

Annual Report

2014

“Success through collective decision making, and sharing of responsibilities...”

National Science and Technology Commission

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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 06th 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 comprised of seven members and they are appointed by H.E. the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Annual Report 2014

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National Science and Technology Commission
(NASTEC).

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Vision and Mission

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 the sustainable development”*

Commission Members



Prof. D. A. Tantrigoda

Chairman

Chair and Senior Professor of Physics, University of Sri Jayawardenepura (2004 to present); Professor of Physics, University of Sri Jayawardenepura (1996–2004); Technical Consultant, Petroleum Resources Development Secretariat (2012); Lead Consultant, Policy and Strategy unit, Ministry of Higher education (2007 – 2008); General President, Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (2011), Visiting Research Fellow, University of Edinburg (1993 – 1994).



Prof. P. R.T. Cumararatunga

Senior Professor of Fisheries Biology, Dept. of Fisheries & Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences & Technology, University of Ruhuna (2007 to date); Founder Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Marine Sciences & Technology (2005 to 2008); Head, Dept. of Fisheries Biology. Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna (1990-2005)

Positions hold in Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS)

- General President (2013),
- Governing Council Member (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011)
- Section D (Natural Sciences) - President (2003), Vice-president (2002), Secretary (2000) Committee member (1998 to 2004).
- Committee for Popularization of Science –Chairperson (2005), Committee member (2003-2008, 2011)
- Science Education Committee- Chairperson (2011)



Mr. P. D. Fernando

Director General of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Commerce (2012 - 2013); Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Australia (2009); Director- Head of Trade Promotion, Ministry of Export Development and International Trade (2007-2009); Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Dubai (2004-2007); Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Karachchi (2004-2002); Deputy Director of Commerce, Ministry of Trade and Commerce (2001); Permanent Representative to EC Brussels(1998-2001); Consular, Commercial Section, Sri Lanka Embassy, Germany (1992 – 1995); First Secretary (Commerce & Economic), Sri Lanka Embassy, Japan (1987-1989); Trade Commissioner for Sri Lanka, Pakistan (1982-1985); Assistant Director of Commerce, Ministry of Trade & Shipping (1979-1982), Assistant Secretary of the Trade Union of Unified Customs Officers (1978)



Prof. A. A. P. S. Manamperi

Senior Lecturer, Molecular Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya (2009 to-date). Consultant, Molecular Biologist, Durdans Hospital (2007 to-date); Consultant Technical Assessor, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (2008 to date).



Dr. B. M. S. Batagoda

Director General, Department of Public Enterprises, General Treasury, Ministry of Finance and Planning (2008 – to date); Chief Executive Officer, Project Management Bureau, General Treasury, Chief Executive Officer, Sri Lanka Carbon Fund (2008 – to date); Director General, Operations and Review, General Treasury, (2007 – 2008); Team Leader and Consultant, Sri Lanka Carbon Finance Assistance Programme, World Bank (2004 – 2007); Director (Climate Change and Global Affairs), Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources (1998 – 2004); Assistant Secretary to His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, Presidential Secretariat (1992-1994); Ministry of Plantation Industries (1987-1989); Assistant Director of Public Administration, Ministry of Public Administration (1986-1987).



Dr. S. S. Namasivayam

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa (2010 to-date) ; Dean-New Invitees of ICFAI Education Lanka, Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India (2008-2009); Director/CEO of Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Modern Technologies (2002-2007); Head of Electro Technology Unit, Industrial Technology Institute (1995 – 2000).



