financial Statements in conformity with Sri Lanka Public Accounting Standards and their fair presentation and preparation of Financial Statements without quantitative false statements likely to occur due to frauds or faults.

The Management is responsible to decide continuous running of the Commission in preparing Financial Statements and, except when the Management intends to liquidate the Commission or intends to do so when there is no alternative, the Management is also responsible for keeping accounts on continuation basis and revealing facts pertaining to continuation of the Commission.

Parties of administration are responsible for checking reporting process of the Commission.

Registers and reports should be properly maintained on its revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities enabling preparation of annual and timely Financial Statements of the Commission in terms of Sub-Section 16(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

1.5 Responsibility of the Auditor on auditing Financial Statements

My objective is to issue a fair confirmation that Financial Statements, on the whole, are devoid of quantitative misstatements occurred due to frauds and faults and to issue the Audit Report containing my opinion. Although a fair certification is a high standard certification, it will not be a confirmation that quantitative misstatements will always be uncovered in conducting the audit in terms of Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Quantitative misstatements might occur due to individual or bulk influence of frauds and faults and its quantity depends on its impact on economic decisions to be taken by users based on these Financial Statements.

I have acted with professional judgement and professional doubt in the audit as part of the audit in terms of Sri Lanka Auditing Standards. Further,

- Proper, appropriate and timely auditing procedures were formulated and implemented in order to identify and assess the risk of arising quantitative false statements likely to occur in Financial Statements due to frauds or faults in forming a basis for the audit opinion stated. The impact of a fraud is more serious than that of a quantitative misstatement because they occur due to complicity, preparation of forged documents, wilful negligence, false representation or deviating from internal administration.
- An understanding of the internal administration was gathered in order to prepare timely audit procedures though not with a view to expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal administration.
- Appropriateness of accounting policies used, fairness of accounting estimates and associated revelations by the management were evaluated.
- Relevance of the use of basis of continuation of the institution for the accounting was decided based on audit evidence gathered on whether there is a quantitative uncertainty on the continuation of the Commission due to events or situations. If I were to conclude that there is a quantitative uncertainty, I have to pay attention in my audit report to related revelations in the Financial Statements and my opinion should be audited if those revelations are not sufficient. However, the continuation may come to an end based on future events or situations.
- The appropriate and fair inclusion of transactions and events which formed the basis of structure and contents of Financial Statements and the total presentation of Financial Statements including revelations were evaluated.

Parties of the administration will be informed of significant findings of my auditing, vital shortcomings of internal administration and other facts.

2. Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

- 2.1 Special provisions on following requirements are contained in the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.
 - 2.1.1 Except the impact from the facts explained in the part ‘Qualified Opinion’ in my report, I have received all information and explanations required for the audit in keeping with requirements in Section 12 (a) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and the Commission had maintained proper financial reports as appears in my observation.
 - 2.1.2 As per the requirement in Section 6(I) (D) (iii) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Financial Statements of the Commission correspond to the preceding year.
 - 2.1.3 As per the requirement in Section 6(I) (D) (iv) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the recommendations I have made last year are contained in Financial Statements presented.
- 2.2 Nothing worthy of making following statements attracted my attention based on measures adopted and evidence collected and due to restriction to quantitative matters.
 - 2.2.1 That any member of the Board of Administration of the Commission has a direct or indirect connection, which is outside general business nature, with any agreement affiliated to the Commission as per the requirement in Section 12(D) in the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018,
 - 2.2.2. That action has been taken contrary to any relevant written law or any other general or special provisions issued by the Board of Administration of the Commission, except following observations as per the requirement in Section 12(E) in the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

Reference to rules and regulations/ direction	Observations
Section 6.6 of the operations manual No. 2021/01 of 16 th November 2021 on state owned enterprises issued by the Department of Public Enterprises of the Ministry of Finance	i. Though the Financial Statements have to be submitted along with a draft of the Annual Report within 60 days on completion of the Financial Year, the Commission had not submitted a draft of the Annual Report together with the set of Financial Statements. Further, although the Annual Reports should be tabled in Parliament within 05 months after commencement of the Financial Year, as per the above referred Section, the Annual Report for year 2021 had not been tabled so far.

- ii. Though Financial Statements should be submitted to the Auditor General within 60 days on completion of the Financial Year, the Commission had submitted Financial Statements to the Auditor General only on 12th May 2022 with a delay of 50 days.

2.2.3 That, as per the requirement in Section 12(G) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, action has been taken contrary to powers, duties and functions of the Commission.

2.2.4 That, as per the requirement in Section 12(H) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, assets of the Commission have not been procured and used economically, efficiently and effectively during the relevant periods of time in terms of relevant rules and regulations.

