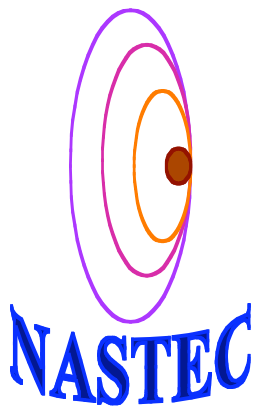


National Science and Technology Commission

Annul Report 2011



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Annual Report 2011

**A publication of the National Science and
Technology Commission (NASTEC)**

Edited by : Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara

Compiled by : Mrs. Nilmini Perera

September 2012

Content

About Us.....	05
Director’s Message	06
Commission Members	07
Organisational Structure	09
Activities : Review of Science and Technology institutions	10
: Implementation of Science and Technology Policy	11
: BICOST	11
: Study Groups	12
: National Science and Technology Review.....	12
: Young Scientists Forum	12
: Forum of Directors	14
: Other Activities	15
International Relations	16
Our Staff	18
Staff News	19
Financial Statement.. ..	20
Auditor General’s Report	22
Contact info	37



About Us

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) was established by the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994 and came into operation in August 1998. It was formally inaugurated on 06 December 1998 and became a functional institute 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 comprised of seven members and they are appointed by H.E. the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Director's Message

I am pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report of NASTEC to the Government and the scientific community in the country. During the year 2011 also NASTEC has been struggling to deliver its expected output with inadequate scientific staff. Therefore, to maximize the output with available staff the volume of some of the mandatory activities had to be curtailed.

The emphasis this year was on the review mandate of NASTEC. Reviewing of two institutions viz. Atomic Energy Authority and the National Building Research Organization were completed. Though two other institutions were to be reviewed this year the delay in submitting their self-assessment reports made it impossible to review them within 2011. An appropriate data-collecting instrument had been formulated to collect data for the Annual National S&T Review and the data collection was in progress. It has been found that collecting previous year's data within the first quarter of the current year is practically difficult and that affect the timely submission of the report.

Preparatory work towards the 7th Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST-VII) has been underway during the latter half of the year. The apex consultative arm of NASTEC, the Forum of Directors, was also consulted and their opinions were sought in selecting an appropriate theme for BICOST-VII. NASTEC continued the usual activities of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) such as skills development workshops, YSF awards, and annual general meeting along with a research symposium during this year as well.

In addition to the activities with NAM S&T Center and BIMSTEC this year NASTEC interacted with Science Council of Japan (SCJ). SCJ invited NASTEC to join the Science Council of Asia.

The major impediment for the effective functioning of NASTEC is the chronic absence of adequate scientific staff for last two years. It has been felt that the conditions stipulated in the new schemes of recruitment hamper the new recruitments and filling of vacancies, which in turn affect the performance of the institution. Such situations make the senior officials such as Directors to engage in day-to-day routine activities, and they have hardly any time for monitoring, and guiding the institutional work and for innovative thinking and to do new things. The responsible authorities should understand this pungent truth if they want to see an efficient S&T system.

I take this opportunity to thank the NASTEC staff for its dedication towards fulfilling NASTEC mandates amidst difficulties due to lack of staff.

Thank You

Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara
Acting Director



Commission Members

Prof. Nalini B. Ratnasiri

Chairperson

Entomologist: Emeritus Professor of Zoology, Open University of Sri Lanka, Research Officer in Entomology, Department of Agriculture (1966 - 1974); Research Officer in Entomology, Forest Conservation Department (1974 - 1983); Professor of Zoology (1983 - 1986), Founder Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences (1986 - 1992), and Senior Professor of Zoology (1986 - 2005), Open University of Sri Lanka; Member and Vice Chairperson, University Grants Commission (1993 - 1994); Chairperson, National Steering Committee on GEF/UNDP Small Grants Programme; Member, National Steering Committee on EU/UNDP Programme for Promoting Tropical Forests; Member, Standing Committee on University Education, National Education Commission; Member, National Science and Technology Commission (2003 - to date); Chairperson, National Science and Technology Commission (2005 - to date)



Vidya Jothi Prof. K.K.Y.W. Perera

Eng, Professor of Electronic Engineering; Chairman, Arthur C. Clarke Centre for Modern Technologies; Founder Chairman, NERD Centre (1974 - 1977); Chairman, CEB (1977 - 1989); Secretary, Ministry of Power and Energy (1981 - 1990) and (2001 - 2003); President, Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka (1985 - 1986); Director, ADB S&T Personnel Development Project (1997 - 2001), Emeritus Professor, University of Moratuwa;



Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena

Agronomist: Emeritus Professor of Crop Science, University of Peradeniya (1982) and Executive Director, Council for Agricultural Research Policy (1982); Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya (1982 - 1994); Rector, Wayamba Campus (1996 - 1998); Director, Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture (1997 - 2002); Member, University Grants Commission (1999 - 2005); Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences; Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture (2007 - to date).



Dr. C.T.S.B. Perera

Industrialist: Managing Director, Samson Rajarata Tiles (Pvt) Ltd, Director, Piramal Glass (Ceylon) PLC., Director, Kelani Cables PLC; Director, Dankotuwa Porcelain PLC; Vice-chairman, Public Utilities Commission; Member of the Board, CRIB; Director, Lanka Puthra Development Bank