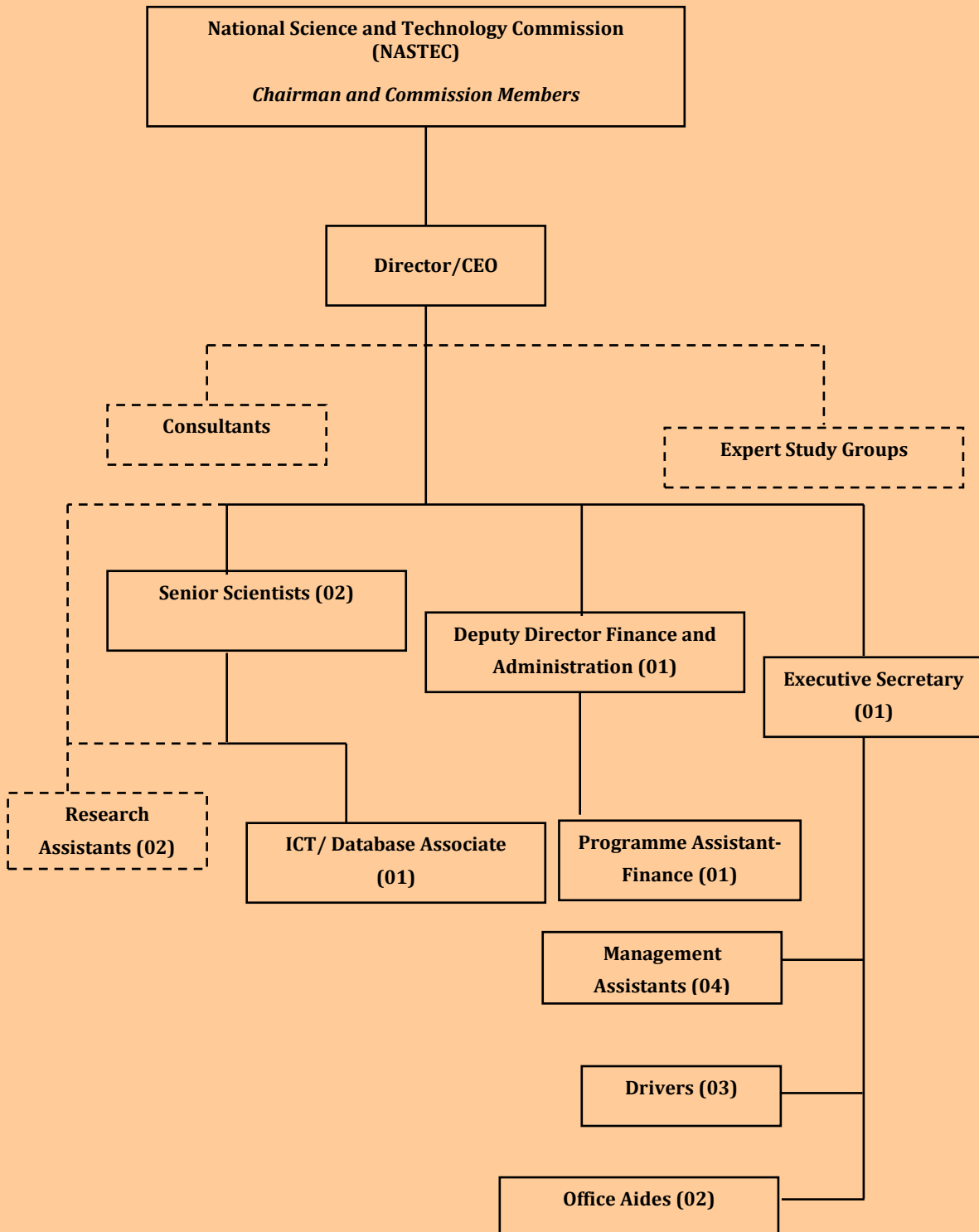
Dr. J. Wattavidanage

Senior Lecturer in Zoology, the Open University of Sri Lanka (1998 to-date); Chairman, National Committee on Science Popularization, National Science Foundation (2010); Member of the Science Center Technical Committee of NSF (2010); Chairman of the Environment Committee of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science -SLAAS (2009); President of Section D(Life Science and Earth Sciences), SLAAS (2006); Member of the Wages Board for the Textile Manufacturing Trade, Ministry of Labor Relations and Foreign Employment (2005); General Secretary, SLAAS (2005); Member of the Governing Council of National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering (Sagara Vishwavidyalaya) (2004); Member of the Science Popularizing Committee of the NSF (2003); Chairman of the Science Popularizing Committee, SLAAS (2002).

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 produce policies, plans and other S&T relevant documents.
- ❖ The Executive Secretary is the Secretary to the Commission and also functions as the Office Manager.
- ❖ The Deputy Director (Finance and Administration) manages all financial matters.
- ❖ Consultants and Research Assistants are hired on need-basis to carry out specialized tasks and assignments as required by the Commission.

Organizational Structure



Science and Technology

Review

At the outset, NASTEC identifies the institutions to be reviewed. The calling of Self-assessment (SA) report which is designed to collect information about the institutions to be reviewed is the first step of the review process. Then NASTEC appoints a review panel to conduct the review with the consent of the institution concerned. The first meeting of the review panel takes place once NASTEC receives the SA report from the institution. The panel plans the review schedule at the first meeting. Then the panel visits the institute to conduct the review. There, meetings with officials and other stakeholders of the institution are conducted to collect information. Based on the information collected during the above process, the first review report is drafted. The draft report will be submitted to the Head of the reviewed institution for their comments. The report finalized incorporating the comments of the institution will be submitted both to the reviewed institution and the line Ministry.

Our Activities

REVIEW OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS

Reviewing of S&T Institutions is a mandated activity of the NASTEC as per the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994. The objective of the review is to constructively review the performance of Science and Technology institutions in order to strengthen their contribution to the field of science and technology and in turn to the National development.

Industrial Technology Institute (ITI) and National Science Foundation (NSF)

Reviewing ITI and NSF commenced in 2013 and the final reports were submitted to the Ministry of Technology and Research in April and May, 2014 respectively.

During 2014 NASTEC initiated the reviewing of the following institutions.

Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI)

Having received the Self-Assessment report in October 2013, NASTEC appointed the following review team with the consent of the SLSI.

- *Prof. R. A. Attalage, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa (Chairman of the Review Panel)*
- *Mr. D. Kodagoda, Former Chairman, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board*
- *Mr. H. L. R. W. Madanayake, Former Director, Measurements Unit, Standards and Services Department*
- *Prof. Ramanee Wijesekera, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Colombo*

The first review panel meeting was held at NASTEC on 17th April to plan the review and this plan was further developed at the first meeting held with the Management of SLSI on 30th April. After several review visits to SLSI, the Review Panel conducted meetings with the stakeholders of SLSI in the months of June and July in order to receive opinions on products and services offered by SLSI.

According to the review panel, SLSI has been reasonably successful in retaining their staff. The knowledge base of its staff and their experience serve as a valuable asset to SLSI. However, the institution remains understaff due to delay in recruitments. This has a significant effect on the productivity and output of SLSI, particularly in the context of the continuously increasing workload. It is noteworthy that SLSI is self-sufficient in terms of funding. Coordination of activities within many divisions is satisfactory either through formal monthly meetings or informal meetings chaired by

the Division head. The physical assets of the institute and buildings are well-maintained and equipment are calibrated regularly.

The review panel points out that there is a need for SLSI to consider national development goals when planning programs and projects at SLSI, with adequate consultation of relevant stakeholders.

First draft of the review report was submitted to SLSI in December 2014 for their comments.

Atomic Energy Authority (AEA)

AEA forwarded the self-assessment report to NASTEC in the month of August. NASTEC appointed the following review panel to review AEA.

- *Prof. Upul Sonnarada, Senior Professor, Dept. of Physics, University of Colombo (Chairman of the panel)*
- *Mr. Nihal Gunasekara, former Additional Director, ITI, Consultant, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO*
- *Mr. Dinesh Sathrukalsinghe, Director/CEO, Sri Lanka Inventors' Commission*
- *Prof. M. M. M. Najim, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Kelaniya*
- *Mr. M. Muttiah, Director/Consultant, Business Insights and Solutions*

The review panel met on 20th August and planned the review process. They visited AEA on 03rd September 2014 to discuss with the management and to begin the review. After several visits the panel met its stakeholders in October and November 2014. First draft of the review report was submitted to AEA on 26th November 2014 for their comments. Given below are some opinions of the review panel mentioned in the review report. For full review report of AEA, please visit our website (www.nastec.lk).

The review panel commended AEA for facilitating Technical Cooperation (TC) projects between IAEA and other scientific institutions. However, the panel feels that AEA is left out after direct communication initiated between IAEA and the relevant institutions. It has been recommended that AEA should be a part of the project until it is completed and should get involved in information dissemination.

The panel mentioned that the income generated from services has increased steadily over the years. However, the panel was on the view that the absence of a research culture may negatively affect the work done by the AEA. The necessity of a separate entity to commercialize their products and transfer of technologies was emphasized.

National Research Council (NRC)

The Self-assessment report of NRC was received by NASTEC in the month of August 2014. The first meeting of the review panel was held on 18th September at NASTEC. The panel visited NRC on 17th October and began the review. They had discussions with the stakeholders of NRC on 3rd November at NASTEC. The draft report submitted to NASTEC has been forwarded to NRC on 30th December for its comments.

