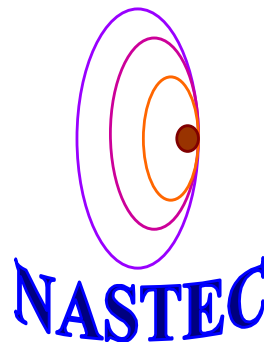


National Science and Technology Commission

Annual Report 2023



Acknowledgement

The management wishes to extend their gratitude to the Ministry of Education (Research and Innovation Division) 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

NASTEC Mandate

■ 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

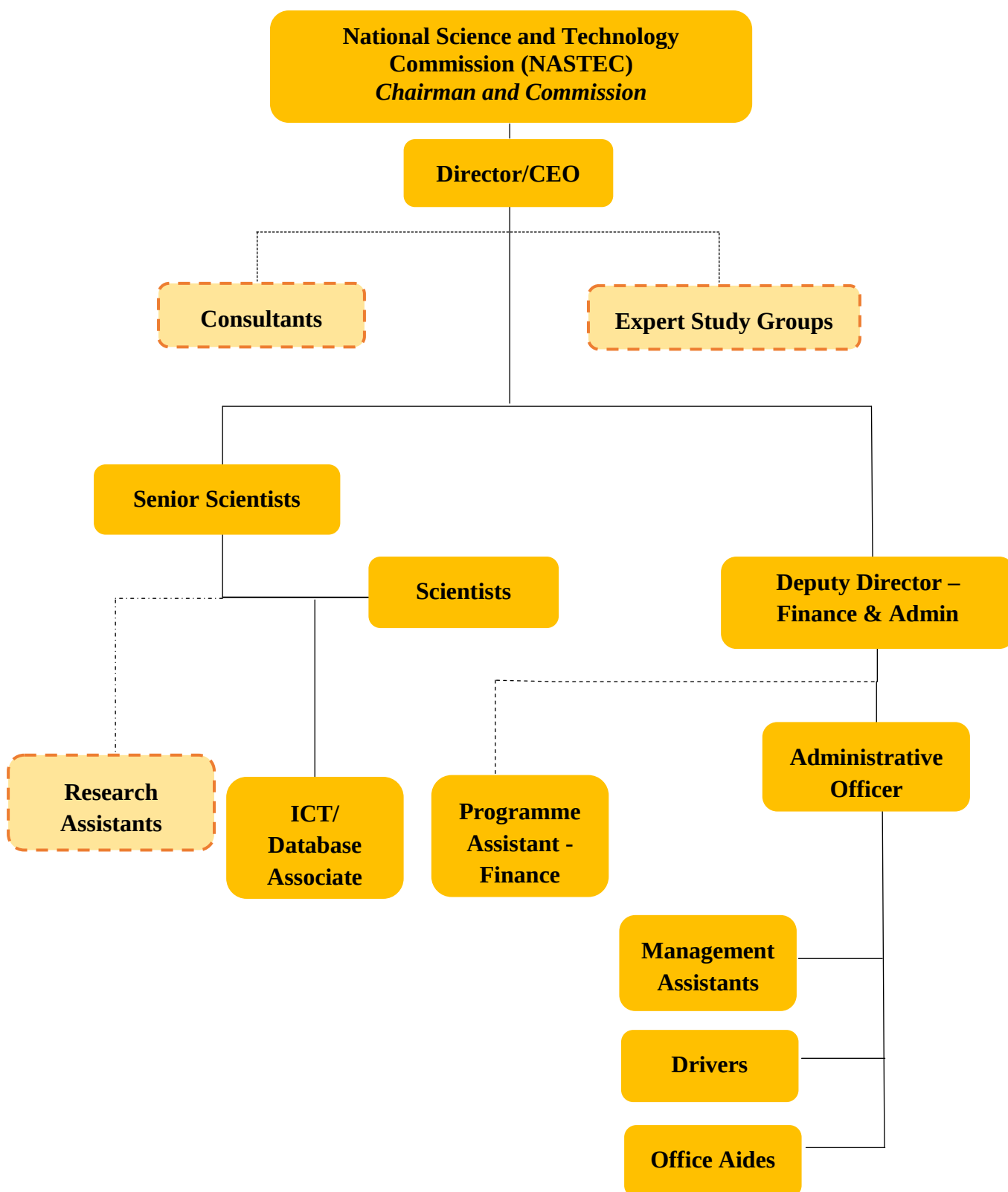


Figure 2: Organizational Structure

Chairperson's Review

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), which serves as the government of Sri Lanka's highest policy advisory body on matters pertaining to science and technology, is pleased to report that it has completed another successful year of carrying out its mandated activities for the country's socioeconomic development. In my capacity as Commission's Chairperson, I would like to highlight the organization's accomplishments for 2023 and express my gratitude to the team for their tireless efforts.

With the continuation of policy formulating activities of 2022, in 2023, NASTEC developed the National Policy on Genome Centers and the National Genome Data Repository; and facilitated the policy-making processes of National Indigenous Health Policy and National Mineral policy of Sri Lanka by providing policy consultancy. Post-conference policy drafting for BICOST 2023 focused on key issues like agriculture, energy, minerals value addition, climate change, and nutraceuticals with the aim of providing meaningful policy recommendations.

