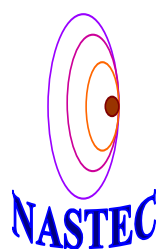


NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Annual Report 2017



National Science and Technology Commission
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(NASTEC)*

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About Us

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

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

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Vision

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

Mission

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

Chairman's Review



As the Chairman of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) of Sri Lanka, I am very happy to issue this review of the activities carried out during the year 2017.

As per the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994, NASTEC is mandated to advise the Government on policies and plans required for the S & T sector of the country. In 2017, the Commission decided to develop three policies which are of contemporary importance. These are, the Policy to Promote Knowledge Services, Basic Sciences Research Policy and Policy for Accessing the National Genome Centre and National Genome Data Repository. Three policy study groups consisting of experts in the relevant fields appointed by the Commission commenced developing these policies, which would be continued in 2018.

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

NASTEC has to submit a report annually as per the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 for the preceding year in reviewing the Science and Technology (S & T) activities in Sri Lanka. To prepare this report, a survey was conducted in 37 S & T institutions in 2017 and information on human and physical resources, effectiveness of spending public funding and performance during the year 2016 was obtained.

Aligned with the mandate the Commission appointed panels of experts and reviewed the progress of 04 Science and Technology institutions, namely the Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Institute of Post-Harvest Technology, Rice Research and Development Institute and Natural Resources Management Centre in 2017.

In 2017, in collaboration with the Ministry of Science Technology and Research, the National Mineral Policy was finalized and handed over to the Ministry for further action.

NASTEC as the focal point of Sri Lanka to the Centre for S & T of the non-aligned and other developing countries (NAM S & T Centre) provided several training opportunities for Sri Lankan scientists in 2017. Jointly with the NAM S & T Centre, an international roundtable on the "Impacts of extreme natural events: science and technology for mitigation" was held in 2017. A total of 27 foreign scientists from 20 countries and 34 Sri Lankan scientists, engineers, policy makers and administrative officers participated at this roundtable.

Based on the deliberations made at the 8th Biennial Conference of S & T (BICOST-VIII) held in November 2016, the implementation strategy of the National Research and Development Framework (NRDF) was developed in 2017. In order to promote the NRDF, 15 awareness programmes were conducted for scientists, technologists and academics within the national S & T institutions and universities to disseminate the priority areas identified in the NRDF during 2017. A research symposium was held to encourage university academics and undergraduate students to conduct research on the areas identified in the NRDF.

Several activities of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of NASTEC were held in 2017 with the participation of many young scientists. A workshop on “Work - Life Balances for scientists: Key to Success” was also held in 2017.

I wish to thank Hon. Susil Premajayantha, the Minister of Science, Technology and Research for the support provided to the NASTEC in 2017 to carry out its functions. The cooperation of the Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research is also gratefully acknowledged. I thank the members of the Commission, Director and the staff of NASTEC for their cooperation and support provided throughout the year.

Professor W.L. Sumathipala
Chairman
National Science and Technology Commission

Commission Members



Prof. M.J.S. Wijeyaratne – Chairman

Senior Professor and Chair of Zoology, University of Kelaniya

Other Positions held

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

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



Prof. R.T. Cumararatunga

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

Other Positions held

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



Prof. W.L. Sumathipala

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

Other Positions held

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

Protocol; President of the Implementation Committee and Member of the Executive Committee of the Montreal Protocol.



Prof. D.N. Karunarathne

Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya

Other Positions held

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



Prof. Gunapala Nanayakkara

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

Other Positions held

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



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

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



Prof. Arjuna P. De Silva

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

Profile of the Organization



The Chairman heads the Commission.



The Director is the Chief Executive Officer.



The Senior Scientists facilitate and manage Study Groups and Consultative Fora that contribute to develop policies, plans and other Science and Technology relevant documents.



The Deputy Director (Finance and Administration) manages financial and administration matters.