The review panel for NRC was comprised of the following members:

- *Prof. M. J. S. Wijeraratna, Senior Professor, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (Chairman of the panel)*
- *Prof. Kemal I Deen, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya*
- *Prof. Kamal B. Gunaherath, Head – Dept. of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Science, Open University of Sri Lanka*
- *Prof. W. G. D. Dharmarathne, Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna*

Some comments of the reviewing of NRC

It was found in the review that the NRC has strongly contributed to technology development, publication of research, providing services to S & T community and providing necessary training to scientists. The transfer of technology to industry is facilitated by the Private-Public Partnership Programme and Target Oriented Multi-disciplinary Research Programme. The Presidential Awards scheme for Scientific Publication has contributed for encouraging the scientific community of the country to carry out high quality research. Of the nine management aspects evaluated, seven were judged to be strong. The other two management aspects were judged to be moderate. No management aspect was judged to be weak. Hence the overall performance of the NRC for the period considered could be judged as strong. The output of the NRC has direct relevance to national development goals and is consistent with the objectives of the National Research and Development Investment Framework 2015-2020. The panel is of the opinion that greater allocation of resources and their timely disbursement would enhance its productivity and contribution to national development goals.

Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB)

The self-assessment report of SLAB was considered for the review in the month of August 2014. NASTEC appointed the following experts as the review panel to carry out the review of SLAB.

- *Prof. T. R. Ariyaratna, Emeritus Professor, Department of Physics, University of Colombo (Chairman of the Review Panel)*
- *Prof. J. C. N Rajendra, Professor, Department of Physics, Open University of Sri Lanka*
- *Prof. S. S. Colombage, Retired professor of Economics,*
- *Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayawardenapura*

First meeting of the review panel was held on 15th September 2014. The review panel visited SLAB on 3rd and 23rd October to meet the management of SLAB. The review panel had discussions with the stakeholders of SLAB on 13th November at NASTEC. The draft review report was compiled by the review panel and has been forwarded to SLAB for their comments on 30th December 2014. Some findings of the review are summarized below. The full review report is available in the NASTEC website (www.nastec.lk).

Some findings of the SLAB review:

Within the 8 years of existence, the SLAB had accredited 41 testing laboratories, 4 calibration laboratories, 13 medical laboratories and 5 certification bodies, and 1 inspection body by end of 2013. Within the period of evaluation i.e. (2011 -2013) SLAB has managed to grant accreditations for 17 Testing laboratories, 2 Calibration laboratories, 9 Medical Laboratories, 5 Certification Bodies, and 1 Inspection Body. During the same period, the SLAB has gained admission as a signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) for testing, medical testing and calibration. Quality certification of exports from Sri Lanka based on testing and certification are now recognized as equivalent to test reports and certificates issued in other countries, facilitating market access for Sri Lankan products. The accreditation process has been hampered in several fields due to constraining factors that are beyond the control of SLAB, and these need to be addressed by the relevant authorities without further delay. The inadequacy of metrological infrastructure at the national level is a major hindrance to carry out the relevant tests. Reluctance on the part of government bodies to ensure accreditation is also a major constraint. Non-enforcement of accreditation for medical laboratories in government hospitals by the Ministry of Health is a case in point.

ANNUAL NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF S & T IN THE COUNTRY

The Commission is mandated 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 very useful for decision-making and policy formulation in the S&T sector.

In 2013 NASTEC compiled a report on "*Science and Technology Status of Sri Lanka-2012*" and it was discussed with the Heads of S&T institutions, at a meeting held in December 2013 and finalized. The final report was submitted to the Commission of NASTEC, at its meeting held in July 2014.

BICOST VII

SEVENTH SRI LANKA BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(BICOST - VII)



"The future of sustainable development that all of us aspire for the nation will not just dawn upon us, and both the will as well as the capability to guide Sri Lanka towards the future we want, are with us."

*Hon. Patali
Champika
Ranawaka*



The Minister of Technology and Research and the key officials gracing the head table of the conference

economic development of the nation.

NASTEC has been mandated by the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994, to convene biennially the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology. This forum enables NASTEC to consult scientists, technologists, industrialists, administrators, and other stakeholders on matters pertaining to science and technology and application of them towards achieving socio-

In collaboration with Ministry of Technology and Research, the 7th BICOST was held on 07th July 2014. The focus of the conference was "*Development of a National Science and Technology Investment Framework for 2015-2020*". In developing this investment framework, ten most relevant areas (Food and Agriculture, Water, Textile, Environment, Emerging Technologies, Shelter, Mineral, Energy, Health) where R&D is vital had been identified by and ten groups of experts worked on it. Ten Expert Groups were appointed comprising the line Ministries and Institutions relevant to each thrust

area, academia, private sector and civil society to study and recommend R&D priorities of the country, in respect of each of the ten focus areas. The conference was well attended by 340 invitees such as Researchers, Scientists, Engineers, private sector stakeholders, and representatives of Government ministries and departments.

Prof. Dhammika Tantrigoda, Chairman, NASTEC welcomed the invitees and Mrs. Dhara Wijayatilake, Secretary, Ministry of Technology and Research addressed the audience. It was followed by the keynote address by Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, the Minister of Technology and Research. During the two technical sessions it was discussed the adaptation of the draft National R&D Investment Framework formulated by the National Science and Technology Commission and the Ministry of Technology and Research.

This report was presented to the Hon. Minister of Technology and Research, Eng. Patali Champika Ranawaka.



Part of the participants who attended the conference



The Secretary, Ministry of Technology and Research, presenting the report to the Hon. Minister of Technology and Research

**NAM S&T
Centre**



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) is an inter-governmental organization. 47 developing countries represented by their Government Ministries / Departments and Agencies dealing with Science and Technology have so far joined the Centre as its members. The National Science and Technology Commission is the national focal point of the NAM S&T Centre, in Sri Lanka. Being a member of NAM S&T Centre, NASTEC has been able to provide training opportunities for Sri Lankan officials free of charge.

Following Sri Lankan scientists/officials were selected to participate in activities organized by the Center in year 2014.

1. Ms. Himali W. K. Athaudage, Director (Research Development), Ministry of Technology and Research, represented Sri Lanka at the International workshop on “Science and Technology Diplomacy for Sustainable Development” held in India during 27-30 May, 2014.
2. Research Training Fellowship for Developing Country Scientists was awarded to six scientists. Mr. M. D. E. K. Gunathilake, Faculty of Geometrics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Dr. S. Arasaretnam, Mrs. T. D. G. Bandara, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna, Ms. M. P. Dissanayaka, Ms. F. S. Idroos, Department of Zoology, University of Sri Jayawardenapura and Ms. M. P. D. Nadeera, Natural Resources and Management Centre were the winners of this fellowship. They will be given a six months training fellowship.
3. Mr. Sajjana De Silva, Deputy Director (Mines) of Geological Survey and Mines Bureau represented Sri Lanka at the “3rd International Workshop on Minerals Processing and Beneficiation” held in Harare, Zimbabwe during 11-14 September, 2014.
4. Mr. Gunaratnam Jeyarupan, Mining Engineer of the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau and Dr. N. D. Subasinghe, Senior Research Fellow of the National Institute of Fundamental Studies were selected for Training Fellowship on Minerals Processing and Beneficiation offered by the Department of Science and Technology, South Africa.
5. Dr. N. D. Subasinghe, Senior Research Fellow of National Institute of Fundamental Studies represented Sri Lanka at the International workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policymaking for Developing Countries held in Iran from November 28th – 01st December 2014.

