



# **NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**

## **Annual Report 2015**

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# **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 in 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 2015*

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

**Edited by: Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara**

**Compiled by: Sayumi Wijesinghe**

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## **Our 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 sustainable development...”**



## Commission Members

### **Prof. D. A. Tantrigoda** Chairman

Chair and Senior Professor of Physics, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (2004 to present); Professor of Physics, University of Sri Jayawardanepura (1996–2004); Technical Consultant, Petroleum Resources Development Secretariat (2012); Lead Consultant, Policy and Strategy unit, Ministry of Higher education (2007 – 2008); Visiting Research Fellow, University of Edinburg (1993 – 1994).



### **Prof. R. T. Cumaranatunga**



Senior Professor & 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 and 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).
- CPS –Chairperson (2005), Committee member (2003-2008, 2011)
- Science Education Committee-Chairperson (2011)

### **Prof. A. A. P. S. Manamperi**

Senior Lecturer, Molecular Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya . Consultant Molecular Biologist, Durdans Hospital (2007 to date); Consultant Technical Assessor, SLAB (2008 to date); Tutor/Demonstrator, University of Kelaniya(1997-1998); Research Assistant, University of Colombo (1998)



### **Dr. S. S.**



Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa; 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).

## Namasivayam

### 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);



### 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. J. Wattavidanage

Senior Lecturer in Zoology, The Open University; 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).



**Prof. Narada  
Wanasooriya  
(from August,  
2015)**





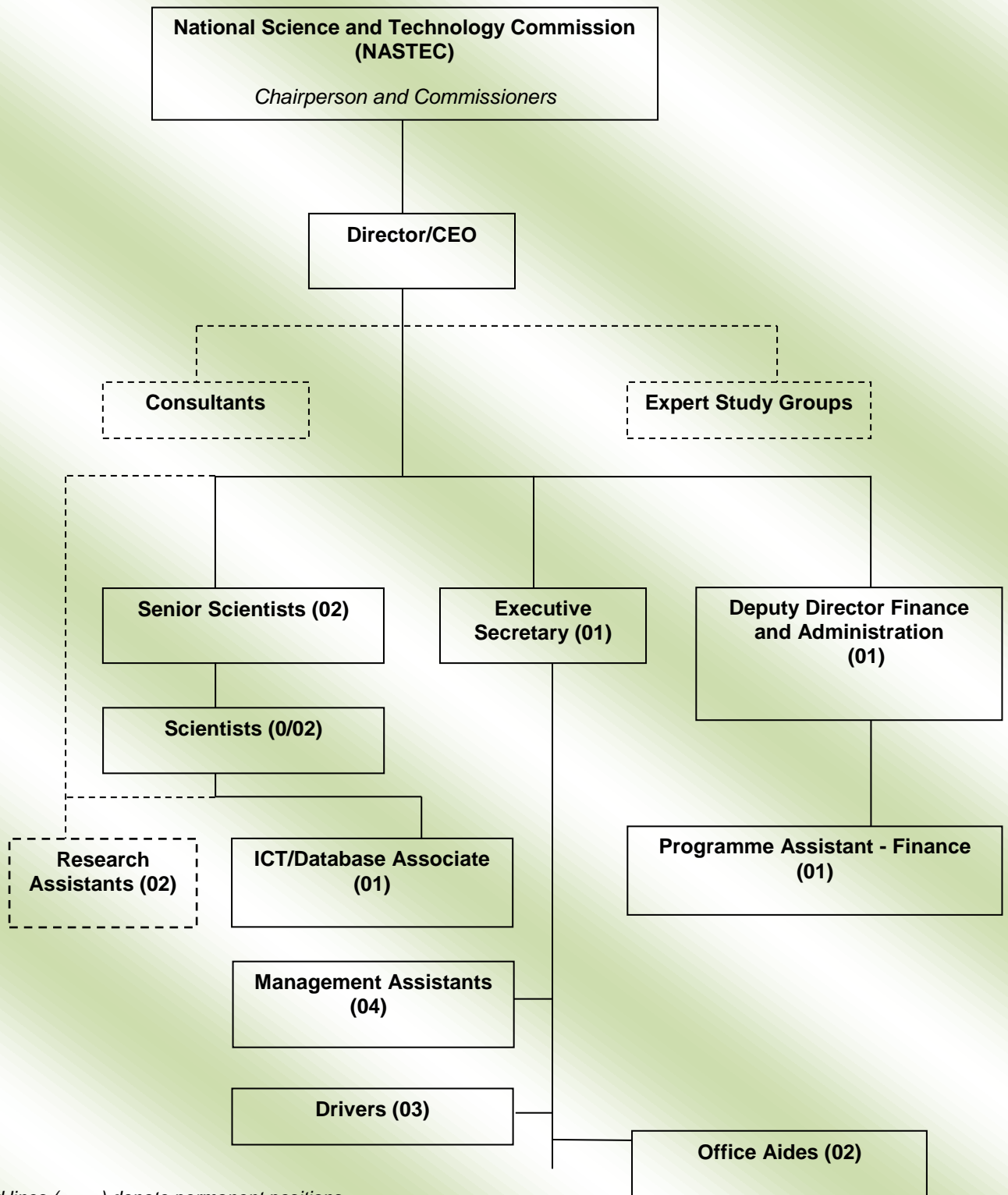
Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, Senior Professor of Pediatrics, Kothalawa Defense University of Sri Jayewardenepura ( 2005- 2009); Vice Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura ( 2005- 2008); Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (2004-2005); Professor and Head of the Department of Pediatrics, USJP (1997- 2005); Senior Lecturer and Head, Departments of Pediatrics, USJP (1996- 1997); Senior Consultant Pediatrician, Postgraduate Tutor, Armed Forces Hospital, Tabuk Saudi Arabia (1989-1996).