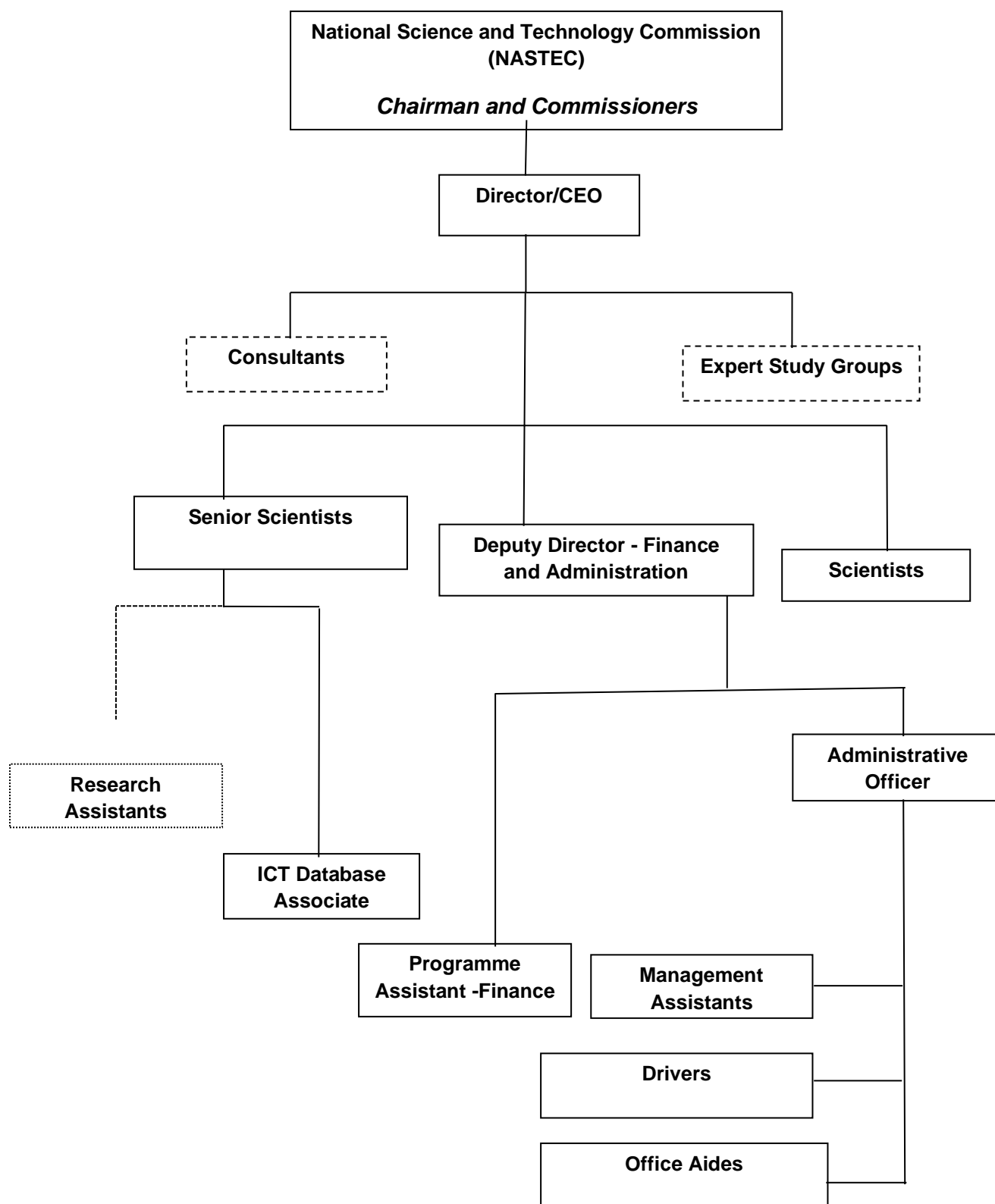


The Scientists assist the Senior Scientists and also manage Study Groups and Consultative fora that produce policies, plans and other S&T relevant documents.



Consultants and Research Assistants who are hired on need basis and carry out special tasks and assignments as required by the Commission.

Organizational Structure



Science and Technology Institutional Reviews

Annual National S&T Review Report in the Country

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

NASTEC conducted a questionnaire-based survey in 2017 in 37 S&T institutions in the country and obtained information relevant to year 2016 in order to prepare the National Review of the status of S&T in the country. This data were analyzed and incorporated in to the National Review report on S&T Activities in Sri Lanka 2016.

During 2017, NASTEC finalized the S&T review Report for 2015 based on information collected during 2016 and the report was submitted to the Minister of Science and Technology by members of the Commission on 07th June 2017. The report was printed for circulation in December 2017.

This report covered the following main components.

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

Based on the information gathered several recommendations were made for the development of S&T sector of the country

Review of S&T Institutes

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

The objective of these reviews was to assess their performances and assessing the quality, cost effectiveness, relevance, and impact of the scientific programs conducted by them in order to ensure the needs and expectations of the Government and other stakeholders are being met to the fullest possible level. The review panels to carry out these reviews are appointed by the Commission. Review Panels consist of the experts in the relevant fields.

The full review reports of all four reviews are available in the NASTEC website under reports and publications in DPF format. These reports give a wealth of information with regard to performance and findings of the reviews institutes valuable to the scientific community, generally public and policy makers

In 2017, four S&T Institutions were reviewed by NASTEC. These were,

Review of the Plant Genetic Resources Centre (PGRC)

The following panel of experts conducted this review.

- Prof. Siril Wijesundara (Chairman)
- Prof. D. M. D. Yakandawala
- Prof. Aruni Weerasinghe

- Prof. Janakie Eeswara

The first meeting of the review panel was held on 30th November 2016 and the review plan was developed at this meeting. The panel visited PGRC on 20th and 21st December 2016 for the review. Finally the panel had a discussion with the stakeholders of PGRC on 24th January 2017.

The first draft of the review report was submitted to PGRC on 11th July 2017. It was slightly modified based on the comments made by the PGRC on 18th September 2017. The final review report of PGRC was submitted by the review panel on 9th October 2017.

Review of Institute of Post-Harvest Technology (IPHT)

The following panel of reviewers conducted this review.

- Prof. Chandrani Wijeyaratne (Chairperson)
- Dr. K. S. P. Amarathunga
- Dr. Jagath Wansapala
- Eng. K. Y. H. D. Shantha

The 1st meeting of the review panel was held on 01st March 2017 at NASTEC and the review plan was worked out at the meeting. The panel visited IPHT on 29th & 30th March 2017 for the review. The stakeholder meeting was held on 4th May 2017.

The first draft of the review report was submitted to IPHT on 21st July 2017. It was slightly modified based on the comments made by the IPHT on 16th September 2017 and the final report was submitted on 06th October 2017.

Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI)

The reviews panel consist of the following experts.

- Prof. S. J. B. A. Jayasekera (Chairman)
- Dr. D. S. P. Kuruppuarachchi
- Prof. J. M. R. S. Bandara
- Prof. R. B. Mapa