Other NASTEC Activities

Activities of Young Scientists Forum (YSF)



The Young Scientists Forum (YSF) is the largest consultative forum of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC). The current membership of the Forum exceeds 600 and they include the young scientists from universities, Science & Technology and Research & Development institutions, mainly of the public sector of the country.

3RD RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM OF YSF

YSF in collaboration with NASTEC organized its 3rd successful research symposium along with the Annual General Meeting on 07th February 2014. This event brought together young scientists from different backgrounds. It offered them an opportunity to give theme-specific presentations. The selected papers of young scientists will be published as proceedings. 39 research papers, out of 73 were selected for oral presentations and 16 for poster presentation.

A panel of evaluators named by NASTEC evaluated the oral presentations of the young scientists and three presenters who have received higher average marks, have been awarded with merit certificates. At the 3rd symposium the following young scientists were awarded with merit certificates.

Section 01: Agricultural Sciences

T.N. Fernando
N.K.K. Brintha
R.M.N.A. Wijewardana

Section 02: Biochemistry and Health Sciences

K. D. Degambada
S.P.A.S. Senadheera
M.F.F. Nusha

Section 03: Biotechnology and Microbiology

H.W.K.S.L. Kumara
P.B. Ratnaweera
S.M.U.P. Mawalagedera

Section 04: Engineering, Physical Sciences and IT

S. Arooran
M.A.U. Perera
H.S. Perera

Section 05: Environmental Sciences

I.K. Hearth
C.A.D. Nahallage
M.T. Jayasuriya

Section 06: Social Sciences

D.A.M. Perera
D.R. Ekanayake
G.M. Ranathunga

Poster Session

K.K.D. Kumari
B.N. Dorakumbura
N. Paranamana

H.M.K. Akalanka
F.M.M.T. Marikar
K. Prasannath

YSF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2013

YSF Annual General Meeting was held at the Mahinda Silva Auditorium of Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) on 07th February 2014, together with the 3rd Symposium of YSF. There the following young scientists were appointed to the YSF Steering Committee for 2014.

1. Dr. Buddhika Aruggoda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Plantation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering Technology, Open University of Sri Lanka.
2. Mrs. Lohini Athiththan, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
3. Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.
4. Mrs. Nisansala Bopage, Chemistry Research Laboratory, Dept. of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Open University of Sri Lanka.
5. Dr. Nilanthi Dahanayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.
6. Dr. Sudarshanee Geekiyanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.
7. Dr. Indika Hearth, Senior Research Officer, Soil and Plant Nutrition Division, Coconut Research Institute.
8. Dr. Samantha Iddamaldeniya, Veterinary Research Officer, Parasitology Division, Veterinary Research Institute.
9. Mr. Gayantha Kodikara, Lecturer, Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science and Technology, University of Ruhuna
10. Ms. T. U. Shamalie Peiris, Bio Statistics and Agronomy Unit, Faculty of Live Stock Fisheries and Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.
11. Dr. L. D. B. Suriyagoda, Lecturer, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.
12. Mr. Ashvin Wickramasooriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya
13. Dr. R. M. Nilanthi Wijewardana, Senior Research Officer, Institute of Post-Harvest Technology.

ACTIVITY DAY FOR SCIENTISTS

YSF organized an activity day for scientists and this event was held at the National Science Foundation on 20th December. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Ranjith Dissanayake, Head/Department of Civil Engineering, University of Peradeniya.

The topics discussed at this workshop and the names of the presenters are as given below.

- **Improve your language skills** (Dr. Vindya Basnayake, Deputy Director, Plant Virus Indexing Unit, Department of Agriculture)
- **Are you good at team-work in science?** (Ms. Pavithra Wickramasuriya, Senior Lecturer, National Institute of Business Management)
- **Professionalism** (Mrs. Sunethra Nugawela, CEO, Sri Lanka Academy of Administrative Professionals)
- **Simple Nano technological applications for 'new generation scientists'** (Mr. Manju Gunawardena, Consultant/Senior Scientists, Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology)
- **Collaborative research culture for better funding opportunities** (Dr. Suranga Kodithuwakku, Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya)
- **Improve your non-verbal Communication skills** (Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Director, Staff Development Centre, University of Peradeniya)

Apart from the above interesting presentations, this event was followed by a musical program as a health break.

WORKSHOPS / TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Workshop on Reviewing Research articles: Are we doing it right?

This workshop organized by YSF was held on 25th April 2014 at the Auditorium of Industrial Technology Institute with a participation of 127 young scientists.

The topics discussed at this workshop and the names of the presenters are as given below.

- **Reviewing: What is it all about?** (Dr. Chamalie Nahallage, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura)
- **Role of a Reviewer?** (Prof. Sagarika Ekanayake, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura)
- **Ethical Responsibilities of Reviewers** Prof. Nadira Karunaweera, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

- **Software to Detect Plagiarism** (Dr. Prasad Jayaweera, Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura)
- **Why Papers are Rejected?** (Dr. Meththika Vithanage, Institute of Fundamental Studies)
- **Practical Reviewing** (Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Director, Staff Development Centre, University of Peradeniya)

Workshop on Experimental Designs

YSF conducted this workshop at the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya on 11th September 2014. This workshop was attended by 115 young scientists.

The following presentations were made at this workshop.

- **Research Statistics** (Prof. R. O. Thattil, Emeritus Professor)
- **Introduction to Statistics** (Prof. S. Samitha, Director, Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture)
- **Common Experimental Designs** (Dr. B. M. L. D. B. Suriyagoda, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya)
- **Common Errors and Mistakes in Data Analysis** (Ms. T. U. S. Peiris, Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries and Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka)



Some participants of the workshop

Activities of National Science Week

In parallel with the World Science Day, 10th November, the Ministry of Technology and Research organized a National Science Week, 4 – 10 of November with the objective of promoting science and technology and to raise the awareness on the importance of science and technology among the general public, especially among the school children. Accordingly NASTEC has organized various programs to promote science and technology among the school children.