NASTEC used a range of methods, such as performance evaluations, S&T data gathering, and consultative forums, to carry out informed decision-making as per the mandate. Three performance reviews were newly initiated in 2023 and NASTEC officially published six institutional review reports for performance reviews conducted between 2019 and 2022. As a special commemorative event, two awards for the best-performing institutions reviewed by the NASTEC in the past five years (2017–2021) were presented. 2019 and 2020 S&T Status Reports were published and disseminated to the scientific community of Sri Lanka while initiating data collection for 2021 and 2022.

Under the auspices of the Hon. Minister of Education, the 09th Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST) was held in March 2023. The theme of the conference was "Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development in the Era of Climate Change," and its outputs included four technical reports on crucial topics in the country. The Young Scientists Forum mobilized the young scientists in the country through many events including research symposia, webinars, and skill development workshops.

As part of international collaborations, on June 21, 2023, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) held its first expert meeting on science and technology, and the second expert meeting of the Himalayan Science Council under BIMSTEC was conducted on 26th July 2023. Eleven scientists from Sri Lanka were able to attend international seminars and fellowships hosted by the NAM S&T Centre in India thanks to the facilitation of NASTEC. The Secretary of the Ministry of Education attended the 16th

Governing Council of the NAM S&T Center, which was held in Mauritius, with NASTEC serving as the focal point of coordination.

As this Commission's Chairman, I have the privilege of witnessing directly how our institute has grown and succeeded under the leadership and guidance of our Commission. But mostly, the unwavering dedication of NASTEC employees was essential to completing the required tasks in a timely manner.

It is my fervent hope that NASTEC will continue to succeed in all its activities in the future.

Prof. Veranja Karunaratne
Chairperson
August 25, 2023

Director's Report

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), in adherence to the provisions of the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994, has consistently fulfilled its mandate to provide policy advice and strategic guidance to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) for the advancement of science and technology (S&T). The year 2023 marked another milestone for NASTEC, as it successfully executed a range of initiatives designed to promote the S&T advancement of the nation.

NASTEC continues its efforts to contribute to the development of S&T policies and strategies in 2023, laying the groundwork for a number of initiatives: National Policy on Genome Centers; National Genome Data Repository; policy consultancy role for the development of the National Indigenous Health Policy; and the National Mineral Policy. The post-conference activities for BICOST-IX 2023 focused on areas; agriculture, clean energy, mineral value addition, climate change, and nutraceuticals from endemic bio-resources, to strengthen the informed decision making with a set of policy recommendations.

In line with supporting the evidence-based policy-making, NASTEC also adopted diverse approaches to incorporate performance evaluations and a number of consultative fora activities. In 2023, three new institutional performance reviews were initiated, and six institutional reviews were concluded between 2019 and 2022. As a noteworthy achievement, Commission organized an awards ceremony recognizing the best-performing institutions reviewed between 2017 and 2021. The publication and dissemination of the 2019 and 2020 S&T Status Reports, coupled with the initiation of data collection for the 2021 and 2022 reports enriched the scientific community with valuable insights.

The 09th Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST), held under the patronage of the Hon. Minister of Education, was a major achievement in 2023. The conference focused on the theme “Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development in the Era of Climate Change.” The conference outputs, including four technical reports, would serve as a cornerstone in shaping sustainable development strategies and climate change Paris agreement committed with national goals.

Concurrently, the 11th 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) in alignment with the National S&T policy, which the two documents on the international front. NASTEC convened the first expert group meeting on S&T

and the second expert group meeting of the Himalayan Science Council under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), contributing to regional cooperation. A number of Sri Lankan scientists participated in international seminars and fellowships organized by the NAM S&T Centre in India, through the coordination of NASTEC. Furthermore, the Commission served as the focal point for Sri Lanka's representation at the 16th Governing Council Meeting of the NAM S&T Centre, held in Mauritius.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedicated teamwork of the NASTEC experts. Therefore, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Chairman and the esteemed members of the Commission for their guidance and vision. I also commend the unwavering dedication of the Commission, whose efforts form the backbone of our achievements.

I am confident that NASTEC will continue to excel in its mission, advancing S&T in accordance with its mandate.

Ms. Geethani S. Kannangara

Acting Director/CEO

August 23, 2024

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 an 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



Mrs. Dilupa Fernando
Treasury Representative

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

NASTEC Staff – 2023

Prof. Veranja Karunaratne

Chairman

Mr. Janaka S. Geekiyanage

Acting Director/CEO (Up to 13th November 2023)

Ms. G.S. Kannangara

Acting Director/CEO (From 14th November 2023)

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. S.A.D.S.P. Senanayake

ICT/Database Associate Officer

Mr. R. M. T. Ratnayake

Programme Assistant - Finance

Mr. Anil Hettiarachchi

Driver

Mr. Jayashantha Prabath

Driver

Mr. Eranda Pradeep

Driver

Mr. A.D. Danapala

Office Aide

Mr. I.P.C.U. Ilangakoon

Office Aide

Performance Highlights - 2023

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

01. National Indigenous Health Policy (Policy Consultancy)

The review panel appointed to review the Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute (BMARI) recommended the need for a national Indigenous health and Ayurveda policy. This will provide provisions for the development of an indigenous medicine, or Ayurveda pharmacopoeia. NASTEC facilitated the formulation of this policy under policy consultation activities, and the policy was finalized and submitted to the Cabinet.