**Dr. Palitha Abeykoon**

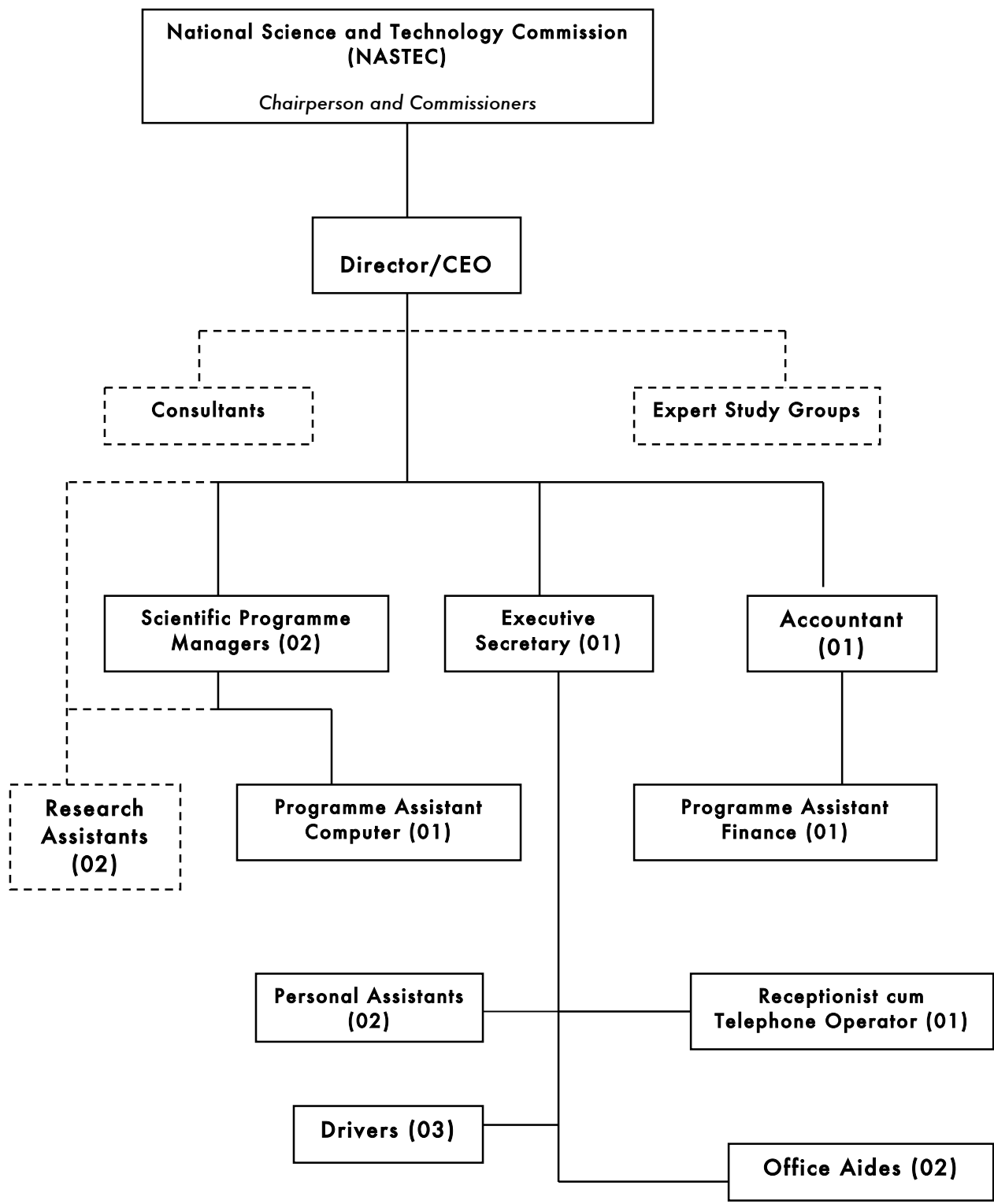
Medical Practitioner: Senior Advisor to the World Health Organization and the Minister of Health; Former Director of Health Systems Development and Health Technology (WHO)- South East Asia Region; Senior Takemi Fellow of Harvard University; Member, Board of Directors of the International Clinical Epidemiology Network, the South East Asian Association of Medical Education and the South East Asian Public Health Education Network of the WHO; President of the Aids Foundation of Lanka.

**Prof. W.D. Lakshman**

Economist: University of Colombo, Chairman, Social Scientists Association (1986 - 1988, 1994), President, Sri Lanka Association of Economists (1990 - 1993), Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies (1992 - 1994), Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (1995 - 1997), Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo (1994 - 1999), Chairman, National Institute of Business Mngt., Vice-Chairperson, National Development Council, Board Member, NARESA(1997- 1998), Visiting Professor, Ryukoku University, Japan (1999 - 2001), Senior Professor of Economics, University of Colombo and Professor of Economics, Saga University, Japan (2004 - 2005)



Organizational Structure



Solid lines (—) denote permanent positions.

Broken lines (- - - - -) denote temporary positions.

Our Activities

- Review of Science and Technology institutions-

Reviewing Science and Technology institutions is a mandatory function of NASTEC. These institutional reviews are conducted according to a review procedure developed by NASTEC and it covers both the output and the management of institutions. The review procedure begins with the request for submission of a self-assessment report (SAR) of the institution scheduled to be reviewed. Once the SAR is submitted to NASTEC a review panel is appointed by NASTEC and it conducts the review based on the SAR.

The institutions scheduled to be reviewed during the year 2011 were Atomic Energy Authority (AEA), National Building Research Organization (NBRO), Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) and Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies (ACCIMT). Out of these four institutions reviewing of two institutions viz; AEA, NBRO were completed. Due to various reasons submission of self-assessment reports of the other two institutions was delayed and hence their reviews were postponed. However, the ACCIMT was able to submit the self-assessment report in December 2011.

In the meantime, the review report of Coconut Research Institute (CRI), which was reviewed in 2010 was presented to the Board of Management of CRI and it was well received by the Board.

◆ Review of Atomic Energy Authority (AEA)

Having received the Self Assessment report towards the end of 2010, NASTEC appointed the following review team with the consent of the AEA.

Prof. Indra Dayawansa (Chairperson) – Dept. of Electronics & Telecom Eng., Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa

Dr. R.D. Guneratne - Dept. of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Colombo

Prof. Sivali Ranawana - Professor of Veterinary Medicine (retired)

Mr. A. Pannilla – Dept. of Technical Services, Industrial Technology Institute

The initial meeting with the Director AEA was held on 6th December 2010 to plan the review. The review team visited AEA and conducted the review on 27th January and 15th February 2011.

To make the review complete and balance, NASTEC organized a meeting of the stakeholders of AEA which was held on 11th March 2011 to obtain their views and opinions on services provided by AEA.