SPECIAL LECTURE ON SPACE MINING

NASTEC organized a special lecturer which was held at the National Planetarium on 4th November 2014 on Asteroid



Section of the audience

Mining. School/university students, teachers and NASTEC staff attended this event. Eminent physicist (Atmospheric & Lightning) Prof. Chandana Jayaratne, of University of Colombo, also the past President of Institute of Physics, conducted this program.

PROGRAM ON HORTICULTURE

This program was held at the auditorium of the National Science Foundation on 07th November 2014 with the participation of 80 school students. Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Director, Staff Development Centre, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya was the main resource person. He explained on how to select right pots and potting media, creating a bottle garden, Tissue culture methods and flower decorations.



A model Bottle Garden



Dr. Chalinda Beneragama and part of the audience who attended the program



PROGRAM ON “EX-SITU CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND THE ROLE OF NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN”

NASTECC organized the above program in collaboration with National Zoological Garden, ZooNet of the Open University of Sri Lanka and Young Zoologists Association.

The program was held at the National Zoological Garden on 7th November 2014. Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, the Minister of Technology and Research, delivered a special speech at this occasion. Ms. Dammika Malsinghe, Additional Director National Zoological Garden and Dr. Jayantha Wattawidhanage, Senior Lecturer in Zoology, the Open University of Sri Lanka conducted the program. This program was attended by 270 participants including 197 students from seven schools.



Hon. Minister of Technology and Research delivering his speech at the event



Some of the students who attended the program



Dr. Jayantha Wattawidanage
discussing with the students

The following areas were covered by the Program.

1. Conservation & Breeding
2. Awareness about the animal species, etc.
3. Research- Breeding of endemic species
4. Recreational activities

This event was designed to make aware the responsibility of National Zoological Garden about the Ex-Situ Conservation of Biodiversity in Sri Lanka.

SCIENCE WALK

NASTEC participated in the first ever “Science Walk” organized by the Ministry of Technology and Research which was held at a grand scale on 08th November 2014 with the participation of the Minister of Technology and Research, Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, and scientists, officials of the ministry and affiliated institutions, officers of three forces, schools and University students. This walk consisted vehicles exhibiting various technologies including local technology and a water rockets show. The Science Walk marked the last event of the science week.



Part of participants walking in the procession displaying the theme
of the Science Week



NASTEC Staff attending at the Science Walk

QUIZ PROGRAM

NASTEC staff members participated at a Quiz Program organized by the Industrial Technology Institute as another activity for the Science Week, on 5th November. This was an inter-institutional program held among the institutions of the Ministry of Technology and Research. Research Assistants of NASTEC, Ms. Maheshi Fernando, Ms. Himali Balasuriya, and Management Assistants, Ms. Nishanthi Maharage and Mrs. Dakshini Karunathilake participated at this competition on behalf of NASTEC.

Our Staff



Chairman
Prof. Dhammika A. Tantrigoda
 B.Sc. (Cey), M.Sc., Ph.D. (Durham)
 Chairman



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



Senior Scientist
Mrs. Asha Pitadeniya
 B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. (Peradeniya)



Senior Scientist
Mr. Indika Siriwardena
 B.Sc. (Hons), MEcon.
 (Colombo)



Deputy Director - Finance and Administration
Mrs. Kumari Peiris
 B.Com., (J'pura), ICASL
 (intermediate)



Executive Secretary
Mr. Rukman Cooray

Supporting Staff



Programme Assistant- Finance
Mr. Thusitha Rathnayake (M.A.A.T.)

ICT/Database Associate
Ms. Isanka Samarawickrama (up to Nov.)
B.Sc. (Bangalore), MIT (Colombo)

- **Research Assistants (Contract basis)**



Miss. E. Maheshi Fernando
B.Sc. (Special), J'pura



Mrs. Chalani Abeywardena (up to Sept.)
B.Sc. (Special), J'pura



Mrs. Himali Balasuriya
B.Sc. (Special), M.Sc. (Peradeniya)

- **Management Assistants**



Mrs. Nilmini Perera
B.Sc. J'pura



Mrs. Dakshini Karunathilake



Miss. Sayumi Wijesinghe



Miss. Nishanthi Maharage

Staff News

1. NASTEC welcomed Ms. Maheshi Fernando as a Research Assistant on 1st January 2014. Ms. Fernando holds a BSc. Special Degree in Physics from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura.
2. Staff Members took part at the Inter-ministerial Cultural Event held on 31st March 2014 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute by staging “Jasaya saha Lenchina Kolama”.
3. NASTEC Welfare Society had its first meeting on 10th April 2014. During the meeting, office bearers were selected and a constitution was discussed and agreed upon.
4. NASTEC Staff members participated at the inter institutional cricket match organized by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, held in Prison Grounds on 10th May 2014.
5. Ms. Nishanthi Maharage won the 2nd place prize at the inter-institutional Wesak Bathi Gee lyrics competition organized by the Ministry of Technology and Research.
6. NASTEC welcomed Mrs. Chalani Abeywardena as a Research Assistant on 03rd June 2014. Mrs. Abeywardena holds a BSc. Special Degree in Physics from the University of Sri Jayawardenepura. She left NASTEC in September to United Kingdom for her higher studies. We wish her success in her future studies.
7. NASTEC welcomed Mr. Indika Siriwardena as a Senior Scientist on 2nd May 2014. Mr. Siriwardena holds a B.Sc. and Master’s Degree in Economics from the University of Colombo.
8. Ms. Himali Balasuriya, BSc. Special Degree in Agricultural Science, University of Peradeniya, joined NASTEC as a Research Assistant on 1st October 2014.
9. Ms. Isanka Samarawickrama left NASTEC in November, to take a new appointment at the University Grants Commission. We wish her success in her career.



NASTEC Staff performing “Jasaya saha Lenchina Kolama”



Events attended by the Staff

1. According to an initiative taken by the Minister of Technology and Research, Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka, NASTEC organized an outbound training (OBT) program for its staff. This program was held at Hotel Laya Leisure, Kukuleganga from 21 – 23 February, under the leadership of Col. Channna Karunaratna. Outbound training was useful for the developing employees' morale, team spirit and communication skills which are vital for better performance at office.
2. Ms. Kumari Peiris participated at a workshop on "Disciplinary Management" organized by Skills Development Fund Ltd, on 22 – 23 May 2014.
3. Mr. Thusitha Ratnayake participated at a workshop on "Annual Stock Verifications and Disposal Procedure" held by Skills Development Fund Ltd, on 03 – 04 April 2014.
4. Mrs. Asha Pitadeniya participated at the workshop on "Ethics for Professionalism" held on 16th December 2014, organized by Skills Development Fund Ltd.