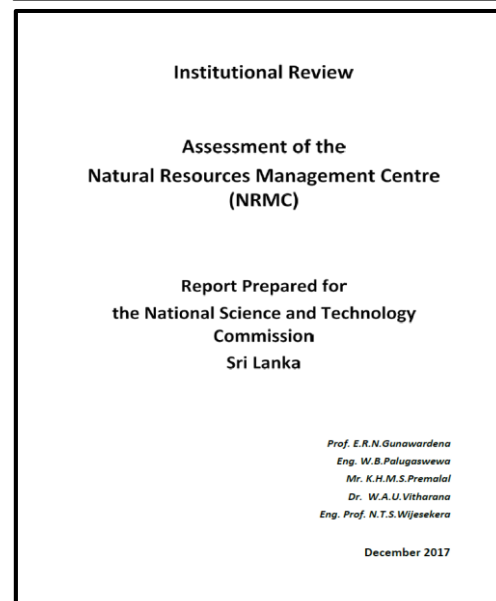
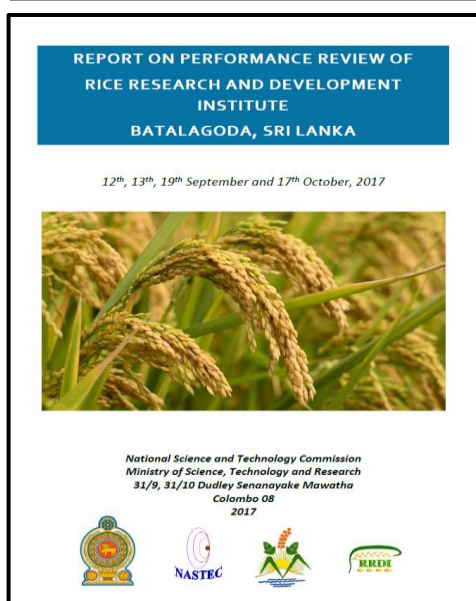
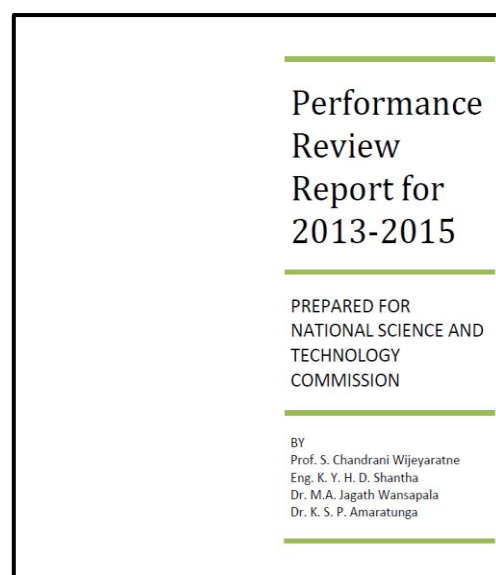
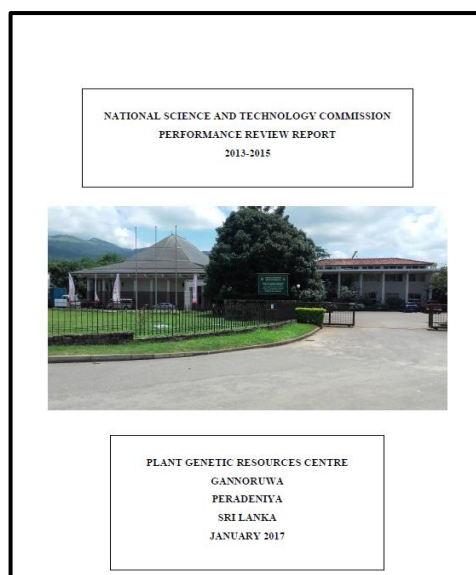
The first meeting of the review panel was held on 25th July 2017. The site visit took place on 12th & 13th September 2017. The stakeholder meeting was held on 17th October 2017. The 1st draft of the review report was submitted to NASTEC on 06th December 2017.

Natural Resources Management Center (NRMC)

The following panel of reviewers conducted the review of NRMC.

- Prof. E. R. N. Gunawardena (Chairman)
- Prof. N. T. S. Wijesekara
- Eng. Wasantha Palugaswewa
- Dr. W. A. U. Witharana
- Mr. K. H. M. S. Premalal

The first meeting of the review panel was held on 25th September 2017. The panel visited NRMC for the review on 03rd & 04th October 2017. Two stakeholder meetings were held at Colombo (HARTI) and Peradeniya (In-services) on 02nd & 10th November 2017 respectively.



Science & Technology Policy Studies

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

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

The study groups consisting of experts in these fields were appointed to develop these policies. The Expert groups met several times during 2017 to formulate draft policy documents for making it available to wider groups of stakeholders for consultation.

Composition of each of these study groups is as follows.

➤ ***Expert Study Group to develop the Policy to Promote Knowledge Services***

Prof. D. A. Tantrigoda

Prof. W.L. Sumathipala

Dr. Ruwan Weerasinghe

➤ ***Expert Study Group to develop the Basic Science Research Policy***

Dr. G. Bandarage

Prof. P.R.T. Cumararatunga

Prof. M. A. K. L. Dissanayake

Prof. W. D. G. Dharmaratna

Prof. S. H. P. P. Karunaratne

Prof. Siril Wijesundara

➤ ***Expert Study Group to develop the Policy for Accessing the National Genome Centre and National Genome Data Repository***

Prof. Vajira Dissanayake

Prof. W. A. J. M. Costa

Dr. Darshana De Silva

Prof. Athula Perera

Dr. Gamini Samarasinghe

Prof. Kamani Tennakoon

National S&T Policy Update

In 2017, the Commission decided to update the National S&T policy which has been developed in 2008, extending its scope to cover innovation as well. It was also decided that a set of strategies be included against each policy statement. For this purpose, five expert committees were appointed to cover five areas as shown. These Committees met several times in 2017 and continued their activities in 2018 also.

➤ *Expert committee 01*

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

➤ *Expert committee 02*

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

➤ *Expert committee 03*

1. Prof. Gunapala Nanayakkara
2. Prof. M.J.S. Wijeyaratne
3. Prof. Ruchira Cumarathunga
4. Dr. N.P. Wijayananda
5. Dr. K. Arulananda

➤ *Expert committee 04*

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

➤ *Expert committee 05*

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

International Relations

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

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) was set up in 1989 as an inter-governmental organization in pursuance of the decisions taken at various Summits of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-aligned Movement Countries. Forty-Four developing countries represented by their Government Departments/Ministries and Agencies dealing with Science and Technology have so far joined the Centre as its members. The National Science and Technology Commission is the Sri Lanka's national focal point of the NAM S&T Center.

NAM S&T Center provide opportunities to scientists and other officials to participate at workshops, seminars, conferences and other short-term and medium-term training programmes organized by the member countries of the center. The Center provides the airfare and the hosting country provides the accommodations for the participants.

During the year 2017 the five Sri Lankan scientists participated at the activities organized by the Center. The list of these activities and the participants are given below.