This was followed by several meetings of the review panel at NASTEC Secretariat and the 1st draft of the review report was submitted to AEA on 3rd August 2011. The review team had the final meeting with AEA Director and the senior staff members to discuss the review report on 13th October 2011. The Final review report that was presented to the Commission by Prof. Indra Dayawansa in November 2011 was approved by the Commission.

◆ Review of National Building Research organization (NBRO)

NASTEC received the self-assessment report of NBRO in June 2011, and the first meeting of the review panel was held on 25th July 2011. The review panel consisted of Prof. Shantha K. Hennayake (Chairman), Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya; Prof. Harsha Munasinghe, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa;

Dr. Jayalath Edirisinghe, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya and Dr. Jagath Gunathilake, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya.

The first meeting of the review panel with the Director, NBRO, Dr. Asiri Karunawardena and the senior officers was held on 3rd August 2011. This was followed by review visits from 23 – 25 August 2011. The meeting with the stakeholders of NBRO to collect their views and opinions was held on 24th August 2011 at NASTEC secretariat. Preparation of the review report has been under way by the end of the year.

- An Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Science and Technology Policy -

The National Science and Technology Policy developed by NASTEC in 2008 received the Cabinet approval in 2009. Since the development of the National S&T Policy, NASTEC has been attempting to formulate an implementation plan for the policy. The first attempt was the 6th Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST-VI) held in 2010. There, an integrated institutional action plan was discussed as an interim measure to implement the policy. This action plan was fundamentally an alignment of activities of S&T institutions in the country with the initiatives listed in the S&T policy. However, it has been sufficed for a part implementation of the policy.

Realizing the inadequacy of the interim implementation plan, development of a comprehensive action plan was initiated in this year. S&T institutions in the country were requested to list the activities that they can conduct to implement the initiatives given in the policy. To collect this information an action plan format comprised of policy initiatives has been prepared to be sent to all S&T institutions.

This Integrated Institutional Action Plan (IIAP) was discussed at a meeting of the Forum of Directors held in the month of June. In order to monitor the implementation of the IIAP, NASTEC requested the institutes concerned to appoint a liaison officer to work with NASTEC.

- BICOST - VII

◆ Sri Lanka Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST)

Pre BICOST - VII activities

The theme, contents and the expected output/outcome of the next BICOST have been discussed in detail during the latter half of the year. Views of the Directors of S&T institutions were also sought in this regard.

Several tentative themes for the conference were proposed and discussed. Then a consensus has been reached that the broad theme of the conference should be "Commercialization of Research Findings". The Commission proposed the following specific themes and they were discussed in detail.

- ◆ Identification of the research needs of industry including energy research and catering to such needs by the public sector R&D institutions.
- ◆ Planning of public R&D projects in collaboration with industry.

The compositions of the main steering committee of BICOST-VII and the working groups were being discussed. A concept paper based on above discussions will be prepared to present the Hon. Minister of Technology and Research for her agreement.

- Study Groups -

Expert Study Group on Human Recourses (HR) development for S&T

As a respond to a survey conducted by NASTEC to collect current HR data, 28 public S&T institutions submitted data and they were analyzed and presented to the study group. A report based on the data collected was prepared and with that the status review of the human resources in the S&T sector has been completed.

- National S&T Review -

Annual National S&T Review 2009-2010

The data-collecting format prepared for the Annual National S&T Review had been revised and sent to all S&T institutions to collect data and information for the review. Each S&T institution was requested to appoint a senior officer to liaise the data collection for the review. This is to streamline the data collecting procedure and these officers are responsible for the submission of the completed data collecting format to NASTEC in time. In reply to our request most of the institutions nominated their liaison officers and informed NASTEC. Organizing a meeting of the liaison officers to explain the contents of the data collecting format and the depth of the review has been under way towards the end of the year.

- Young Scientists Forum Activities -

- ◆ **Workshop on Rubric Creation for Personal Development**
(24th June 2011, Wimalasurendra Auditorium, The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka)



This workshop was an initiative of the Young Scientists Forum of NASTEC. The resource person was Ms. Paige Jackins, Skills Development Specialist, working with the US State Department, attached to the American Center in Sri Lanka. About 100 young scientists attended the workshop. The NASTEC invited Ms. Jackins through Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, where she has undertaken a temporary consultancy on skills development of undergraduates.



Ms. Paige Jackins making her presentation



A section of participants

The workshop was organized with the objective of assisting young scientists in their personal development. It discussed the topics such as; making an individual development plan, analyzing one's own strengths and identifying areas for improvement, identification of a long term vision, and developing strategies for achieving goals, while maintaining a balance among Personal development, health, family and friends. At the second session of the workshop participants were grouped and asked to create a common rubric for each group. Finally all these group rubrics were presented to the audience and Ms. Jackins gave her comments on them.

◆ Workshop on Fundamentals of project Management

28th October 2011 at Mahinda Silva auditorium,
Hector kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

This is another initiative of the YSF. The Workshop was conducted by Prof. Udith K. Jayasinghe Mudalige, (Professor in Agricultural Economics and Business) of Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.

It discussed all main aspects of project Management including, project scope management, project schedule management, budget management, quality management, project team management, information management, project risk management, project stakeholder management and project content management.



Prof. Udith Jayasinghe delivering his lecture



A section of participants

Approximately 100 young Scientists from universities and Research and Development institutes participated in the workshop.

◆ YSF Awards -2010

The YSF awards are presented annually to encourage young scientists and to recognize their achievements. They are presented under two categories: Excellence in scientific research, and excellence in popularization and promotion of science. Applications were called from YSF members, and their works during the period 2006-2010 were evaluated by a panel of senior scientists appointed by NASTEC. The Following members won the Awards;

YSF Award for Excellence in Scientific Research

Four YSF members applied under this category. At the evaluation, it was found that two applicants have been equally exalted in scientific research category. Therefore the Commission decided to give two awards under this category to following two scientists.