02. National Policy on Genome Centres and the National Genome Data Repository

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 be submitted to the Cabinet. The opinion of the public on the draft was sought. The comments were incorporated with expert consultation, and the draft is ready for cabinet submission along with the overarching policy of National Biotechnology, jointly updated by the National Science Foundation (NSF) of Sri Lanka and NASTEC.

03. National Mineral policy of Sri Lanka (Policy Consultancy)

The draft policy was revised to comply with the Department of National Planning (NPD) format, as requested by the Ministry of Environment (MoE). NASTEC also facilitated the stakeholder meeting with the MoE. The MoE submitted the final version to the Cabinet.

04. There are four policy recommendations as technical reports on the following subjects that have been identified to work as post 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 Addition
- d. Clean 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 reports for 2019 and 2020 were published, and the data collection for 2021 and 2022 was initiated.



Science and Technology Status Reports 2019 & 2020

Figure 3: Science and Technology Status Report 2019 & 2020

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

In alignment with the BICOST-IX event, a commission subcommittee for BICOST decided to make two awards for the best-performing institutions reviewed by the NASTEC in the past five years (2017–2021). Given that there were institutions under different ministries as well as the same ministry to which NASTEC belongs, in order to carry out this event in an impartial and transparent manner, Sri Lanka Evaluators Association voluntary basis worked with NASTEC as an independent party. After a thorough evaluation of 13 NASTEC performance review reports, the National Science Foundation and the Industrial Technology Institution were awarded as best performing institutions at the BICOST-IX.



Figure 4: Institutional review award winners

In 2023, NASTEC officially published six institutional review reports for performance reviews conducted between 2019 and 2022.

Although NASTEC is mandated to review the performance of S&T institutions in Sri Lanka, based on comments from the Auditor General's department, it was decided in 2023 to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of review recommendations. As a first step, NASTEC held a meeting on 4th May at the NASTEC secretariat with key government agencies, including the Department of Management Services, the Department of National Planning, the Ministry of Education, the Auditor General's Department, and the Head of the Institutions that NASTEC reviewed between 2020 and 2022.

At this event, the chairs of each review panel presented the key findings and proposed recommendations to emphasize the importance of carrying out those activities. At this meeting, NASTEC decided to hold another meeting with the institutions and other stakeholders to assess the progress of the implementation and discuss the issues that came up during the process.

To continue monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the review recommendation, a panel discussion was held on 6th of September 2023, at the Auditorium Ministry of Education, Isurupaya. This event took a multifaceted approach to identifying implementation barriers and providing collaborative solutions, as well as obtaining national-level policy decisions, particularly regarding fund allocation from the National Budget.

In 2023 NASTEC initiated to review 03 institutions.

1. National Fertilizer Secretariat (NFS)
2. National Research Council (NRC)
3. Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC)

National Fertilizer Secretariat (NFS)

NFS was established in 1988 under the Fertilizer Regulation Act No. 68 of 1988 and presently under the Ministry of agriculture. NASTEC initiated the review of National Fertilizer Secretariat (NFS) in October 2023, and the following panel members have been appointed to review;

1. Prof. Buddhi Marambe (Chairman)
2. Dr. Jinadari de Zoysa
3. Dr. Sarath Abeysinghe

The panel met with the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture on 16th November for an initial discussion before visiting the institution. On the same day, the panel paid subsequent visit to the institution, meeting with the Director and Senior Staff at the NFS. The panel will finish the review by the first quarter of 2024.

National Research Council (NRC)

NRC is a prime agency funding research and development in science and technology in Sri Lanka, facilitating research contributing to national development, and recognizing scientists for their research excellence.

The NRC review also started on October, 2023 with a panel of experts consisting;

1. Dr. Sunil Abeyrathne (Chairman)
2. Prof. H.M.T.N.R. Herath
3. Dr. M.C.M. Iqbal

The visit to the institution was postponed until January 2024 due to the NRC's special request, which indicated their other commitments, such as the presidential award ceremony. However, the review panel held several online meetings.

Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC)

The Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC), under the purview of the Ministry of Education, it provides technical, legal, and financial support for the local inventors, from nurturing innovative ideas and gradually developing them up to a practical level to ending up as a commercial-scale product contributing to the national economy.

NASTEC initiated the review of SLIC in October 2023, and the following panel members were appointed for this purpose:

1. Mrs. M.C. Rajapaksha (Chairman)
2. Prof. Nishantha Sampath Punchihewa
3. Prof. Thanuja Chandani Sandanayake

The panel made a review visit on December 4th and 5th and met with the management of the institution and also the staff for further discussion. Following the review protocol, a stakeholder meeting with inventors was conducted on 13th December 2023, at the premises of SLIC. At this event, more than 25 inventors participated, both virtually and in person.