Some events at OBT



Acknowledgement

REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS –SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

- **Prof. R. A. Attalage**, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Moratuwa
- **Mr. H. L. R. W. Madanayake**, Former Director, Measurements Unit, Standards and Services Department
- **Mr. D. Kodagoda**, former Chairman, Sri Lanka Accreditation Board
- **Prof. Ramanee Wijesekera**, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Colombo

REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS –ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY

- **Prof. Upul Sonnarada**, Professor, Dept. of Physics, University of Colombo
- **Mr. Dinesh Sathrukalsinghe**, Director/CEO, Sri Lanka Inventors' Commission
- **Mr. M. Muttiah**, Director/Consultant, Business Insights and Solutions
- **Mr. Nihal Gunasekara**, former Additional Director/ITI, Consultant, UNIDO
- **Prof. M. M. M. Najim**, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Kelaniya

REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS –SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD

- **Prof. T. R. Ariyaratna**, Professor, Department of Physics, University of Colombo
- **Prof. J. C. N. Rajendra**, Professor, Department of Physics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Open University of Sri Lanka
- **Prof. S. S. Colombage**, Retired Professor of Economics, The Open University of Sri Lanka
- **Prof. Laleen Karunanayake**, Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, Faculty of Applied Science, University of Sri Jayawardenapura

REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS –NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

- **Prof. M. J. S. Wijeyaratne**, Professor, Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya
- **Prof. Kemal I Deen**, Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine
- **Prof. Kamal B. Gunaherath**, Head - Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Science, Open University of Sri Lanka
- **Prof. W. G. D. Dharmarathne**, Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna

STEERING COMMITTEE – YSF

14. Dr. Buddhika Aruggoda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Plantation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering Technology, Open University of Sri Lanka.
15. Mrs. Lohini Athiththan, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
16. Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.
17. Mrs. Nisansala Bopage, Chemistry Research Laboratory, Dept. of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Open University of Sri Lanka.
18. Dr. Nilanthi Dahanayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.
19. Dr. Sudarshanee Geekiyanage, Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna.
20. Dr. Indika Hearth, Senior Research Officer, Soil and Plant Nutrition Division, Coconut Research Institute.
21. Dr. Samantha Iddamaldeniya, Veterinary Research Officer, Parasitology Division, Veterinary Research Institute.
22. Mr. Gayantha Kodikara, Lecturer, Department of Oceanography and Marine Geology, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science and Technology, University of Ruhuna
23. Ms. T. U. Shamalie Peiris, Bio Statistics and Agronomy Unit, Faculty of Live Stock Fisheries and Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka.
24. Dr. L. D. B. Suriyagoda, Lecturer, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.
25. Mr. Ashvin Wickramasooriya, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya
26. Dr. R. M. Nilanthi Wijewardana, Senior Research Officer, Institute of Post-Harvest Technology.

Financial Statements

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2014

(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

	Notes	2014	2013
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	323,797	257,965
Trade and other receivables	2	13,000	14,000
Inventories / Stocks	3	70,013	105,889
Prepayments	4	710,631	737,824
Staff Loans - Short-term	5	174,594	191,061
		1,292,035	1,306,739
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	7,157,721	9,966,651
Refundable Deposit	7	1,355,500	1,355,500
Staff Loans - Long-term	8	375,420	350,007
		8,888,641	11,672,158
Total Assets		10,180,676	12,978,897
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accrued expenses	9	727,471	1,248,519
Non - current liabilities			
Deferred Income	10	6,946,934	9,517,855
Provision for Gratuity	11	2,263,734	1,940,852
		9,210,668	11,458,707
Total liabilities		9,938,139	12,707,226
Total Net Assets		242,537	271,671
NET ASSETS/EQUITY			
Accumulated fund		2,899,822	3,081,960
Revaluation reserve		1,629,300	1,629,300
Reserves		(4,286,585)	(4,439,589)
Total Net assets/equity		242,537	271,671

NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

		2014	2013
Revenue	Notes		
Recurrent Grant		21,213,100	18,759,000
Capital Grant - S & T Services	12	4,688,500	1,861,731
Amortization of Government Grants - Depreciation		4,696,870	4,919,720
Income	13	<u>290,613</u>	<u>132,352</u>
		30,889,083	25,672,803
Expenses			
Personal Emoluments	14	9,279,705	7,990,799
Traveling	15	550,541	377,366
Supplies and consumables used	16	410,077	354,585
Maintenance	17	753,456	1,072,414
Contractual services	18	6,372,063	5,848,842
Transfers	19	2,972,991	3,014,663
S & T Services	20	5,701,196	2,314,570
Depreciation and amortization expenses	6	<u>4,696,870</u>	<u>4,919,720</u>
Total expenses		<u>30,736,899</u>	<u>25,892,959</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		<u>152,184</u>	<u>(220,156)</u>
Financial Cost			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		820	89,371
		<u>820</u>	<u>89,371</u>
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		<u>153,004</u>	<u>(130,785)</u>

Auditor General's Report



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මගේ අංකය } LS/E/NASTEC/1/14
எனது இல. }
My No. }

ඔබේ අංකය }
உமது இல. }
Your No. }

දිනය } 14 July 2015
திகதி }
Date }

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 2014 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 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2014 and the statement of income, cash flow statement and the statement of changes in equity 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 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 01 April 2015.

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.

1:4 Basis for Adverse Opinion

Had the matter described in paragraph 2.2 of this report been adjusted, many elements in the accompanying financial statements would have been materially affected.

2. Financial Statements



2:1 Adverse Opinion

In my opinion, because of the significance of the matters described in paragraph 2.2 of this report , the financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Science and Technology Commission as at 31 December 2014 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

2.2. Comments on Financial Statements

2.2.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Transactions pertaining to Rs.695,000 which should have been paid to scholars for reviewing science and technology institutions had not been brought to account.

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

The following instances of non - compliance were observed in audit.

Reference to Laws, Rules, Regulations, etc.	Non – compliance
(a) Science And Technology Development Act, No. 11 of 1994 Section 5(b)	“The Report on review of the science and technology activities in Sri Lanka in the preceding year on the use of science and technology by public sector and private sector undertakings” had not been presented for the preceding year and the year under review.
(b) Public Enterprise Circular No.58(2) of 15 September 2011 Section 3.1	In the payment of allowances for meetings of the Board of Directors, Withholding Tax of 10 per cent should be deducted. Nevertheless, payments amounting to Rs.272,000 had been made during the year under review without deducting the Withholding Tax.
(c) National Procurement Agency	Regional Procurement Committees should consist of three



Circular No.9 of 01 March 2006 Paragraph 2.7.7 members and one of them should be a person outside the procurement unit with a sound knowledge of procurement process. Nevertheless, three officers of the institution had been appointed to the Procurement Committee of the Commission.