### **Dr. A.M.Mubarak (From August, 2015)**



Director/CEO of the Industrial Technology Institute (Formerly CISIR) (2002-2012); Served on the Boards/ Councils of the University of Colombo, Post Graduate Institute of Science (PGIS), National Engineering Research & Development Centre (NERDC), Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB), and National Authority, Chemical Weapons Convention; Board Member, Rehabilitation of Persons, Properties and Industries Authority (REPPIA); Vice President of the National Academy of Sciences, Sri Lanka; a Past General President of Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science; Past President of Institute of Chemistry, Ceylon; Independent non-executive Director of Union Chemicals Lanka PLC, EB Creasy & Co PLC, Darly Butler PLC, Muller & Phipps (Ceylon) PLC and Laxapana Batteries PLC.

- **The Chairman heads the Commission**
- **The Director is the Chief Executive Officer**
- **The Scientific Programme Managers facilitate and manage Expert Study Groups and Consultative fora, which produce policies, plans, reports, and other NASTEC documents.**
- **The Executive Secretary is the secretary to the Commission and also functions as the Office Manager.**
- **The Accountant manages all financial matters.**
- **Consultants and Research Assistants hired on need-basis carry out specialized tasks and assignments as required by the Commission.**



Solid lines ( \_\_\_ ) denote permanent positions.  
 Broken lines ( - - - ) denote temporary positions

# Science and Technology Review

## *Annual Review of the Status of S&T in the Country*

NASTEC is mandated to submit a report to the Government, reviewing the S&T activities in the preceding year, in relation to the objects set out in section 2 of the S&T Development Act No. 11 of 1994 and on the effectiveness of public spending on S&T for development of human resources, performance of S&T institutions, and the utilization of technology by public and private sector undertakings. This report provides valuable information for policymaking at the national level.

NASTEC started the survey in obtaining information to prepare the above report early 2014. For this purpose, the questionnaire was developed to collect data pertaining to the years 2013 and 2014. Liaison Officers were appointed, one from each 29 Government S&T institutions. Subsequently, a workshop was conducted by NASTEC for these liaison officers and the questionnaire was discussed with them in detail. In mid-2014, NASTEC received filled questionnaires from 28 S&T institution. Those were entered into the database and analysed. The draft S&T Status report 2013 has been prepared in the end of 2015.