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 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 2023 Steering Committee was elected during the AGM held on 27th January 2023 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 11th Annual Research Symposium to be held on 27th January 2023 as a virtual event. Both Extended Abstracts (EA) and Full Papers (FP) were accepted. In response to the call for research papers, NASTEC received 60 research papers consisting of 41 Extended Abstracts (EA) and 19 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; and Basic Sciences, Emerging Technologies & Indigenous Knowledge. 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. Selected papers were published in the E-Proceedings of the symposium.

Senior Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe-Mudalige, Vice Chancellor, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka addressed the gathering as the Guest of Honor at the symposium inauguration ceremony, and Prof. Rangika Halwatura, Professor, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa presented the keynote address.

During the latter period of year 2023, YSF also planned the 12th YSF Research Symposium, to be held on January 2024. YSF called for both extended abstracts and full papers and received 72 research papers consisting of 47 EAs and 25 FPs. The papers were received under seven tracks; (1) Advances in Engineering, Science and Technology; (2) Economics, Finance and Management; (3) Energy, Environment and Natural Resources; (4) Food, Nutrition and Agriculture; (5) Frontiers in Computing and Information Sciences; (6) Innovations in Teaching and Learning; and (7) Modern Healthcare and Traditional Healing Practices. Each paper was evaluated by two Senior Scientists on a double-blind review process and 53 papers including 38 Extended Abstracts (EA) and 15 Full Papers (FP) were selected to be presented at the symposium via virtual platform in January 2024.

III. Awareness 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 2023. 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, 4 awareness webinars were organized within the year 2023.

i. YSF Webinar on ‘Microplastics in the Ecosphere: Extraction and Identification Techniques’

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 third consecutive year of 2023, was held on 21st June 2023 in collaboration with the

Ecosphere Resilience Research Centre, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. The webinar was focused on ‘Microplastics in the Ecosphere: Extraction and Identification Techniques’ and Prof. Meththika Vithanage, Professor of the Ecosphere Resilience Research Centre, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, addressed the online audience as the guest speaker and resource person giving participants an

overview of “Microplastics presence in the ecosphere, fates and identification techniques”. Dr. Anushka U. Rajapaksha, Senior Lecturer of University of Sri Jayewardenepura coordinated and moderated the session. The webinar concluded successfully after a Q&A session and more than 100 participants joined the session.



Figure 5: YSF Webinar on Microplastics in the Ecosphere

ii. YSF Webinar: From Genes to genomes: advances of using DNA sequence data to study plant pathogenic fungi

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 third consecutive year of 2023, was held on 30th September 2023. The webinar was focused on Advances of using DNA sequence data to study plant pathogenic fungi and Dr. Dhanushka Udayanga, Head, Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, addressed the online audience as the guest speaker and resource person, giving participants an overview of “Genes to genomes: advances of using DNA sequence data to study plant pathogenic fungi”. Dr. Sumudu Mapa, Department of Biosystems Technology, Faculty of Technology and University of Sri Jayewardenepura coordinated and moderated the

session. The webinar concluded successfully after a Q&A session and more than 35 participants joined the session.