- 1. International Workshop on “Trends in Solar Power Generation and Energy Harvesting”
Dubai, UAE, 27-29 March 2017**
- Dr. D. S. M. De Silva, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Kelaniya
- 2. Drought Management and Desertification Control: International Workshop, Mashhad, Iran, 22-24 May 2017**
Prof. Aruni Weerasinghe, Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
- 3. ZMT BREMEN (Germany) Fellowship in Tropical Coastal Marine Research- August 2017**
Dr. Chintha Crishanthi Perera, Senior Scientist, NARA.
- 4. 02nd Training Workshop on “Industrial Biotechnology: Driving Value Addition and Beneficiation” in Harare, Zimbabwe, 22-24 August 2017**
Mrs. Wasundara Divisekara, Research Scientist, Industrial Technology Institute
- 5. Science Forum South Africa (SFSA 2017): Igniting Conversations about Science, Pretoria, 7- 8 December 2017**
Prof. Janendra De Costa, Professor of Crop Science, University of Peradeniya
- 6. Governing Council of NAM S&T CENTRE held on 5-6 September 2017, Putrajaya, Malaysia.**
Prof. M. J. S. Wijayaratna, Chairman, NASTEC

Other NASTEC Activities

The Commission submitted the Annual Report for 2016 to the Minister of Science and Technology as required under section 08 of the Act for presenting to the parliament. The report was tabled at the cabinet of Ministers on 30th August 2017 prior to presenting to the parliament.

National Research and Development Framework (NRDF)

Based on the deliberations made at the 8th Biennial Science and Technology Conference held in 2016, a National Research and Development Framework (NRDF) was developed by NASTEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2016 with the objective of orienting R&D activities conducted by various R&D institutes towards finding solutions to the problems/issues identified under the 10 focus areas identified in BICOST VIII. It is expected that R&D institutes and universities would take up research activities proposed in the NRDF as their research projects and priorities. The detailed NRDF Report covering each of the 10 areas is available in the NASTEC website under Reports and Publications. The activities proposed in the NRDF are listed in the site accessible via :<http://nastec.gov.lk/images/pdf/NRDF/Section%20B.pdf>.

Implementation Strategy for NRDF

NASTEC formulated an implementation strategy for NRDF among public sector R&D and S&T institutes in 2017. In this strategy, NASTEC was identified as the organization responsible for:

- Identifying nationally important R&D projects and direct them to relevant organization/s.
- Monitoring commercialization of successful R&D and S&T institutions
- Facilitating commercialization of successful R&D projects
- Organizing the Biannual NRDF research symposium

1st National Undergraduate Research Symposium - 2017

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

NASTEC decided to organize an Undergraduate Research Symposium annually to encourage university academics and research students to conduct research activities proposed in the NRDF. The first symposium of this series was held on 04th August 2017 at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, Colombo – 07. The research papers relevant to the research activities proposed in the 10 focus areas of the NRDF were considered for this symposium. As a response to call for abstracts, 40 extended abstracts were reviewed and those were reviewed by two experts reviewers of these 37 abstracts were accepted and these abstracts were published in the proceedings of the symposium. These abstracts were published in the proceeding of the symposium which are available in NASTEC website under reports and publications.

The Presentations were made under the following five themes;

- Health
- Food, Nutrition, Agriculture & Shelter
- Environment
- Water and Energy
- Basic Sciences, Emerging Technologies & Indigenous Knowledge and ICT & Knowledge Services

All the presentations were evaluated by invited Senior Academics and certificates to participants and merit certificates to best presenters were awarded at the symposium.

Hon. Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Science Technology and Research was the chief Guest of this symposium.

Awareness Programme on NRDF

In order to make the Scientists in R&D institutions and Universities aware of the components of the NRDF which is essential to accomplish the objectives of the NRDF. A total of 15 awareness programmes were conducted by the Prof. M.J.S. Wijayarathne of NASTEC. In 2017, these included 9 awareness programmes in S&T Institutions, 4 programmes in universities, 1 at the Sri Lanka Association for Advancement of Sciences addressing its Council and 1 at Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration addressing the newly recruited officers of the Sri Lanka Scientific Service.

The S&T Institutions and universities where these awareness programmes were conducted are as follows.

- Industrial Technology Institute on 22-05-2017
- National Engineering Research and Development Centre on 25-05-2017
- Bandaranayake Ayurveda Research Institute on 21-06-2017
- Central Environmental Authority on 23-06-2017
- National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency on 28-06-2017
- Sri Lanka Accreditation Board on 10-07-2017
- Medical Research Institute on 20-07-2017
- Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 18-07-2017
- Rice Research and Development Institute on 19-07-2017
- Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 12-09-2017
- University of Jaffna on 13-09-2017
- Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka on 22-08-2017
- Uwa – Wellassa University of Sri Lanka on 23-08-2017

National Policy on Mineral Resources – Stakeholders’ Workshop

Ministry of Science, Technology and Research in collaboration with the NASTEC and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers drafted the National Policy on Mineral Resources and the draft of this policy was published in National newspapers on 27th January 2017 calling for public comments.

A stakeholder meeting was held on 20th March 2017, in which the public comments received were discussed in detail. Stakeholders’ workshop was held and this policy calling public comments was discussed in details. Considering these public comments and the stakeholder responses, this policy was finalized and submitted to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research for further action.

The “International Roundtable on the Impacts of Extreme Natural Events: Science & Technology for Mitigation (IRENE)”, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 13-15 December 2017

NASTEC and the Research Centre of Technology for Disaster Prevention of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka (RC-TDP, SEUSL) in partnership with the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), New Delhi, India, jointly organized an ‘International Roundtable on the Impacts of Extreme Natural Events: Science & Technology for Mitigation (IRENE)’ in Hotel Ramada, Katunayake during 13-15 December 2017.

The primary objective of the roundtable was to bring together the stakeholders and experts at national and international levels to share experience and work out strategic S&T interventions to mitigate hazards due to extreme natural events.