## *Review of S&T Institutions*

NASTEC is mandated by the Science and Technology Development Act No 11 of 1994 to review and report to the Government, the progress of Science and Technology institutions.

The institutions scheduled to be reviewed during the year 2015 were National Research Council (NRC) ,Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB), and Sri Lanka Standard Institute (SLSI).

### **Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI)**

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

The first review panel meeting was held at NASTEC on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to plan the review and this plan was further developed at the first meeting held with the Management of SLSI on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014. 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 services offered by SLSI.

First draft of the review report was submitted to SLSI in December 2014 for it comments and the final report was completed after receiving the comments from SLSI in May 2015.

### **National Research Council (NRC)**

Review of NRC was started in 2014 and ended in early 2015. The review team consisted of the following members.

- *Prof. M. J. S. Wijeyaratne, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya (Chairman of the Panel)*
- *Prof. Kemal Deen, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya*
- *Prof. Kamal B. Gunaherath, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Open University of Sri Lanka*
- *Prof. W. G. D. Dharmarathne, Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Ruhuna*



The Self-Assessment report of NRC was received by NASTEC in August 2014. The first meeting of the review panel was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September at NASTEC. The panel made two visits to NRC and had discussions with the staff. They also had the discussions with the stakeholders of NRC too. The review report was completed by incorporating the comments given by NRC in February 2015. The review includes the following findings in brief.

The NRC has strongly contributed to technology development, publication of research, providing services to S&T community and providing necessary training to its staff. 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 and publish them in internationally reputed journals. Of the nine management aspects evaluated, seven were judged to be strong. These management aspects are of institutional response to external and internal environment in planning organizational strategy, planning S & T programmes and setting priorities, planning S & T and R & D projects, project management and maintenance of quality, human resource management, management of organizational assets and coordinating and integrating the internal functions/units/activities. The other two management aspects, namely managing information dissemination and partnership, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting 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)**

Review of SLAB was started soon after receiving the Self-Assessment report compiled by them in August 2014 and the review was completed in February 2015. NASTEC appointed the following experts as the review panel to carry out the review.

- *Prof. T. R. Ariyaratna, Department of Physics, University of Colombo (Chairman of the Panel)*
- *Prof. J.C.N Rajendra, Department of Physics, Open University of Sri Lanka*
- *Prof. S.S. Colombage, Retired professor of Economics, Retired Senior Officer, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.*
- *Prof. Laleen Karunanayake, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayewardenepura*

Initially, review panel met at NASTEC and subsequently they made three visits to the SLAB to have discussions with the staff and the higher officers. Finally, review panel had the discussions with the stakeholders of SLAB and compiled the report in late 2014. The final report was completed after receiving the comments from SLAB in February 2015. The summary of the findings are given below.

Within the 8 years of existence, at the end of 2013, the SLAB had accredited 41 testing laboratories, 4 calibration laboratories, 13 medical laboratories and 5 certification bodies, and 1 inspection body. Under 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 which facilitates market access for Sri Lankan products. SLAB has strengthened its financial position by generating



funds in the form of accreditation and training fees during the period 2011-2013. 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.

## International Collaborations

### Training Opportunities Provided through NAM S&T Center



The Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), India is an inter-governmental organization. Organizing of training programmes on scientific and socio-economic issues relevant to developing countries is one of its functions. In addition to the above, the Centre may perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by either a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the NAM countries or a Summit Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the NAM countries. The Centre may also, within the limits of its objectives and upon approval of its Governing Council, undertake appropriate cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies as well as with other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Training opportunities provided to Sri Lankan scientists through NAM S&T Centre – 2015