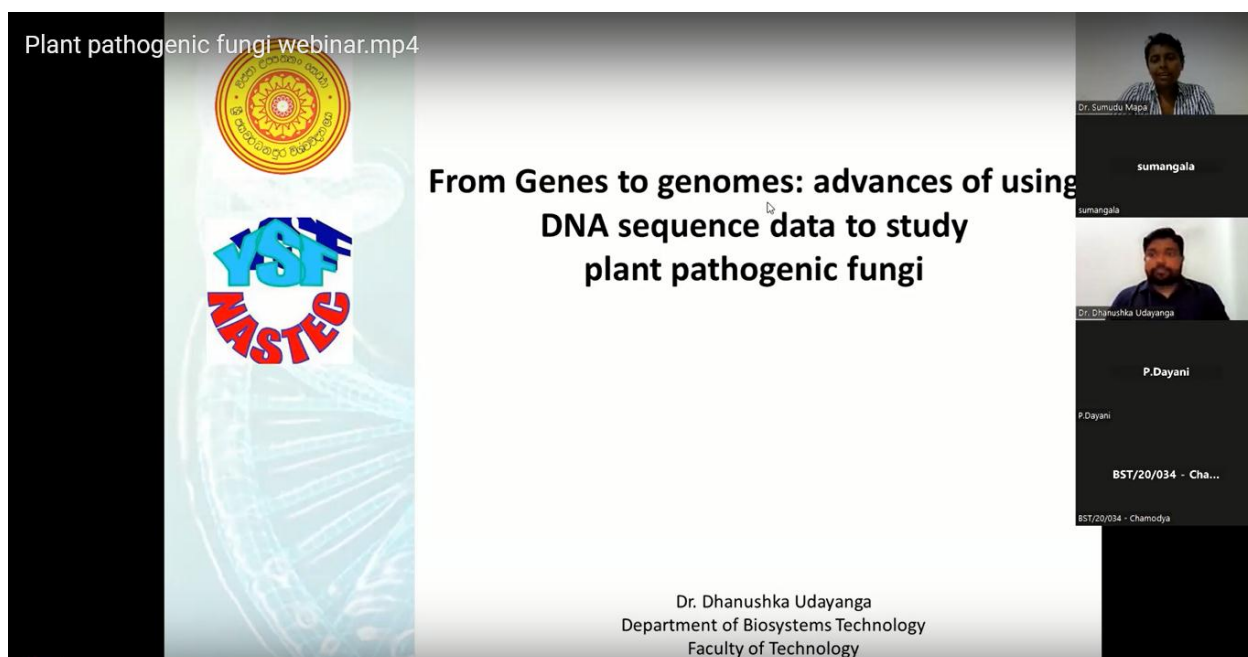


Figure 6: YSF Webinar on Advances of using DNA sequence data to study plant pathogenic fungi

iii. YSF Webinar: How to Write a Successful Graduate School Application

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 third consecutive year of 2023, was held on 15th November 2023. The webinar was focused on How to Write a Successful Graduate School Application and Prof. Arunika Gunawardena, Professor of the Biology Department, Dalhousie University, Canada, addressed the online audience as the guest speaker and resource person, giving participants an overview of the key elements of a graduate school application and how to put together an outstanding graduate application that makes an impression on the admissions committee. Dr. Anchala I. Kuruppu, Senior Lecturer, Institute for Combinatorial Advanced Research and Education, General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University coordinated and moderated the session. The webinar concluded successfully after a Q&A session and more than 65 participants joined the session.



Figure 7: YSF Webinar on How to Write a Successful Graduate School Application

iv. YSF Webinar: The Academic Publishing Landscape

The 4th 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 third consecutive year of 2023, was held on 16th December 2023. The webinar was focused on ‘The Academic Publishing Landscape’ and Dr. Roshan Thotagamuge, Senior Lecturer, Department of Nano Science Technology, Faculty of Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, addressed the online audience as the guest speaker and resource person, giving participants an overview of the “Academic Publishing Landscape: Navigating the Publication Process, Understanding Journal Metrics, and Upholding Publication Ethics”. Dr. Upanith S. Liyanaarachchi, YSF Steering Committee Member, Senior Lecturer, Department of Nano Science Technology, Faculty of Technology, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka coordinated and moderated the session. The webinar concluded successfully after a Q&A session and around 70 participants joined the session.



Figure 8: YSF Webinar on the Academic Publishing Landscape

IV. Skill development workshops for young scientists

YSF also planned a series of skill development virtual workshops throughout the recent years to help in building capacity and skill on various fields of young scientists.

i. Workshop on Gem Industry in Sri Lanka: Challenges and Opportunities

The 1st skill development workshop of a series of online workshops organized by YSF was held on 26th August 2023 organized by Society of Natural Resources Studies (SNRS), Department of Natural Resources, Sabaragamuwa University and Rathnapura Gem & Greenery Association (RGGA) in collaboration with Young Scientists Forum, National Science and Technology Commission. The workshop was focused on ‘Gem Industry in Sri Lanka: Challenges and Opportunities’ and several resource persons including Prof. P.G.R. Dharmarathne, University of Moratuwa; Mr. N.P. Samarathunga, Deputy Director (National Enforcement & Regional Development), National Gem and Jewellery Authority; and Mr. Punsiri Tennakoon, Punsiri Gems conducted the workshop at the Sabaragamuwa University premises with the participation of more than 200 participants both at premises and via online. Dr. Hasintha Wijesekara, Senior Lecturer, Department of Natural Resources, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University moderated the workshop.



Figure 9: YSF workshop on Gem Industry in Sri Lanka

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 as an annual event to 2023. 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 second e-book is “Multisectoral Approaches to Accelerate Economic Transformation in the Face of Crisis in Sri Lanka” and 16 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 11th YSF Symposium held in 27th January 2023.

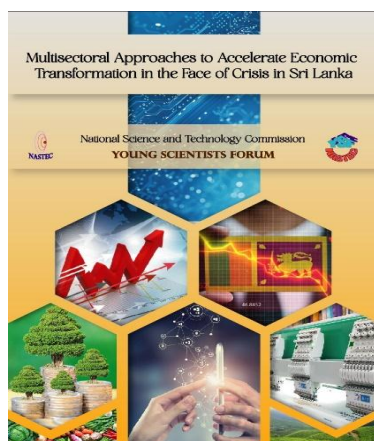


Figure 10: YSF Thematic E-publication – Multi-sectoral Approaches to Accelerate Economic Transformation

After the successful publication of the 1st and 2nd thematic e-books, YSF also called for book chapters for YSF 3rd thematic publication under the title “Climatic Changes, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation and adaptations; Sri Lankan Perspective” and the compiled publication will be launched in 2024 during the YSF Symposium event.

VI. Young Scientist Award

NASTEC presents 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 were presented at the BICOST IX conference held on 24th March 2023 for following awardees.