Scientists, meteorologists, engineers, policy makers, public health specialist, technologists, armed forces and civil administration experts working in the field of disaster mitigation from different countries and industries across the world were participated at the roundtable. There were altogether 27 foreign participants from 20 countries and 34 local participants at this event.

A field visit was arranged to Kahagolla, Haputhale, a potential landslide area where a National Building Research Organization (NBRO) project is ongoing to prevent landslides with the collaboration of JICA. All foreign participants and few of the local participants took part in this field visit.

Consultative Fora Activities



Young Scientists Forum (YSF)

The YSF of Sri Lanka hosted by the NASTEC, under the Ministry of Science, Technology & Research was established in 2000 as a result of proposal made at ‘World Conference on Science for the 21st Century’ held in Hungary in 1999. This conference was attended by a team led by Minister of Science & Technology and Chairman of NASTEC. The main objective of the YSF is to provide an opportunity for young scientists in Sri Lanka to voice their opinion on S & T related issues. Science community strongly believes that young scientists should lead the development of the country as they are mostly energetic and rich in innovative ideas. YSF provides a platform for young scientists in Sri Lanka discuss on S&T issues both within and outside their respective institutes and thereby actively participate in the decision-making process. YSF currently consists of more than 400 members of young scientists in different disciplines.

YSF Annual General Meeting

The 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the YSF was held on 20th January 2017 at the Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, University of Peradeniya.

The following members were elected to the YSF Steering Committee for year 2017 at the AGM.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ➤ Dr. Meththika Vithanage (Chairperson) | ➤ Dr. Darshini Bandupriya |
| ➤ Dr. Usha Hettiarachchi (Joint Secretary) | ➤ Dr. Upanith Liyanarachchi |
| ➤ Dr. Kasuni Akalanka (Joint Secretary) | ➤ Dr. Padmakumara Jayasinghe |
| ➤ Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena | ➤ Mr. Pradeep Priyathilaka |
| ➤ Mr. Roshan Ragel | ➤ Dr. Kasun Meegaskumbura |
| ➤ Dr. Lasantha Weerasinghe | ➤ Dr. Asitha Bandaranayake |
| ➤ Mr. Akila Herath | |

6th YSF Symposium -2017

The YSF symposium is a scientific event initiated in year 2012 by the YSF of NASTEC. The objective of the symposium was to provide an opportunity for YSF members to present their research work to the scientific community and to learn from each other's experience.

The sixth YSF Symposium was held on 20th January 2017 at the Agricultural Biotechnology Center, University of Peradeniya with the participation of more than 100 young and senior scientists. In response to the call for Abstracts, NASTEC received 45 Abstracts from YSF members. Each Abstract was evaluated by two Senior Scientists as an honorary service to the YSF. Based on their recommendations, 35 abstracts were selected for oral presentations. The papers presented were published in the proceedings of the symposium and posted in NASTEC website under reports and publications.

Oral Presentations were made under the following six themes;

- Agriculture and Food Science
- Environmental Science
- Engineering and IT
- Biochemistry, Medicine and Health Sciences
- Economics & Social Sciences
- Biotechnology and Molecular Biology

The Young Scientist Award 2017

It was decided by the steering committee of YSF to resume awarding the Young Scientists Award annually. YSF award scheme has been initiated in 2005 and after a few years it was terminated due to lack of qualified applicants. Criteria and marking scheme for this award was restructured and applications were called from members of the YSF. A special jury which consisted of Prof. S.J.B.A. Jayasekera (Chairman), Prof. M.J.S.Wijeratne, Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake, and Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, evaluated the received applications after an initial screening done by the steering committee appointed panel. Dr. L.D.B. Suriyagoda, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya was selected as the Best Young Scientist for the year 2017.

Workshop on Work-Life Balance

YSF organized a one-day workshop on ‘Work-Life Balance for Scientists - Key to Success’. This was held on 27th of April 2017 at ITI Auditorium, Colombo 7. This workshop consisted of special lectures and activities conducted by Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe on “Time and Self-Management for Work-Life Balance”, Dr. Sanath Mahawithanage, on “Mindfulness for Stress Management and Wellness” and Mrs. Pavithra Wickramasuriya on “Role of Team Work in Work-Life Balance”. Around 60 people participated for this workshop.



Our Staff

Chairman

Prof. M.J.S. Wijeyaratne

Senior Professor and Chair of Zoology, University of Kelaniya

Director/CEO

Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara B.Sc., M.Phil (Peradeniya)-Ph.D. (Seoul)

Executive Staff

Senior Scientist

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

Deputy Director /Finance and Administration

*Mrs. Kumari Peiris (B.Com) CBA (ICASL), APFA(ICASL)
(Sri Jayawardenepura)*

Scientist

Ms. M. D. Thilini

B.Sc. (Kelaniya), M.Phil. (Kelaniya)

Mrs. Rasitha Perera

B.Sc. (J' Pura), M.Sc. (Peradeniya)

Supporting Staff

Administrative Officer

Ms. Lakmini Udugama (B.A, Sabaragamuwa)

ICT/Database Associate (Since October 2013)

Mr. Anuradha Ilanganthilake (BIT,Colombo)

Programme Assistant- Finance

Mr.Thusitha Rathnayake ,MAAT, HNDA

Management Assistants

Ms. Nishanthi Maharage
Ms. Ishara Kulshani Wedamulla
Mrs. Sewwandi Fernando

Drivers

Mr. Anil Hettiarachchi
Mr. Jayashantha Prabath
Mr. Eranda Pradeep

Office Aids

Mr. A.D. Danapala
Mr. Kanishka Gimhan

Staff News

- In January 2017, Ms. Ishara Kulshani, joined as the Receptionist.
- In March 2017, Mrs. Sewwandi Fernando, joined as a Management Assistant.
- In April 2017, Mrs. Nilmini Perera, Management Assistant, left NASTEC to join NBRO as the Secretary to Director General.
- In May 2017, Mrs. Kamalapani Degambada, Senior Scientist, left NASTEC to join a local university as a lecturer.
- In July 2017, Dr. Kalpa W.Samarakoon joined as a Senior Scientist and Ms. M. D. Thilini joined as a Scientist.
- In August 2017, Mrs. Rasitha Perera joined as a Scientist.