1. International training workshop on Herbal Medicine, India. (March)
2. Announcement on ZMT Bremen fellowship in Tropical Coastal Marine Ecology and Biogeochemistry was circulated (March).
3. Research Training Fellowship for 2015/2016. Announcement circulated among institutions. (March)-04 applicants from Sri Lanka have applied for this fellowship.
4. Announcement on Joint NAM S&T Centre – ICCBS Fellowship was circulated and Mrs. Wasundara Divisekara of ITI was awarded this fellowship.
5. Mr. Nuwan Kumarasinghe, Department of Meteorology participated at the symposium on Strategic Intervention to mitigate the hazards of lightning, from 11-13 August 2015, held in Zambia.
6. Announcement of Research Associateship on Nanotechnology was circulated and Dr. C. A. Hettiarachchi, University of Peradeniya was awarded with this Associateship.
7. Science Forum South Africa: Igniting Conversations about Science was held in South Africa during 8-9 December 2015. Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara, Director/CEO represented Sri Lanka at this forum.
8. DST (South Africa) Training fellowship on Minerals Processing & Beneficiation was circulated among S&T institutions.

## Other NASTEC Activities



## Young Scientists Forum (YSF)

The concept of the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) emanated from the World Conference on Science for the 21st Century, held in Budapest, Hungary, from 26th June to 01st July, 1999, under the aegis of the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Council for Science (ICSU).

This conference was attended by a team led by the then Minister of Science and Technology, Hon. Batty Weerakoon and included the Chairman of the National Science & Technology Commission, Dr. R.O.B. Wijesekera, and Prof. Tissa Vitarana.

The YSF was established under NASTEC in year 2000, with the objective of providing an opportunity for young scientists in Sri Lanka to voice their opinion on S&T related issues.

In addition the NASTEC in collaboration with YSF organizes skills development workshops for young scientists.

The YSF Symposium which was initiated in year 2012 has become a popular event as a forum that gives an opportunity for young scientists to present their research work to the scientific community.

At present the YSF has more than 600 members and the activities are coordinated by a steering committee elected at the YSF annual general meeting.

### ► YSF Symposium and the Annual General Meeting 2015

The Symposium was conducted along with the YSF Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI), Colombo.

The Symposium consisted of 53 oral presentations, selected out of 82 Extended Abstracts received by NASTEC. Each extended abstract was evaluated by 2 senior scientists, and the selections were done by the Young Scientists Forum steering Committee, based on their comments.

Invited senior scientists served as judges of each session and members from the YSF steering Committee served as session coordinators. Best three presenters from each session were awarded with Merit Certificates.

#### **Session Coordinators**

Agricultural Sciences	Dr. B. M. L. D. B. Suriyagoda, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya
Environmental Sciences	Dr. Indika Herath, Soil and Plant Nutrition Division, Coconut Research Institute
Medicine and Health Sciences	Dr. Menuka Arawwawala, Herbal Technology Division, Industrial Technology Institute
Biochemistry	Mrs. Lohini Athiththan, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Social Sciences	Ms. T. U. S. Peiris, Biostatistics and Agronomy Unit, Faculty of Livestock Fisheries & Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri

Lanka

Physical Sciences, Engineering and IT

Mr. Ashvin Wickramasooriya, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya

Biotechnology, Molecular Biology and Microbiology

Dr. Buddhika Aruggoda, Department of Agricultural and Plantation Engineering, Faculty of Engineering Technology, Open University of Sri Lanka

### Session Evaluators

Agricultural Sciences	<b>Prof. R.B. Mapa,</b> Department of Soil Science Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya
	<b>Dr. Sunil Trikawela</b> Department of Agricultural and Plantation Engineering Faculty of Engineering Technology Open University of Sri Lanka
	<b>Dr. Janak Vidanaarachchi,</b> Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture University of Peradeniya
Environmental Sciences	<b>Dr. G.D. Kapila Kumara</b> Department of Export Agriculture Faculty of Agricultural Sciences Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
	<b>Dr. Meththika Vithanage</b> Chemical and Environmental Systems Modeling Research Group Institute of Fundamental Studies
Biotechnology, Molecular Biology and Microbiology	<b>Dr. Banduni Liyanage</b> Department of Civil Engineering Faculty of Engineering Technology Open University of Sri Lanka
	<b>Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake</b> Director Agriculture Biotechnology Centre Faculty of Agriculture
	<b>Dr. P.A.D.H. Nayana Gunathilaka</b> Research Scientist Biotechnology Unit Industrial Technology Institute
	<b>Dr. Shiroma Hadunneththi</b> Acting Director Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