- Young Scientist Award for Research - Prof. P.A.D.H.N. Gunathilaka
- Young Scientist Award for Technology - Dr. Imalka Munaweera



Figure 11: Young Scientist Award winners

NASTEC FUNCTION (5): Convenes the Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST)

The Biennial Conference on Science and Technology provides a platform to address national issues in the science and policy interface in line with the objectives set out in Section 2 of the S&T Development Act.

In line with this, the 9th BICOST was convened on March 23 and 24 under the patronage of the Hon. Minister of Education. The theme for the forum was ‘Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development in the Era of Climate Change’. On the first day of the conference,

His Excellency the High Commissioner of India was the chief guest, followed by Her Excellency the Ambassador of the United States in Sri Lanka on the second day. The State Minister of Higher Education also attended the event.

More than 300 experts attended the two-day conference, representing academia, industry, administration, diplomacy, and policy sectors.

Four sets of policy recommendations as the technical outputs of the conference were produced and submitted to the Hon. Minister of Education.



Figure 12: BICOST IX Technical Output Reports

International Affairs

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC): Science for Policy in Diplomacy.

- The first expert meeting on science and technology for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was conducted on 21st June, 2023, in collaboration with the ministries of foreign affairs and the subject ministry of science and technology. More than 60 experts attended across the region, and the action plan for the sectoral activities was ratified.



Figure 13: The first expert meeting on S&T for the BIMSTEC

- The second expert meeting of the Himalayan Science Council under BIMSTEC was conducted on 26th July, 2023. There were 45 attendees from the BIMSTEC member states who attended within the scope of science policy beyond the borders to address regional issues, particularly climate change consequences.



Figure 14: The Second Expert Meeting of BIMSTEC Himalayan Science council

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.

16th Governing Council Meeting of the NAM S&T Centre

The 16th Governing Council (GC) meeting of the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) was held on 27-28 July 2023 hosted by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science & Technology (MoETEST), Government of Mauritius. 44 delegates from 12 countries including Chief Executives and senior officials of various Ministries and scientific agencies of Mauritius, and representatives of the NAM S&T Centre Secretariat attended the meeting.

After the Opening Session, the Working Level Meeting of the 16th GC started under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. N. Ranasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka and President of the 15th GC of the NAM S&T Centre - with the introduction of the delegates and other participants. New office bearers for 16th GC were elected as follows: President: Mauritius, Vice-Presidents: Egypt, Palestine, South Africa. Mr. Janaka S. Geekiyanage, Acting Director/CEO of NASTEC also participated via online. The working committee reviewed the scientific activities of the Centre since the 15th Governing Council (GC) Meeting held on 24th February 2021 and discussed the proposed new initiatives and scientific activities.



Figure 15: 16th Governing Council of NAM S&T Centre

The NAM S&T Center provides opportunities for scientists and other officials to participate in workshops, seminars, conferences, fellowships and other short-term and medium-term training programmes organized by the member countries of the Centre. The following Sri Lankan scientists had the opportunity to participate in NAM Centre events in 2023 and selected for events occurring in 2024:

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

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

2. International Training Workshop on "Emerging Trends in Materials, Design, Innovation and Intelligent Manufacturing of Footwear and Leather Products in Developing Countries", January 30-31, 2023

- i. Mr. Suresh Aluvihara, Researcher, Dept. of Export Agriculture

3. International Workshop on "Combating Plastic Pollution in Terrestrial Environment", March 14-15, 2023

- i. Prof. Shermila Jayasena, Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
- ii. Dr. K. Pakeerathan, Head & Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jaffna

4. International Training Programme on 'STI Policy Making for Socio-Economic Development in the Global South - 2023', Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 6-8, 2023

- i. Mrs. M.M.M.G.K. Meegahakotuwa, Director General (Planning), Ministry of Education

5. Joint NAM S&T Centre - ZMT Bremen (Germany) Fellowship on "Blue Economy in Tropical Coastal Marine Research" - 2024

- i. Dr. W. Arachchillage Banukie Nirosha Jayasuriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
- ii. Prof. Amila Sandaruwan Ratnayake, Professor of Geology, Uva Wellassa University

6. Joint NAM S&T Centre - JSS AHER, Mysuru, India Fellowship-2024

- i. Dr. Gavini Liyanaarachchi, Research Scientist, Industrial Technology Institute

7. NAM S&T Centre Monograph on "Generic Drugs" – for chapter contribution

- i. Dr. A. Ilmudeen, Senior Lecturer in Management and IT, Department of Management and Information Technology, Faculty of Management and Commerce, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
- ii. Mr. P. Kalki, Senior Lecturer GII, Dept. of Pharmacy, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences (UAHS), University of Jaffna
- iii. Prof. Chamila Mettananda, Professor in Pharmacology & Specialist in General Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

8. Joint NAM S&T Centre – ICCBS Fellowship in Natural Products Chemistry, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals – 2024

Application calling initiated

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 a Deputy Director (F&A), the financial and administration management of NASTEC is carried out. The supporting staff comprises an Administrative Officer, two Associate Officers (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

- NASTEC warmly welcome Mrs. Geethani Kannangara as the Acting Director of NASTEC on 14th November 2023.
- Mr. Janaka S. Geekiyanage, served as the Acting Director of NASTEC from 15th March 2022 to 13th November 2023, and we are grateful to Mr. Geekiyanage for his service during his tenure.
- Mr. I.P.C.U. Ilangakoon joined as an Office Aide with effect from 12th December 2023.