1. Dr. Rupika S. Rajakaruna, Dept. of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Peradeniya



2. Prof. Udith Jayasinghe, Dept. of Agri Business Management, Faculty of Agriculture and plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka



YSF Award for the Popularization and Promotion of Science

Only two YSF members applied under this category and the evaluation panel noted that none of them are up to the standards of the criteria of evaluation. Therefore, it was decided not to give this award for 2010.

- Consultation of Forum of Directors (FOD) -

A meeting of Forum of Directors was held on 23rd June to discuss the monitoring of the implementation of the National S&T Policy and a theme for the next biennial conference on science and technology (BICOST - VII).

With respect to the monitoring of the implementation of the S&T Policy, it was proposed that it could be done using quarterly progress reports of S&T institutions. It was also highlighted that the degree of implementation depends on timely availability of human and financial resources. The Directors agreed to appoint liaison officers to coordinate the activities between NASTEC and their institutions.

NASTEC suggested 'commercialization of research findings' as a broad theme for the next biennial conference on science and technology (BIOCOST - VII). The Forum proposed several themes related to

different aspects of the commercialization. They are; Identification of Research Needs of Industries, Impact of the R&D Services of the Institutions on the National Economy, National Quality Infrastructure for Quality Products and Services. It was proposed that a situation analysis should be done before the conference to identify barriers and issues with respect to the subject of the theme.

In addition to above, the common issues that S&T institutions face i.e. inadequacy of well qualified human resources and lack of financial resources, brain drain due to inadequate perks and facilities were also discussed at this meeting.

- Other Activities -

New Schemes of Recruitment for NASTEC

Preparation of new Schemes of Recruitment for the carder positions at NASTEC is a mandatory requirement as per the Circular No. 30 of the Department of Management Services. Preparation of these schemes had been in progress since 2008. Several drafts of the schemes were prepared and they were discussed with the Salaries and Cadre Commission. At the end of this lengthy procedure these schemes were approved in September 2011. The absorption of the existing staff to new schemes has been in progress by the end of the year.

Reporting to Committee on Public Enterprises (CoPE)

NASTEC was requested to present at the CoPE at the Parliament on 22nd March 2011. The requested documents were prepared and submitted to the CoPE in February. Mandated functions of NASTEC were discussed at the CoPE meeting. The National S&T Policy was also a subject of the discussion. At this meeting NASTEC highlighted the inadequacy of staff to carry out its functions efficiently.

Sri Lanka Visit of the Representatives of the Science Council of Japan



(Prof. Kanasawa (Right) and Prof. Shirata (Left) with NASTEC delegates)

A team of Japanese delegates, who were representatives of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), visited NASTEC on 26th April 2011. They were Prof. Ichiro Kanasawa, President, SCJ; Prof. Cindy Shirata, and a deputy representative of Cabinet office of Japan. The purpose of the visit was to introduce and promote the Science Council of Asia (SCA) to Sri Lanka. They invited NASTEC to join the SCA as a member institute. They also invited NASTEC to attend the 11th Conference of the SCA held in Mongolia during 4-6 July as an observer so that NASTEC can decide whether joining the council would be beneficial to Sri Lanka. However, due to unavoidable circumstances NASTEC could not attend the meeting held in Mongolia.

The exchange of knowledge and providing a platform to initiate research collaborations and networking among scientists would be the main benefits that a member country can obtain through SCA. Countries like Japan, China, India and Malaysia, are already members of the Council.

Two members of SCJ visited NASTEC again on 9th September 2011 while they were on another mission in Sri Lanka. At this meeting NASTEC discussed the possibility of soliciting assistance from Japan for capacity development in Sri Lanka in the field of policy analysis. The members agreed to seek such possibilities in Japan.

Technology Catalogue

NASTEC compiled a Technology catalogue to be distributed at the Technology Market Place exhibition organized by the Ministry of Technology and Research to introduce/market products, processes and services to potential entrepreneurs. This exhibition was held at the BMICH from 24-25th October 2011.

This catalogue provides information on products, processes and machinery/equipment developed by the research institutions functioning under the purview of the Ministry of Technology and Research. The Catalogue also provides information on different types of services provided by these institutions.

Participation at the "Deyata Kirula" Exhibition

NASTEC was also invited to take part at the "Deyata Kirula" Exhibition held at Buttala from 4-10 February 2011. NASTEC presented a poster consisting of the policy goals of the National S&T Policy and it was exhibited at the main stall of the Ministry of Technology and Research.

International Relationships

◆ Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)



BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility:

The 2nd Expert Group Meeting on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility was held at Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo from 09-10 May 2011. The Ministry of External Affairs jointly with the Ministry of Technology and Research organized this event, while NASTEC facilitated with expertise. Delegates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka attended the meeting. The Chairperson, NASTEC, Prof. Nalini Ratnasiri, chaired the meeting.

At this meeting Sri Lanka presented the revised concept paper and it was discussed and finalized. The delegates agreed to establish the main technology transfer facility at the NERD Centre, Sri Lanka. The main objectives of the Facility are;

1. Enhancing the technology bases of BIMSTEC member countries through technology transfer
2. Sharing knowledge regarding technologies and transfer of them.

The funding mechanism, operational aspect and the legal framework of the Facility were also discussed. Subscription fees, grants from the member countries and donor agencies will be the main sources of funding of the facility. The Facility will be operated through the focal points of member countries and the main center in Sri Lanka.

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



Based on a Cabinet approval granted in 1993, Sri Lanka joined the NAM S&T Centre in the year 1995. The Ministry of Science & Technology with the concurrence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs designated the National Science & Technology Commission (NASTEC) as the Focal Point for NAM S&T Centre in Sri Lanka in 2001.

NAM S&T Centre activities have provided a unique opportunity to Sri Lankan scientists for familiarizing themselves in latest technologies in Agriculture, Electronic Industry etc. and afforded opportunities for local scientists to interact with international scientists. Sri Lankan scientists travel abroad to participate at NAM S&T Center activities, which are jointly sponsored with its focal points in various countries, are provided both airfare and hotel accommodations. A list of 3 activities carried out by NAM S&T Center in 2011, which benefited Sri Lanka is given below.