2.3 Other facts

15 sub activities were included in the 05 key activities contained in the Action Plan for year 2022 out of which only 02 activities had been completed. Physical progress of 07 activities scheduled to be performed during the year according to the Action Plan with an estimated cost range of Rs. 100,000 – Rs. 2,350,000 had been only between 0% - 56%.

W.P.C. Wickramaratne
Auditor General

Answers to the Auditor General’s Report in terms of Section 12 of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 on Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December 2022 and other legal and regulatory requirements of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC)

I.2 Public Sector Accounting Standard No. 11 (as amended) will be followed in preparing Financial Statements – 2023.

2.2.2

- i. The Annual Report for year 2021 was submitted for Ministry approval on 20.04.2023 and further action will be taken upon receipt of that approval.
- ii. Financial Statements for year 2022 were submitted on 11th May 2023 and completion of preparation of Financial Statements underwent a delay of some 02 months due to full engagement of the staff in duties in Ninth Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST IX) held in March and shortage of staff (with 07 existing vacancies). Instructions issued to the officers to prepare and submit Financial Statements in time in future.

2.3

Development activities pertaining to year 2022 have to be carried out in collaboration with other institutions and participation of experts in various fields. Therefore, the Commission approval is a must for such activities (since many reports have to be prepared and submitted at national level). However, the Commission was not in operation up to October, 2022 due to lack of quorum and absence of a permanent Chairperson and, therefore, it was unable to receive Commission approval for relevant activities. Secretary to the Ministry in charge of the subject was informed of this by the letter No. NASTEC/03/Action plan/2022 of 18th July 2022. Therefore, the anticipated physical and financial progress could not be achieved with regard to key activities listed out in the Action Plan – 2022. Activities for year 2023 are being carried out subject to recommendations and approval of the Commission.

Prof. Veranja Karunaratne

Chairman

Financial Highlights of the Preceding 10 years (2013-2022)

Year	Financial Details (in LKR Million)		
	Allocation	Funds Received	Expenditure
2013	33.00	22.02	22.37
2014	37.00	27.84	27.93
2015	36.60	22.52	22.20
2016	36.00	32.16	33.50
2017	43.75	30.10	34.40
2018	45.00	43.20	38.96
2019	40.80	30.47	35.93
2020	35.10	26.36	28.91
2021	51.00	21.15	24.89
2022	49.00	22.22	20.62

Table 01. Financial highlights of the preceding 10 years (2013-2022)

Figure 14 shows the financial status of the last 10 years, as the percentage between allocation and received funds and the percentage between received funds and expenditure.

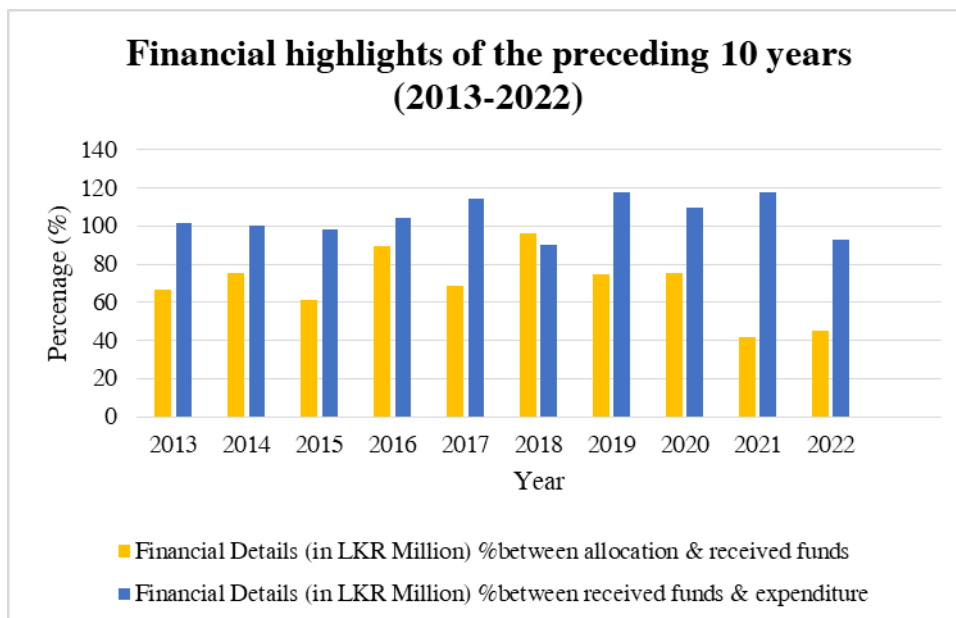


Figure 14: Financial highlights of the preceding 10 years (2013-2022)