Events attended by the Staff

1. Ms. Lakmini Udugama; Administration Officer participated at a workshop on “Control of office equipment” on 25th & 26th May 2017.
2. Ms. Ishara Kulshani; Management Assistant participated at a workshop on “Telephone Skills & Etiquette Training for front office staff & customer service officers” on 17th & 18th July 2017.
3. Mr. I. G. J. Prabhath; Driver participated at a workshop on “Safety Driving & Road Rules” on 26th September 2017.
4. Thusitha Rathnayake; Programme Assistant- Finance participated at a workshop on “Financial Statements” on 12th October 2017.
5. Mr. Eranda Pradeep, Driver participated at a workshop on “Scientific, Economic & Safe Driving for Drivers” on 21st November 2017.
6. Mr. Anil Hettiarachchi, Driver participated at a workshop on “Duties & Responsibilities of Drivers” on 23rd & 24th November 2017.

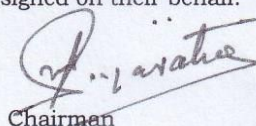
Financial Statement

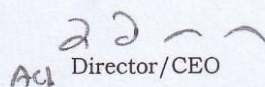
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

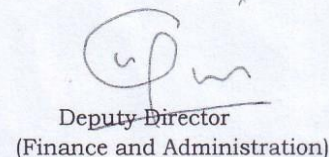
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

	Notes	2017	2016
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	249,813	314,338
Trade and other receivables	2	192,935	2,400
Inventories / Stocks	3	90,835	57,881
Prepayments	4	929,252	930,381
Staff Loans - Short-term	5	161,710	188,652
		1,624,545	1,493,652
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	11,887,053	16,025,029
Refundable Deposit	7	1,275,500	1,275,500
Staff Loans - Long-term	8	447,027	508,737
		13,609,580	17,809,266
Total Assets		15,234,125	19,302,918
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	9	5,836,906	1,574,380
Non - current liabilities			
Differed Income	10	858,800	1,216,243
Provision for Gratuity	11	2,173,546	2,295,143
		3,032,346	3,511,386
Total liabilities		8,869,252	5,085,766
Total Net Assets		6,364,873	14,217,152
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
Accumulated fund		1,904,910	2,540,639
Revaluation Surplus		13,544,410	16,658,610
Reserves		(9,084,447)	(4,982,097)
Total Net assets/equity		6,364,873	14,217,152

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


Director/CEO




Deputy Director
(Finance and Administration)



NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

		2017	2016
Revenue	Notes		
Recurrent Grant		24,868,643 ✓	23,556,808
Capital Grant - S & T Services		4,676,825 ✓	8,300,000
Capital Grant - Capacity Building		177,000 ✓	-
Amortization of Government Grants - Depreciation		4,482,372	2,272,837
Income	12	186,833	558,441
		34,391,673	34,688,086
Expenses			
Personal Emoluments	13	10,847,081	10,291,548
Traveling	14	319,395	410,472
Supplies and consumables used	15	426,140	399,440
Maintenance	16	859,962	816,496
Contractual services	17	8,816,049	8,428,860
Transfers	18	3,536,903	3,160,145
Capacity Building	19	232,797	-
S & T Services	20	8,937,617	9,729,049
Depreciation and amortization expenses	6	4,482,372	2,272,837
Total expenses		38,458,316	35,508,847
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		(4,066,643)	(820,761)
Financial Cost			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		(73,110)	(5,430)
Vehicle Insurance Claim		(2,200)	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		(4,141,953)	(826,191)

Auditor General's Report

	ජාතික විගණන කාර්යාලය தேசிய கணக்காய்வு அலுவலகம் NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE	
මගේ අංකය எனது இல. } My No. }	TEC/A/NASTEC/07/17	ඔබේ අංකය உமது இல. } Your No. }
		දිනය திகதி } Date } 31 July 2018

The Chairman
National Science and Technology Commission

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31 December 2017 in terms of Section 14(2)(c) of the Finance Act, No.38 of 1971.

The audit of financial statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31 December 2017 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended and summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with Section 13(1) of the Finance Act, No.38 of 1971 and Part vii Section 40 of the Science and Technology Development Act, No. 11 of 1994. My comments and observations which I consider should be published with the Annual Report of the Commission in terms of Section 14(2)(c) of the Finance Act, appear in this report. A detailed report in terms of Section 13(7) (a) of the Finance Act was furnished to the Chairman of the Commission on 25 May 2018.

1.2 Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards and for such internal control as the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error.

1.3 Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards consistent with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI 1000 –



1810). Those Standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgements, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commission's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. Sub-sections (3) and (4) of Section 13 of the Finance Act, No.38 of 1971 give discretionary powers to the Auditor General to determine the scope and extent of the audit.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

2. Financial Statements

2.1 Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Science and Technology Commission as at 31 December 2017 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

2.2 Non- compliance with Laws, Rules, Regulations and Management Decisions

Even though the Report on the Review of the Science and Technology activities carried out in Sri Lanka in the preceding year n the use of Science and Technology by the Enterprises in the Public and Private Sector in terms f Section 5(b) of the Science



and Technology Development Act, No.11 of 1994, those reports for the years 2016 and 2017 had not been furnished to the Minister.

2.3 Receivable and Payable Accounts

Action had not been taken to settle a sum of Rs.50,000 which remain payable for the Biennial Conference on Science and Technology VIII.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Results

According to the financial statements presented, the financial result of the Commission for the year ended 31 December of the year under review had resulted in a deficit of Rs.4,141,953 as compared with the corresponding deficit of Rs.826,191 for the preceding year, thus indicating a deterioration of Rs.3,315,762 in the financial result in the year under review as compared with the preceding year. The decrease of the Capital Grants by a sum of Rs.3,693,175 in the year under review had been the main reason for the deterioration in the above financial result.