1. International workshop on Science and Technology Policy and Sustainable Development, Tehran, Iran, 5-7, January was represented by Prof. Nalini Ratnasiri, Chairperson, NASTEC.
2. Eng. K. T. Jayasinghe, Principal Research Engineer of NERD Center attended the International Hands-on Training on Energy Audit for Energy Professionals in Developing Countries held in Mumbai, India, 4-14 May 2011.
3. Mr. Nuwan Kumarasinghe, Electronics Engineer, Department of Meteorology represented Sri Lanka at the International Symposium on Lightning Protection held from 12-14 October, 2011, in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Sri Lankan representative, Prof. Nalini Ratnasiri (03rd person of the first row) among the participants of the International Workshop on Science and Technology Policy

Our Staff

◆ Executive Staff

Acting Director

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

Accountant

Mrs. G.C.K. Peiris
B.Com (Sri Jayawardenepura)

Scientific Programme Managers

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

Miss Asha Pitadeniya
B.Sc., M.Sc. (Peradeniya)

Executive Secretary

Mr. Rukman Cooray Bulathsinghala

◆ Support Staff

Programme Assistants

Computer Applications
Mrs. L.A.L.N. Liyanaarachchi
B.Sc. (Sabaragamuwa)

Finance

Mr. R. M. Thusitha Rathnayake
M.A.A.T.

Personal Assistants

Mrs. Nilmini Perera
Ms. Sayumi Wijesinghe (on contract)

Drivers

Mr. H. A. Anil Kumara Hettiarachchi
Mr. I. G. Jayashantha Prabath
Mr. Eranda Pradeep

Research Assistants

Ms. Dananjali Perera
B.Sc. (Peradeniya)

Ms. Amali Jayathilake
B.Sc. (Sabaragamuwa)

Receptionist cum Telephone Operator

Miss Dakshini Karunathilake

Office Aides

Mr. A. D. Dhanapala
Mr. Nishantha Piyadasa

Staff News

1. During 2011, NASTEC recruited 02 Research Assistants (temporary positions), Ms. Dananjali Perera (University of Peradeniya) and Ms. Amali Jayathilake (University of Sabaragamuwa).
2. NASTEC provided opportunities for its employees to enhance their knowledge by directing them for training programmes, seminars and workshops.

Training Programs / Workshops / Seminars

- ◆ Ms. Dakshini Karunathilake, Receptionist participated a workshop on Interpersonal Relations and Public Relations, organized by National Institute of Labour Studies on 31st January.
- ◆ Ms. Asha Pitadeniya, Scientific Programme Manager participated at a workshop on Basic Statistics and Data Analysis for Managers and Researchers, conducted by Institute of Professional Association on 16th and 18th March.
- ◆ Mr. Nishantha Piyadasa, Office Aide, attended a workshop on Computer Hardware Essentials for Professionals, organized by Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies, on 13th and 14th August.
- ◆ Mr. Thusitha Ratnayake, Programme Assistant and Mrs. Nilmini Perera, Personal Assistant were selected to participate at the workshop on Professionalism organized by Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, on 04th October.
- ◆ Mr. Anil Kumara, Mr. I. G. J. Prabath and Mr. Eranda Pradeep attended a workshop on Safe Driving conducted by Skills Development Fund, on 08th October.
- ◆ Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara, Acting Director participated at a workshop on Effective Corporate Planning, organized by Sri Lanka Foundation Institute held on 05th December.
- ◆ Ms. Dakshihi Karunathilake, attended a workshop on Developing Management Assistants, organized by the Skills Development Fund, on 8th December.

Other Workshops / Seminars

- ◆ Ms. Asha Pitadeniya participated at a seminar on Identification and Prioritization of Technologies for Climate Change Adaptation, organized by the Ministry of Environment, on 17th and 24th October.
- ◆ Ms. Asha Pitadeniya was nominated to represent NASTEC at a workshop organized by NSF, on National Innovation Systems, their Operational Strategies and Management Aspects, on 2nd and 3rd November.
- ◆ Ms. Asha Pitadeniya and Mr. Rukman Cooray, Executive Secretary and participated at the workshop on Improving Women's Participation in Decision Making Process, which was conducted by Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on 28th and 29th July.

Purchases of Fixed Assets

1. As a result of NASTEC's long-term continuous request, NASTEC received a new vehicle, a 15 seater van from the Government on lease basis.
2. NASTEC purchased following fix assets during 2011.

Flash Drives	Microsoft Office Software
Telephone	Air conditioners
Photocopier	Laptop computers
Multimedia Projector	UPS
Book racks	

Financial Statements

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011

	Schedules	2011 Rs.	2011 Rs.	2010 Rs.	2010 Rs.
ASSETS					
Non - current assets					
Property, plant and equipment	1	<u>12,050,084</u>		<u>4,267,020</u>	
			12,050,084		4,267,020
Current assets					
Inventories / Stocks	2	149,907		149,484	
Trade and other receivables	3	12,000		12,000	
Prepayments	4	421,355		418,459	
Cash and cash equivalents	5	242,574		897,548	
Staff Loans	6	<u>619,829</u>	1,445,665	<u>471,423</u>	1,948,914
Total Assets			13,495,749		6,215,934
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Accrued expenses	7	<u>168,258</u>		<u>163,828</u>	
			168,258		163,828
Non - current liabilities					
Deferred Income		9,503,753		439,500	
Provision for Gratuity	8	<u>1,399,562</u>	10,903,315	<u>1,131,155</u>	1,570,655
Total liabilities			11,071,573		1,734,483
Total Net Assets			<u>2,424,176</u>		<u>4,481,451</u>
NET ASSETS/EQUITY					
Accumulated fund		6,694,282		7,943,493	
Reserves		<u>(4,270,106)</u>		<u>(3,462,042)</u>	
Total Net assets/Equity			<u>2,424,176</u>		<u>4,481,451</u>