2.4 Transactions not supported by Adequate Authority

Service of a consultant had been obtained for the Commission on a decision of the Board of Management without the approval of the Department of Management Services. Further, a sum of Rs.240,000 had been paid for a period of four months in this connection.

3. Financial Review

3:1 Financial Results

According to the financial statements presented, the operations of the Commission for the year ended 31 December 2014 had resulted in a surplus of Rs.153,004 as against the deficit of Rs.130,785 for the preceding year. Even though an increase of Rs.283,789 was indicated in the financial results for the year under review, had the matter described in paragraph 2.2.1 been adjusted, the operating result would have been a deficit of Rs.541,996.



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கணக்காய்வகப் திணைக்களம்
Auditor General's Department

4. Operating Review

4:1 Performance

The following observations are made.

- (a) According to the Action Plan for the year under review, plans had been made for the review of activities of 04 Government institutions and issue reports thereon while a sum of Rs.1,656,995 had been spent for reviewing purposes. Nevertheless, the Commission had failed to send final reports as expected and only draft reports had been sent by the end of the year under review.
- (b) It had been planned to review all science and technology institutions in Sri Lanka by the Commission and a sum of Rs.1.4 million had been estimated therefor. Nevertheless, no activity whatsoever in this regard had been carried out during the year under review.
- (c) An estimate of Rs.1.6 million had been made for the study of importance of the policies on science and technology while only a sum of Rs.34,541 had been spent for carrying out the study along with the activities of the Seventh Bilateral Conference held by the Commission. Accordingly, the cost borne had been 2.2 per cent. Thus, it was observed in audit that an overestimation had been made by the Commission.
- (d) Even though an agreement to develop the science and technology in ten sectors had been reached at the Seventh Bilateral Conference organized by the Commission at a cost of Rs.2,995,861, programmes relating to only one sector are in operation.

4:2 Management Inefficiencies

Even though the draft report on the policy for the National Laboratory Equipment Center had been received by the Commission on 30 June 2014, the final report had not been prepared even by the end of the year under review.



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 Auditor General's Department

4.3 Apparent Irregularities

Eight and half days of private leave granted exceeding the leave entitled for an officer recruited on 02 May 2014 had not been deducted from the salary as no pay leave while permission of the Prime Minister had not been obtained for proceeding abroad in terms of Section 10 of Chapter XV of the Establishments Code.

4.4 Staff Administration

The following observations are made.

- (a) The approved cadre of the Commission as at 31 December 2014 had been 19 and out of that 02 posts of Senior Scientist, 01 post of Information and Technology Assistant and 01 post of Management Assistant had remained vacant.
- (b) A sum of Rs.480,000 had been paid in the year under review to an officer recruited for the post of Senior Scientist deviating from the Scheme of Recruitment of the Commission.

5. Accountability and Good Governance

5.1 Internal Audit

The following observations are made.

- (a) An Internal Audit Unit had not been established in the Commission up to the date of audit while the internal audit work had been covered by the Internal Audit Unit of the Ministry.
- (b) The quarterly internal audit reports for the year under review had not been presented for discussion at the meeting of the Audit and Management Committee in terms of paragraph 09 of the Circular No.DMA/2009(1) of 09 June 2009 of the Department of Management Audit, while no audit queries whatsoever had been issued in the year.



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Auditor General's Department

5:2 Budgetary Control -----

A comparison of the estimated income and expenditure of the budget for the year under review with the actual income and expenditure revealed variances ranging from 10 per cent to 100 per cent, thus indicating that the budget had not been made use of as an effective instrument of management control.

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) Budgetary Control
- (b) Staff Management

W.P.C. Wickramaratne
Acting Auditor General

Answers relevant to the report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended on 31 December 2014, in terms of Section 14(2) (c) of the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971.

2.2 Comments on the Financial Statements

2.2.1 Accounting Deficiencies

- (a) Rs. 480,000/- to be paid within 2014 to Committees for reviews of Science and Technology Institutions, has been stated as accrued expenditure and there is a difficulty in stating all expenses to be paid as accrued expenditure as review activities commenced within the year could not be completed within the same year in certain instances due to reasons beyond the control of the institution.

Current situation

This accrued expenditure amounting to Rs. 695,000 has been correctly accounted on 30th July 2015.

2.2.2. Non compliance with laws, rules, regulations and management decisions

Reference to laws, rules and regulations	Explanation
(a) Section 5(b) of the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994.	Reasons for the delay in preparing this Review Report for the preceding year and the year under review are mentioned below. (i) Lack of sufficient scientific staff to devote time for this purpose. (ii) Difficulty in recruiting a consultant to prepare that report as members of the Commission had not been appointed until April 2013. (iii) Subsequent to the appointment of members to the Commission in April, 2013, priority had to be given to the Biennial Conference on Science and Technology held in 2014. However, actions have been taken by now to prepare a single Review Report for 2013 and 2014. The report prepared for 2012 has been referred to the relevant Ministry by now.
(b) Section 3.1 of Public Enterprise Circular No. 58(2) dated 15 th September 2011.	Failure to deduct this withholding tax was due to a mistake. Action will be taken to deduct 10% withholding

tax in future in paying allowances to the members of the Commission and withholding tax relevant to the payment of allowances of Commission members worth Rs.272,000.00 is expected to be recovered after making them aware of it.

N.B: The amount of withholding tax has already been recovered from the members of the Commission, by now.

- (c) National Procurement Agency
Circular No. 9 of 01 March 2006,
Paragraph 2.7.7

An external person with a sound knowledge on procurement process has already been appointed to the Regional Procurement Committee by now.

2.2.3 Transactions not supported by Adequate Authority

Our institution requested an approval from the Department of Management Services for the recruitment of Consultants and Research Assistants and the approval has been granted through the Secretary to the Ministry as per the letter reference No. DMS/ERST/21-7 dated 08 April 2004. In terms of this letter, permission has been granted to our institution to recruit Consultants and Research Assistants without seeking the approval of the Department of Management Services repeatedly and it is not mentioned in the said letter that the approval of the secretary to the ministry should be taken for that as pointed out by you.