In analyzing financial results in the year under review and of 04 preceding years, a deficit had indicated in the other years except in the year 2015 and the deficit amounting to Rs.130,785 in the year 2013 had been increased to a sum of Rs.4,141,953 as at the end of the year under review. However, even though the contribution amounting to Rs.12,779,734 in the year 2013 had been continuously increased to a sum of Rs.19,194,406 in adjusting personnel emoluments and depreciation on non- current assets again to the financial result, it had been decreased to a sum of Rs.15,642,745 in the year under review.

3.2 Analytical Review

The current rate of the Council had deteriorated from 0.95 to 0.28 and the instant rate had deteriorated from 0.91 to 0.26, as compared with the preceding year. The increase of current liabilities by a sum of Rs.4,262,526 in the year under review had been the main reason in this connection and it was observed in the audit that a risk remained in the occurrence of problems in the Working Capital.



4. Operating Review

4.1 Performance

4.1.1 Planning

Even though a Corporate Plan had been prepared by the Council from the year 2016 to the year 2020, it had not been furnished to the Board of Directors and the approval had not been obtained.

4.1.2 Operational Review

The following observations are made.

- (a) Providing instructions to the Government relating to the policies and plans for the development of Science and Technology including the policies and plans relating to the functions of the Commission mentioned in Section 5(a) of the Science and Technology Development Act, No.11 of 1995. However, information that action had been taken accordingly by the Council in the year 2017 was not furnished to audit.
- (b) Even though a sum of Rs.3,063,459 had been paid as the Annual Contribution Fee in the year under review to the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non- Aligned and Other Developing Countries, Sri Lankan Representatives had been participated only to 04 Seminars out of the 06 Seminars conducted by that Centre in the year under review.
- (c) Even though 05 Institutions as Public and Private had been reviewed in the year 2017 under Institutional Reviews, those activities had been completed only in two Institutions.
- (d) Even though it had been planned to implement and complete 30 proposed programmes under the National Research and Development framework Promotional Programme (NRDF) as per the Action Plan, only 12 programmes had been completed in the year.



- (e) Three Set of Policies on the programmes that should be completed through the Project on Science and Technology Policy Studies and Compilation had not been prepared in the year.

4.3 Personnel Administration

Even though 02 posts of Senior Scientist, belonging to the Senior Level had been approved by the Department of Management Services on 09 June 2015, recruitments had been made for only one vacancy on 31 July 2017 and recruitments had not been made for the remaining vacancy even by the date of this Report. Moreover, even though the post of Database Associator remained vacant from 03 September 2017, action had not been taken to recruit for that post even by the date of this Report.

4.4 Underutilization of Funds

Even though a sum of Rs.10,000 had been provisioned for Employee Welfare under Recurrent Expenditure and a sum of Rs.300,000 had been provisioned under Capital Expenditure for the Biennial Conference on Science and Technology VIII and 98 per cent of a sum of Rs.200,000 provisioned for Welfare Programmes had not been utilized for the Current Year.

4.5 Utilization of Vehicles

Two motor cars costing Rs.1,700,000 and Rs.4,600,000 respectively had been allocated for the Chairman and for the Director General of the Commission in the Current Year. However, those Officers had not used those motor vehicles due to them, obtaining Vehicle Allowances by using their private motor vehicles and those motor vehicles had been driven only 994km and 660km respectively in the Current Year. As such, those motor vehicles remained under- utilized and it was observed in the audit that even the service of the drivers allocated for those motor vehicles had not been efficiently obtained.



5. Sustainable Development

5.1 Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Every Public Institution should take action in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and as such, identifying the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets had been carried out with the awareness on the manner that the functions under the scope of the Commission should be implemented, by the Commission. However, it was observed that the preparation of plans and the process of preparation in the achievement of the targeted objectives due to not having a proper co-ordination with other Institutions in preparing to achieve those objectives and targets.

6. Accountability and Good Governance

6.1 Internal Audit

Action had not been taken to establish an Internal Audit Unit for the Commission in terms of the Financial Regulation 133 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the audit functions had been covered by the Internal Audit Unit of the Ministry. However, the Internal Audit Reports relating to the audit by the Ministry had not been furnished to audit in terms of the Financial Regulation 134(3) of Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

6.2 Procurements

Even though the periods of the Agreements for obtaining security and sanitary services for the Council had been expired on 31 July 2017 and on 01 November 2017 respectively, those services had been obtained again even up to 31 May 2018 from the suppliers without following the provisions of the Government Procurement Guidelines 2006 and without entering into Agreements.

7. Systems and Controls

Deficiencies in systems and controls observed during the course of audit were brought to the notice of the Chairman from time to time. Special attention is needed in respect of the following areas of control.



Areas of Systems and Controls

Observations

(a) Budgetary Control

Saving of provisions on not preparing Estimates properly.

(b) Personnel Administration

Not taking action to fill the vacancies of the posts of the Scientific Staff.

W.P.C Wikramaratne
 Auditor General (Acting)

Auditor General's Report on the financial statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31st December, 2017 in terms of Section 14(2) (c) of the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971.

Clarifications relevant to the Auditor General's report dated 31st July 2018 bearing No. TEC/A/NASTEC/07/17 sent by you is given below.

2.2 Non-compliance with laws, rules and regulations and management decisions.

Work related to the collection of information for the science and technology review report relevant to 2016 commenced with the appointment of coordinating officers in April 2017 and it was planned to conclude the relevant collection of information in August 2017. But it was not possible to enter the data properly, analyze and prepare the report within that year as the provision of information to us by the relevant Science and Technology institutions continued up to November 2017. The preparation of the relevant report is in the final stage and it is to be presented to the Hon. Minister as soon as possible.

2.3 Receivable and Payable Accounts

Rs. 50,000.00, the balance of the consultancy fee for preparing the report on strategies to implement the National Research and Development Framework as a subsequent activity relevant to the 08th biennial science and technology forum, has been stated in the financial statements as an accrued payment due to the delay in preparing that report.

3. Financial Review.

3.2 Analytical Review

All capital and recurrent expenditure of the Commission are borne through the capital and recurrent provisions from the Treasury and the delay in provision of capital and recurrent provisions at the end of 2017 was the reason for this.