**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER
2011**

		2011	2010
		Rs.	Rs.
Operating Revenue			
Recurrent Grant		12,662,000	13,325,000
Capital Grant - S & T Services		876,600	3,673,000
Amortization of Government Grants - Depreciation		1,380,957	1,555,742
Income	9	161,623	27,202
		15,081,180	18,580,944
Operating Expenses			
Personal Emoluments	10	6,887,957	6,531,511
Traveling	11	218,576	127,568
Supplies and consumables used	12	251,271	228,082
Maintenance	13	574,130	352,037
Contractual services	14	4,125,321	4,720,336
Transfers	15	1,380,927	922,067
S & T Services	16	1,080,676	3,371,986
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	1	1,380,957	1,555,742
Total operating expenses		<u>15,899,815</u>	<u>17,809,329</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		<u>(818,635)</u>	<u>771,615</u>
Financial Cost			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		10,570	4,929
Total non operating revenue (expenses)		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		<u>(808,065)</u>	<u>776,544</u>

Auditor General's Report



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கணக்காய்வாளர் தலைமை அபிபதி திணைக்களம்
AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT



මගේ අංකය }
 எனது இல }
 My No } EL/E/NASTEC/FA/2011

ඔබේ අංකය }
 உமது இல }
 Your No. }

දිනය }
 திகதி }
 Date } 20 July 2012

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 2011 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 2011 comprising the balance sheet as at 31 December 2011 and the income statement, cash flow statement for the year then ended and a 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 Section 40(3) 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 19 April 2012.

1:2 Management's Responsibility for Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards 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.

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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. 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 judgment, 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 the extent of the audit.

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

1:4 Basis for Qualified Opinion

My opinion is qualified based on the matters described in paragraph 2.2 of this report.

2. Financial statements

2:1 Qualified Opinion

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in paragraph 2:2 of this report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Science and Technology Commission as at 31 December 2011 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

2:2 Comments on Financial Statements

2:2:1 Sri Lanka Accounting Standards

The following observations are made.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| (a) Accounting Standard No. 3 | A Statement of Changes in Equity showing all the changes in the equity had not been included in the financial statements. |
| (b) Accounting Standard No. 16 | Even though a provision of Rs.268,407 had been made as at the end of the year under review for the payment of gratuities, that provision had not been invested. That had not been disclosed in the financial statements. |
| (c) Standard No. 18 | Fixed Assets purchased for Rs.9,172,481 in the year under review had not been depreciated. |

2:2:3 Non-compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

The following instances of non-compliance were observed during the course of audit.

Reference to Laws, Rules, Regulations, etc	Non-compliance
<hr/>	
<p>(a) Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971</p> <hr/> <p>Section 8(1)</p> <p>Section 14(1)</p>	<p>Even though the Board of Directors should approve the budget not later than 03 months prior to the commencement of the relevant financial year, the budget had not been approved up to the date of this report.</p> <p>The draft Annual Report had not been furnished to the Auditor General within 60 days after the close of the year of accounts.</p>
<p>(b) Financial Regulation 135</p>	<p>Delegation of function should, as far as possible be done to ensure the adequacy of internal checks in the system of delegation. But, despite the availability of 03 staff officers in the Commission, the financial functions had been delegated to 02 officers only.</p>
<p>(c) Circular Provisions</p> <hr/> <p>(i) Public Enterprises Circular No. PED/12 of 02 June 2003.</p> <hr/> <p>Section 6.5.3</p>	<p>Even though the Annual Report of the Commission should be tabled in Parliament within 150 days after the close of the financial year, the last report tabled had been the Annual Report for the year 2008.</p>

Section 8.3.5(c) Even though the supplier should be selected by calling for quotation under a suitable classification contrary to such provision, motor vehicles had been obtained on hire basis at a cost of Rs.96,856 from the same institution in the year under review as in several preceding years.

Section 8.3.7 Even though the prior approval of the Board of Directors should be obtained for the purchase of fixed assets not itemized and provided in the budget, the approval of the Board of Directors had not been so obtained for the purchase of assets valued at Rs.506,640.

Section 9.6 A Performance appraisal system had not been implemented for granting salary increments. Even though salary increments for the year 2011 had been granted to all officers, salary Increment Applications had not been filed in the personal files.

2:2:3 Transactions not supported by Adequate Authority

The following matters were observed.

- (a) An application made for a distress loan by an officer of the Commission had been recommended by an officer not relevant to the designation under a designation not delegated with the function in terms of Financial Regulation 135 and the distress loan of Rs.282,004 had been paid by cash instead of paying by cheque.
- (b) Two Research Assistants had been deployed in service from June of the year under review for science and technology activities of the National Science and Technology Commission. The following observations were made in this connection.

6

- A sum of Rs.205,850 had been paid to the above 02 officers in the year under review without approving the Monthly Advance Programmes.
- An examination of the Performance Reports of the two officers revealed instances where the officers had done the same activity and instances where the activities assigned in the duty list of another officer of the Commission had also been done by them.

3. Financial Review

3:1 Financial Results

According to the financial statements presented, the working of the Commission for the year ended 31 December 2011 had resulted in a deficit of Rs.808,065 after taking into account the Government grant of Rs.12,662,000 received for recurrent expenditure as against the surplus of Rs.776,544 for the preceding year after taking into account in Government grant of Rs.13,325,000 received for recurrent expenditure of that year. Accordingly a deterioration of Rs.1,584,609 in the financial result for the year under review was indicated. The reason for this had been the decrease of Rs.2,279,400 in the Government grant received in the year under review for science and technology activities.

4. Operating Review

4:1 Performance

The observations relating to the failure to achieve the targets set in the Action Plan of the Commission are given below.

- (a) Action had not been taken to implement 04 activities with estimated provisions amounting to Rs.1.225 million included in the Action Plan for the year under review.

- (b) The expenditure incurred during the year on 03 activities with estimated provisions amounting to Rs.2.74 million included in the Action Plan, amounted to Rs.0.8867 million.
- (c) The financial performance of the expenditure incurred by the Commission on Science and Technology activities in the year under review had been as follows.