➤ Capacity Building /In-House and Outbound Training Programmes

- Ms. Lakmini Udugama, Administrative Officer participated in Workshop on “General Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure in Public Sector”, from 04th to 08th September 2023 (05 Days) conducted by Sri Lanka institute of Development Administration (SLIDA).

Welfare Activities

As a regular activity a sum of Rs. 50,000 with a low-interest loan facility was provided for each officer of the staff for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2023.

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 commission of NASTEC meets every month in order to take necessary policy decisions.

The Members of the Commission as at 31st December 2023 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 11 meetings in the year 2023 and taken following policy decisions.

- i. Implementation plan for BICOST –IX technical outputs (Recommendations).
- ii. Develop equipment sharing policy, in consultation with key stakeholders (NIA,NSF,UGC).
- iii. Speedup the review process and facilitate implementations (Implementing and Monitoring).

Audit & Management Committee Report

Audit & Management Committee (AMC) of NASTEC has been properly constituted 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 consists 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.

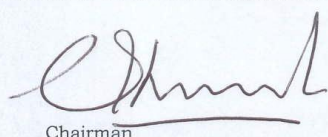
The AMC meets at least once in three months and report its recommendations to the commission along with the minutes of the meeting to facilitate taking corrective measures. NASTEC AMC held 04 Audit & Management Committee meetings for the year 2023.

Financial Statements

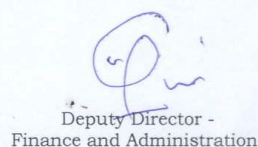
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

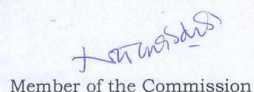
	Notes	2023	2022
ASSETS			
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	1	14,918,833	20,572,306
Staff Loans - Long-term	2	504,166	507,333
		<u>15,422,999</u>	<u>21,079,639</u>
Current assets			
Staff Loans - Short-term	3	274,000	248,000
Prepayments	4	16,336	6,883
Inventories / Stocks	5	86,757	153,345
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,959,572	1,381,089
		<u>3,336,665</u>	<u>1,789,317</u>
Total Assets		<u>18,759,664</u>	<u>22,868,956</u>
LIABILITIES			
Non - current liabilities			
Differed Income	7	758,012	758,012
Provision for Gratuity	8	4,960,405	4,524,786
		<u>5,718,417</u>	<u>5,282,798</u>
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	9	4,111,346	1,416,791
Total liabilities		<u>9,829,763</u>	<u>6,699,589</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>8,929,901</u>	<u>16,169,367</u>
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
Accumulated fund		1,907,459	1,907,459
Revaluation Surplus		26,259,433	26,259,433
Reserves		(19,236,991)	(11,997,525)
Total Net assets/equity		<u>8,929,901</u>	<u>16,169,367</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

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

		2023	2022
Revenue	Notes		
Recurrent Grant		23,358,225	20,179,000
Capital Grant - Research and Development		4,000,000	2,040,000
BICOST - IX - Sponsorship Assistantance		2,390,000	-
Add Back - Payable	10	498,533	6,897,700
Income	11	41,970	37,344
		<u>30,288,728</u>	<u>29,154,044</u>
Expenses			
Personal Emoluments	12	12,555,903	10,389,312
Traveling	13	2,300	9,280
Supplies and consumables used	14	606,566	225,271
Maintenance	15	671,764	455,349
Contractual services	16	9,809,470	7,855,381
Transfers	17	449,845	380,973
Capacity Building	18	356,870	-
Research and Development	19	7,057,074	961,583
Meeting Expenses	20	364,930	345,649
Depreciation and amortization expenses	1	5,653,472	3,587,878
Total expenses		<u>37,528,194</u>	<u>24,210,676</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		<u>(7,239,466)</u>	<u>4,943,368</u>
Financial Cost			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		<u>(7,239,466)</u>	<u>4,943,368</u>

Figure 16: Financial statement

Report of the Auditor General

22nd May 2023

Chairman

National Science and Technology Commission

Auditor General's Report on Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December 2023 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 Opinion

The statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2023 of the National Science and Technology Commission and the Financial Statements for the year ended on 31st December 2023 consisting of the Statement of Financial Performance including Information Relating to Quantitative Accounting Policies and Notes for the Financial Statement for the year ended on that day with summarized significant accounting policies were audited under my direction in terms and provisions in the National audit act No.19 of 2018 and the finance Act no38 of 1971 re together with article 154 (1) of the constitution of the Democratic Social Republic of Sri Lanka.

I am of the opinion that the financial statements of the commission reflect a true and fair view of the financial position as of 31st December 2023 and its financial performance during the year ended on that date and cash flow, in compliance with accounting standards of the public sector in Sri Lanka.