4. Review of Operations.

4.1.1 Planning

It has been stated that no requirement for the preparation of corporate plans by Development and Research Institutions arise as per Public Finance Circular No. 01/2014. However, the Corporate Plan for 2019-2023 is being prepared by now and the necessity of obtaining the approval of the Commission has been noted.

4.1.2 Review of Operations

The following tasks were performed within 2017 in accordance with the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1995:

four Science and Technology institutions were reviewed and the review reports including the recommendations relevant for the development of those institutions were made available to the relevant institutions.

Formulation of 3 national policies relevant to science and technology was commenced in 2017 and subsequent to formulation of policies; it is expected to submit those to the government for necessary action.

A quality survey covering 37 science and technology institutions has been carried out with relevance to 2016 and steps were taken to prepare a report including recommendations for the human / financial resources and performance of the relevant institutions through that and submit it to the Ministry.

Action has been taken to provide specialist training to Sri Lankan scientists through NAM to build and maintain expertise in science and technology.

Universities and science and technology institutions were made aware of the science and technology aspects of national importance by conducting workshops to promote the National Research and Development Framework.

The training sessions and the 7th annual research symposium conducted by the Young Scientists Forum for 2017 were successfully completed and they supported promoting human development relevant to science and technology. Steps have been taken to submit the Annual Report of 2017 including the previously mentioned tasks.

(b) Even though applications were called for the other two workshops held by NAM, Sri Lankan representatives could not be sent for participations as not a single application was received.

(c) The final drafts of the review reports relevant to Natural Resources Management Center and Rice Research and Development Institute had been submitted by the relevant review committees by December 2017, under review of institutions.

As there was a delay in receiving from Horticultural Crop Research and Development Institute the preliminary evaluation report that has to be supplied by the relevant institution, obtaining approval to appoint the investigation committee took time. The relevant review could not be completed within 2017 as a result and that review is going on at present.

Even though necessary arrangements were made and a coordinating officer of that institution was appointed to review the Medical Research Institute, review of that institution could not be conducted as the preliminary evaluation report due from it has not been submitted up to now.

(d) Due to the difficulty in allocating dates with the relevant institutions to organize programmes to promote the National Research and Development Framework, the planned programs could not be completed.

(e) Committees of experts comprised of experts in the relevant subjects were appointed for projects to study and formulate science and technology policies but days could not be allocated for committee meetings due to the busy professional schedules of the experts and the relevant formulation of policies could not be completed in 2017. Drafts of 2 policies out of the 3 have been finalized by 2018 and the officers were advised to conclude the remaining work as soon as possible.

4.3 Staff Management - As there was only one applicant who had sufficient qualifications to carry out the science and technology activities of the institution among the applicants interviewed for the post of Senior Scientist, only one out of the two vacancies that existed could be filled. Filling the remaining vacancy had to be delayed because of election affairs first and it was further delayed as a result of administrative issues that prevailed at the institution. The relevant interviews have been held and an applicant has been selected for this post by now. That applicant is due to take up the duties of this post with effect from 15th October 2018.

Approval was sought from the Department of Management Services to recruit for the vacancy for the post of Information Technology / Data Base Assistant and approval in this regard was received on 07th November, 2017. Even though applications had been called and applicants had been short listed for interviews thereafter, it had to be delayed due to the election affairs. Then it had to be further delayed as a result of the administrative issues that prevailed in the institution. The relevant interview had been held and an applicant has been selected for this post by now. That applicant has been performing the duties of that part with effect from 17th September, 2018.

4.4 Underutilization of funds.

There was a balance of funds because the staff training programmes organized as welfare programs could not be implemented due to the busy schedule of the institution.

A total of Rs. 300,000.00 including the balance of the consultancy fee, Rs. 50,000.00 and Rs. 250,000.00 for compiling the report on strategies to implement the National Research and Development Framework as a subsequent task relevant to the 08th Biennial Science and Technology Forum, remained unutilized due to the delay in providing that report to us.

4.5 Vehicle utilization.

The former Chairman and the former Director had obtained transport allowances as per the provisions of the Circular bearing No. PED/2015/i. Therefore, the two motor cars bearing Nos. 301-3989 and KS 2069 were used for the requirements of the institution as pool vehicles and the two drivers allocated for that purpose served driving those pool vehicles.

The Chairman uses the motorcar bearing No. KS – 2069 at present and obtains the service of the driver allocated for that vehicle.

5. Sustainable Development

5.1 Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

It has been noted to pay attention to this matter in due course.

6. Accountability and Good Governance

6.1 Internal Audit.

Internal audits of the Commission are carried out by the Internal Audit Unit of the Ministry and several audits were conducted in 2017. The Internal Auditor of the Ministry has been informed about the audit paragraph relevant to internal audit reports. At the same time, it has been planned by the Commission to create a new post for an Internal Auditor within the institution to handle the audit affairs.

6.2 Procurements

Even though the contract period with the security service for the National Science and Technology Commission ended on 31st July, 2017, calling for bids to enter into a new contract was delayed due to a lapse. Arrangements were made to extend the former contract up to 28th February, 2018 due to that reason.

Officials have to been advised to avoid such lapses in future.

At the same time, as appointment of the new Procurement Committee was delayed due to the changes that took place in the management of the institution, the contract period had to be further extended up to 30th April 2018. A new security service contract has been entered into with effect from 15th May, 2018.

Similarly, it was not possible to obtain a new sanitary service even by 30th April despite the extension of the period of contract for providing sanitary services to the Commission up to 28th February, 2018, because there was a delay in appointing a new Procurement Committee as a result of the changes that took place in the management of the institution even though bids had been called for. A new sanitary service contract has been entered into with effect from 01st May, 2018 to handle the sanitary affairs of the institution.

7. Systems and control.

- a. The officials have been advised to pay special attention to the field of control.
- b. All vacancies for scientific posts have been filled by now.

Prof. W. L. Sumathipala
Chairman