(i)

Forecasted Annual Expenditure according to Action Plan	Actual Expenditure on Science and Technology Activities	Gap between Expenditure and Estimate	Percentage of Performance
-----	-----	-----	-----
Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	Rs.Millions	%
4.165	0.887	3.278	21.29

(ii) The performance of the Commission on science and technology activities for a period of 05 years had been as follows.

Year	Estimated Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Difference	Percentage of Performance
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	%
2011	4,165,000	887,267	3,277,731	21.30
2010	6,090,000	3,320,008	2,769,992	54.52
2009	3,145,000	990,286	2,154,714	31.46
2008	6,501,000	2,943,509	3,557,491	45.28
2007	2,800,000	1,632,428	1,167,572	58.30

(iii) Apart from the expenditure incurred on the biennial conference, the performance of the Commission on the other activities was observed to be at a very low level.

8

Year	Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Difference	Percentage
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
2011	3,665,000	887,269	2,777,731	24.26
2010	3,090,000	778,505	2,311,495	25.19
2009	3,145,000	980,431	2,164,569	31.17
2008	3,546,000	948,046	2,597,954	26.74
2007	2,800,000	1,632,428	1,167,572	58.38

4:2 Management Inefficiencies

The following matters were observed.

- (a) In instances where an acting post is maintained over a long period without being filled, the Secretary to the relevant Ministry should make enquires with regard to the need for further maintenance of such post. Nevertheless, the person who was appointed to the post of Acting Director of the Commission on 01 August 2010 had been deployed in that capacity over a period of 01 year 04 months without satisfying such condition.
- (b) Even though a sum of Rs.1,106,693 had been paid in the year under review as the annual contribution for 2011/2012 to the Non-aligned National Science and Technology Centre,(NAM Centre) a limited benefit not commensurate with the contribution to the science advancement of this country had been provided as only 03 officers had participated in connection with that contribution in the year 2011. The National Science and Technology Commission functions as the Nucleus Centre of the NAM Centre for Sri Lanka from the year 2011 and follow up action had not been not been carried out with regard to the contribution made to the advancement of Science of this country from the training received by the limited number of officers who returned to this country after participating in the Training Programmes.

4:3 Staff Administration

The following matters were observed at an examination of the personal files.

- (a) The approved cadre of drivers for the Commission had been three while the Commission had only one motor vehicle. As such salaries amounting to Rs.323,400 had been paid in the year under review for the 02 excess drivers.
- (b) In the revision of the salary of an officer recruited by the National Science and Technology Commission in the year 2003 under the Salary Group MA-1-2-2006, salaries had been prepared by placing her on 08 salary steps ahead of the salary step entitled to her. As such salary amounting to Rs.300,126 had been overpaid up to 15 February 2012.
- (c) The approved cadre of the Commission had been 16 and the actual cadre had been 13 and as such 03 vacancies in the staff existed.

5. Accountability and Good Governance

5:1 Internal Audit

A separate Internal Audit Unit had not been established. Even though the Internal Audit Unit of the Ministry had carried out the internal audit, only one audit query for the year under review had been issued.

5:2 Audit and Management Committee

Even though a period of 12 years had elapsed of the establishment of the Commission, the Audit and Management Committee had not been established.

5:3 Budgetary Control

According to the Purchase Plan for the year under review prepared by the Commission the estimated expenditure amounted to Rs.1.33 million. A sum of Rs.506,640 had been spent in the year for the purchase of 03 categories of assets not included in the Purchase Plan.

6. 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.

- (a) Updating of Personal Files
- (b) Preparation and Implementation of Internal Audit Programmes
- (c) Employees' Emoluments
- (d) Attendance and Leave Registers
- (e) Filing of Salary Increment Papers in Personal Files
- (f) Delegation of Functions under Financial Regulation 135
- (g) Accounting (Depreciation of Fixed Assets, Preparation of Journal Entries, etc.)
- (h) Preparation of Bank Reconciliation Statements

H.A.S. Samarawera
Auditor General



Response to the report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statement of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31st December 2011 as per section 14(2)(c) of the Finance Act, No.38 of 1971.

Given below are the responses to the above report.

2. Comments on Financial Statements

2.2.1. Sri Lanka Accounting Standards

a) Accounting Standard No. 3

In the future, the Commission expects to include a Statement of Changes in Equity to the financial statements.

b) Accounting Standard No. 16

The Commission operates only on the recurrent and capital grants received from the General Treasury. Such Treasury grants have not been invested by the Commission so far. When an employee resigns, the General Treasury provides necessary grants needed at that time. The Commission expects to seek advice from the Treasury in this regard.

c) Accounting Standard No. 18

In future, the Commission will take steps to depreciate assets from the year of purchase itself, as per the accounting standard No 18.

2.2.2. Non Compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations

a.) Financial Act, No. 38 of 1971

Section 8(1) The draft budget has been approved by the Commission at its meeting held on 21st October 2010 before submitting it to the General Treasury. In future, it is expected to submit the budget for Commission approval within the first 3 months of the relevant financial year.

Section 14(1) The delay was due to the lack of staff and the existing staff has to give priority to other essential functions.

b) Financial Regulation 135 – In the future, the Commission expects to delegate authorities among all three officers.

c) Circular Provisions

i. Public Enterprises Circular No. PED/12 of 02 June 2003

Section 6.5.3. 2009 Annual Report was sent to the Ministry of Technology and Research on 22nd August 2011 to get the approval to submit it to the parliament. Annual Report for 2010 has also been submitted to the Ministry for necessary actions on 22nd May 2012.

Section 8.3.5(c) The transportation needs of NASTEC has been fulfilled by the Kangaroo cab service since long back. At the beginning, a supplier was selected by calling quotations. The reason for not calling quotations at present was that NASTEC receives relatively a good service from them.

Section 8.3.7. In future, it is expected to obtain formal approval from the Commission for such purchases.

Section 9.6. By now suitable performance appraisal procedure has been developed to grant annual increments and it is expected to get the Commission approval to implement it once a new Commission is appointed. Further, steps will be taken to file salary increment applications in employees' personal files.