1.2 Basic for opinion

I conduct my audit in conformity with Sri Lanka auditing standard (SLAuS). My responsibility under these auditing standard have been further explained in the section titled Auditor's responsibility on Auditing Financial statements in this report. I believe that 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 the information means the information including in by 2023 Annual report of the commission obtained by me prior to the date of this audit report but not included in the financial statement and my audit report on the subject. The management is responsible for the other information.

Other information is not covered by my opinion on financial statements and I do not make my 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 the consider whether other information does not comply quantitatively with financial statements or my knowledge gathered at the audit or in any other form.

If, based on other information obtained by me and work performed by me prior to the date of this auditor's report, I conclude that this other information is quantitatively misstated; I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

1.4 Responsibilities of the management and administration on financial statement.

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 16th November 2021 on state owned enterprises issued by the Department of Public Enterprises of the Ministry of Finance

Although the annual report should be tabled in Parliament within 05 months of the beginning of the financial year, the annual reports for the years 2021 and 2022 have not been tabled so far.

- 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

According to the annual action plan and progress prepared by the National Science and Technology Commission for the year 2023, Rs.20 million has been allocated for 06 main activities planned during the year, but the actual value spent at the end of the year under review is Rs.4 million. It is a minimum of 20 percent of the total allocation. From that provision, although an amount of Rs.1.2 million had been allocated, only 30 percent of it had been spent by the date of the audit, so the consideration for human resource development was insufficient.

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 2023 and other legal and regulatory requirements of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC)

2.2.2

The Annual Report of the year 2021 was forwarded to the Ministry on 02nd April 2024 and 2022 Annual report was forwarded on 19th April 2024.

2.3 Other Facts

According to the plan of Action of 2023, although the financial progress was about 20% the physical progress could have been retained at about 80% as at 31st December 2023.

The following factors were affected to the failure to achieve the expected financial progress.

- i. Based on the budget circulars 3/2022 and 9/2022 issued for government expenditure control, all the main activities in the plan of Action related to the year 2023 had to be implemented and accordingly the methodology of those activities was changed.

According to these circulars, most of the programmes were conducted through online mode. Accordingly estimated attendance allowances, meeting expenses, hall charges, transportation expenses etc. could be saved. Also since the publishing and communication activities of the institution were mostly done through electronic media, the estimated expenses for such activities were saved.

- ii. The policy making activities included in the plan of Action for the year 2023 should be carried out with the contribution of the experts in the field and as the payments were limited according to the above mentioned expenditure control circulars, the work could not be carried out as planned.
- iii. In the institutional review process related to the year 2023, due to the delay in the review work due to the failure of the relevant institutions to provide information within the time frame given by NASTEC and the busyness of the expert committee members, the allocated funds remained.

Only the training opportunities and essential training were giving to the staff to be granted as per the recruitment procedure as per the submitted circular 01/2023 (B) issued for government expenditure control

G.S.Kannangara
Actg.Directore/CEO

Financial Highlights of the Preceding 10 years (2014-2023)

Table 01. Financial highlights of the preceding 10 years (2014-2023)

Year	Financial Details (in LKR Million)		
	Allocation	Funds Received	Expenditure
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
2023	57.47	29.75	31.87

Table 01. Financial highlights of the preceding 10 years (2014-2023)

Figure 18 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.

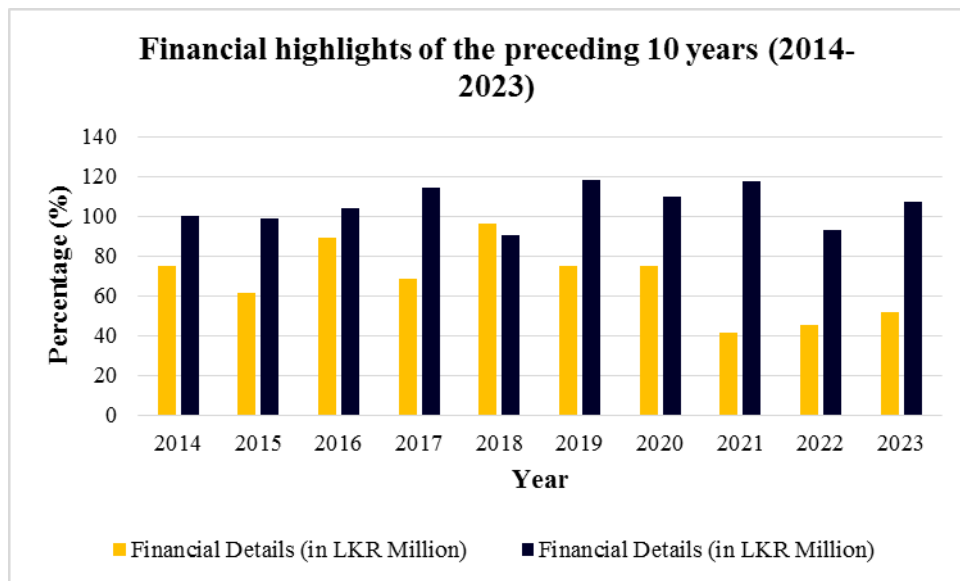


Figure 17: Financial highlights of the preceding 10 years (2014-2023)