4. Review of Operations

4.1 Performance

- (a) After the draft reports of the 4 institutions that were reviewed have been referred by our institution to the said institutions, a report containing the comments of those institutions on the matters contained in those reports has to be sent to us and the final report is prepared after that. These institutions had not submitted their comments by the end of 2014. Therefore, the Commission was not able to prepare the final reports. However, final reports of 2 institutions (Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, National Research Council) have been prepared and sent to those institutions by now. One other institution has submitted their comments on the draft report of that institution (Sri Lanka Standards Institute) and actions have been taken by us to prepare the final report accordingly. The other institution, Atomic Energy Authority, has requested a power point presentation to brief the report provided by us to collect their

comments and the Commission has informed them to set a date for that.

Current situation

Final reports of all four institutions (that is Sri Lanka Accreditation Board, National Research Council, Sri Lanka Standards Institute and Atomic Energy Authority) have been prepared and submitted to those institutions by now.

- (a) Reviewing all Science and Technology Institutes in Sri Lanka was not possible as planned due to lack of scientific staff that has prevailed in the institution for some time, and as more attention had to be paid to the seventh biennial conference as arrangements had been made to hold it in July 2014.
- (c) In preparing the annual budget, even though the institution estimated the funds for the study of Science and Technology policy issues of current importance and for the seventh biennial conference separately, those studies also were carried out under the activities of that conference as the topics that were identified as studies important in relation to Science and Technology policies matched with the theme of the biennial conference which was decided subsequent to the preparation of estimates.
- (e) Science and Technology Investment Plan relevant to 10 focus areas discussed, was to be implemented through the then Ministry of Technology and Research. There is a delay in implementing that plan as a result of the change of Ministries. This investment plan is due to be implemented from 2015 onward. Some activities are being carried out by now under one of the areas, water.

4.2 Management Inefficiencies

- (b) A consultant has been appointed to improve and re-draft the draft report on the policy for National Laboratory Equipment Centre and the work on this final report got delayed because the said consultant, being a University Lecturer, was busy in her profession. Nevertheless the final report has been submitted to the Commission by now.

4.3 Apparent Irregularities

When the relevant officer submitted his leave application to the Commission, approval was granted because the training was relevant to the duties of the institution (Capacity building on policy making). Therefore, out of the total number of leave taken by him, as 12 days have been approved as duty leave, the number of casual leave he has taken is 4 ½ days. Accordingly he has not exceeded the number of leave he is entitled to.

N.B. : Answer to the statement that the Hon. Prime Minister's approval had not been obtained for overseas leave in terms of Section 10 of Chapter XV of the Establishment Code that was added to the original Audit Query is given below.

Only the permission of the line Ministry was obtained as he received this training opportunity in personal capacity of the said officer. At the same time, he was granted duty leave as the training was relevant to the duties of the Commission.

4.4 Staff Administration

- (a) Even though three applicants were selected for the post of Senior Scientist, only one applicant reported for duty. Further, applications were called to fill the two remaining vacancies and one applicant was selected after the interviews held on 06.06.2014. But that applicant declined to accept the post as the relevant salary was not sufficient for the post.

As the qualifications for the post of Management Assistant have been amended by the letter DMS / Policy / 03 dated 01st November 2013 mentioned in Management Services Circular No. 30, the said amendments have to be approved by the Department of Management Services prior to the calling for applications. A letter seeking approval for this purpose has been sent to the Department of Management Services through the Line Ministry on 02nd January 2016.

N.B. : This Audit Query has been amended based on the explanation provided by the Commission in answering the draft Auditor General's Report 14(2)C.

Current Situation

The approved scientific cadre of the National Science and Technology Commission consists of four senior scientists and despite the attempts made to fill three vacancies by publishing newspaper advertisements on four occasions since 2011, even by 2015, only one vacancy could be filled. Therefore, approval of the Department of Management Services has been obtained by now for two posts of Scientist, suppressing two posts of Senior Scientist. The scheme of recruitment for that post has been prepared and referred to the Department of Management Services for approval on 16.07.2015.

An officer was recruited to the Post of Information Communication Technology/Data base Associate on 24.08.2015.

- (b) Knowledge in Economics is also very important in Policy making. Therefore a first degree in Science and a postgraduate degree in Economics form an appropriate combination of qualifications for Science and Technology Policy making.

It was decided to recruit the officer selected for this post as he possessed those qualifications.

This qualification has been included in the SOR as "a post graduate degree qualification (Master's) in a relevant field."

N.B. : He has been paid not Rs. 480,000.00 but Rs. 461,380.98 as the salary he is entitled to from 02.05.2014 , the date he was recruited up to December 2014.

5. Accountability and Good Governance

5.1 Internal Audit

- (a) Internal Auditor of the Ministry has been informed in this regard.

5.2 Budgetary Control

Even though the Budget estimate of the Commission was Rs. 37 million, the actual expenditure by 31 December 2014 was Rs. 28 million and the reasons for RS. 9 million remained unspent are given below.

Reasons for the balance in recurrent expenditure in 2014 :

- Salaries and wages

There was a balance in above provisions due to the failure to recruit, as scheduled, to 3 new posts for which recruitment was due, owing to various reasons and as no employee left the service even though provisions had been made for 2014 to make gratuity payments.

- Foreign travel expenditure

As no foreign trainings/workshops in line with the objectives of the institution were received, provisions allocated for this purpose remained unutilized.

- Stationary and fuel.

There was a balance in the provisions made for the purchase of stationery as certain science and technology activities planned to be carried out in 2014 could not be carried out as a result of the lack of scientific staff. There was a balance in the provisions allocated for fuel as well because the fuel prices were reduced in the latter part of 2014.

Reason for the balance in the capital expenditure in 2014.

- As advised by the Commission, the improvement work of the building was requested to be carried out by the landlord, provisions allocated for the improvement of the building were not utilized.
- Provisions were allocated for the purchase of air conditioners in 2014, based on the prices of air conditioners purchased in 2013. There was a saving in the provisions as the prices of air conditioners had gone down in 2014 in comparison to 2013.
- Not carrying out the annual review of the Science and Technology Institutions, appointment of study groups in Science and Technology policy issues of current importance not being necessary (Ref. 4.1 (c) Answer) and lack of opportunities for international activities related to Science and Technology caused the non utilization of these funds.
- It was planned to review four institutions and even though review of all four of those institutions was carried out and draft reports were submitted to these institutions, final reports could not be prepared as the reports containing comments/responses due from those institutions were not received by us. As a result, only the first installment could be paid to the members of the review panel. Accordingly, provisions allocated for paying the balance, could not be utilized.

N.B. : This Audit Query has been amended based on the explanation provided by the Commission in answering the draft Auditor General's Report 14(2)C.

6. Systems and Control

The institution will take measures to pay special attention to these two areas of control.

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