2.2.3. Transactions not Supported by Adequate Authority

a) The authority to recommend vouchers has been delegated to the Executive Secretary of the Commission by the letter of delegation of authority as per the financial regulations 135. A scientific program manager recommends them on his behalf only when this officer is absent. Therefore, the recommendation was made by the officer who received the authority to do so.

The payment was made by cash due to the fact that the distress loan fund is deposited in a savings account in the Bank of Ceylon.

b)

- Department of Management Services granted a perpetual approval for NASTEC to recruit Research Assistants (RAs). Depending on the need RAs are recruited with the approval of the Commission. When preparing the budget estimates of every year, provisions for the payments for RAs are requested and Treasury approves them.
- One out of these two Research Assistants (RA) was recruited for the work related to annual science and technology review and the other RA was recruited as a temporary solution for the lack of staff at NASTEC to get assistance for various activities. NASTEC recruits RAs for specific works and hence there is no need to approve the Monthly Advance Programmes.
- Given below are the reasons.
 - i. Occasions where the components of one activity are distributed among few officers (e.g. translation of annual reports) in order to get some activities done efficiently and quickly.
 - ii. Occasions where a job given to one officer needs to be assigned to another officer, in order to give another job to that officer.
 - iii. Occasions where an officer who is given an urgent job went on leave suddenly, needs be assigned to another officer considering its urgency and
 - iv. Occasions where the officer-in-charge is occupied with another duty, such things may happen. In an office where there is not enough staff it is quite ordinary to see such things.

3. Financial Reviews

3.1 Financial Results

a) Since the post BICOST-VI activities were done within the Commission itself though it was expected to obtain the assistance of a group of expert consultants and since a steering committee for BICOST-VII was not appointed as its theme was not finalized the money allocated for them was not spent. Though the Commission has planned to review Five S&T institutions during the year concerned self-assessments reports were received from three institutions only. Therefore, two institutions could not be reviewed.

4. Operating Review

4.1. Performance observations a, b and c I, II, III

b) The main functions of the Commission are:

1. Formulation of Policies in the field of Science and Technology

2. Science and Technology review
 - i. Annual national review on Science and Technology
 - ii. Review of Science and Technology institutions
3. Holding the Sri Lanka conference on Science and Technology biennially

In performing these functions, the final financial performance was low due to certain delays occurred as a cumulative or net result of the following reasons.

- i. As the General Treasury had not released estimated capital grants planned activities had to be postponed.
- ii. Delays in submitting the self-assessments reports to be submitted by the institutions to be reviewed and difficulties in matching dates that are convenient to review panel members and institutions.
- iii. Delays in study group activities due to the experts selected for study groups are very busy.
- iv. Due to staff vacancies, e.g. Position of Director was fallen vacant sometimes in 2007 and 2011.
- v. Not having adequate staff to give due priority to other main activities, during the years that biennial conference on Science and Technology is held .
- vi. The Scientific Programme Managers compelled to give priority to administrative functions (e.g. Annual board of surveys, preparation of annual reports, schemes of recruitment, and performance reports and answering for audit queries) instead of main activities mentioned above.

4.2. Management Inefficiencies

- a) A new director could not be recruited until the new Schemes of Recruitment (SOR) is approved. After it was approved on 30/09/2011, applications were called for the post on 12/11/2011. Since there have been no applications which fulfilled the required qualifications, the Commission decided to call applications again for the post. However it has to be postponed since the tenure of the Commission was expired on 09.01.2012.
- b) Payment of annual subscription fees is a must to participate at the workshops organized by the NAM S&T Centre with the sponsorship of the center. Number of Sri Lankan officials participating at the workshops depends on the number of workshops conducted by NAM Centre and their relevance to Sri Lanka.

Although it is difficult to give a financial value for the knowledge gained by the officials participated at, the expenses incurred for airfare, accommodations, meals and others themselves are higher than the annual subscription fees (except some years). It is not possible to give opportunities for many officials to participate at such workshops. Also it is not acceptable the statement "a limited benefit not commensurate with the contribution has been made for the advancement of science in this country" that was made without following a quantitative method to measure benefits financially; Because it is a function of the volume of the knowledge gained, the way that knowledge is used and time.

Once the participants returned to Sri Lanka, NASTEC obtains a report on the benefits and experience they gained from the workshops. Apart from this, it is a duty of the participants' institutions to follow up their long term contribution and NASTEC does not have enough staff for follow up activities.

4.2. Staff Administration

- a) i. Although a rented car and a van had been used as the Director's vehicle and the pool vehicle of NASTEC respectively, these vehicles were handed over on 12.10.2010 and 05.03.2010 respectively, according to the budget circular 150.

- ii. NASTEC requested a van and a car on lease on 20.07.2011 but NASTEC received them on 30.11.2011 and 09.02.2012 respectively.
 - iii. As a definite result of i. and ii., these two drivers did not have vehicles to drive. Still NASTEC has to pay their salaries since they are permanent employees of NASTEC.
- b) The way that it should be corrected according to the new scheme of recruitment has been identified. Approval for it will be obtained no sooner a Commission is appointed.
- c) The National Salaries and Cadre Commission has approved the schemes of recruitment and these vacancies will be filled no sooner the new Commission is appointed.

5. Accountability and Good Governance

5.1. Internal Audit

A separate internal audit unit has not been established since NASTEC has a limited staff and since the internal audits are carried out by the internal audit unit of the Ministry. Further, NASTEC expects to make the Ministry aware about this audit problem.

5.2. Audit and Management Committee

At present NASTEC participates at the Audit and Management Committee of the Ministry. It is expected to establish an Audit and Management Committee with the approval of the Commission, once the new Commission is appointed.

5.3. Budgetary Control

These three assets (machines) were malfunctioning or out of order unexpectedly and considering the necessity of them NASTEC had to purchase these assets, though they were not included in the purchase plan.

Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara
Acting Director

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Scientific Programme Manager	205	2807343
Accountant	204	2807344
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