Medicine and Health Sciences Bio chemistry and bio technology	<b>Dr. Dilshani Dissanayake,</b> Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
	<b>Dr. Carukshi Arambepola,</b> Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo,
	<b>Dr. Dulani Beneragama</b> Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura,
Biochemistry	<b>Dr. Terrance Madujith,</b> Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Agriculture,
	<b>Dr. Sureka Chackrewarthy,</b> Department of Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya,
	<b>Dr. P. B. Galhena</b> Faculty of Medicine University of Kelaniya
Social Sciences	<b>Dr. Rupika Abeynayake,</b> Department of Agribusiness Management, Faculty of Agriculture & Plantation Management, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
	<b>Prof.S.S.Colombage</b> Retired Professor of Economics Retired Central Bank Senior Officer
	<b>Dr.Sepalika Welikala</b> Department of Social Studies Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Open University of Sri Lanka Nawala Nugegoda
Physical Sciences, Engineering and IT	<b>Dr.Asitha Bandaranayake</b> Department of Computer Engineering Faculty of Engineering University of Peradeniya Peradeniya
	<b>Dr.Chulantha Jayawardena</b> Department of Earth Resources Engineering Faculty of Engineering University of Moratuwa Moratuwa
	<b>Prof.Laleen Karunanayake</b> Department of Chemistry Faculty of Applied Sciences University of Sri Jayewardenepura Nugegoda



At the 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium the following young scientists were awarded with merit certificates.

<b>Agricultural Sciences</b> (5 winners out of 11 presenters) R.H.M.K.Rathnayake M.D.M.Chamikara L.D.C.Mendis B.S.Obadamudalige S.Santhuran	<b>Economic and Social Sciences</b> (4 winners out of 9 presenters) G.H.I.Anjalee L.G.T.Shanika M.M.R.Balasuriya D.T.H.Ananda
<b>Bio chemistry</b> (3 winners out of 6 presenters) W.P.K.M.Abeysekara N.S.Bopage P.K.G.S.S.Bandara	<b>Environmental Sciences</b> (3 winners out of 6 presenters) D.S.N.Munasinghe A.M.Gammanpila D.N.S.Attanayaka
<b>Engineering, Physical Sciences and IT</b> (3 winners out of 5 presenters) P.H.Perera T.N.Fernando D.S.Sampath	<b>Biotechnology, Molecular Biology and Microbiology</b> (3 winners out of 7 presenters) N.M.C.Nayanakantha D.M.W.D.Divisekera T.M.Erandika
<b>Medicine and Health Sciences</b> (3 winners out of 6 presenters) L.V.Athiththan M.Nadhikala E.M.S.Bandara	

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015**

At the AGM a new Steering Committee for 2015 was elected. The members of the committee were:

- ◆ Mrs. Lohini Athiththan. Senior Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Nugegoda.
- ◆ Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Senior Lecturer, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.
- ◆ Dr. Darshani Bandupriya, Senior Research Officer, Tissue Culture Division, Coconut Research Institute, Linuwila.
- ◆ Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake, Agricultural Biotechnology Center, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.
- ◆ Dr. Asitha Bandaranayake, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.
- ◆ Dr. Selvaluxmy Chelvendran, Principal Research Scientist, Herbal Technology Division, Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo 07.
- ◆ Dr. Indika Herath, Soil Scientist, Soil and Plant Nutrition Division, Coconut Research Institute, Linuwila.
- ◆ Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Moratuwa.
- ◆ Dr. Aminda Perera, Faculty of Business studies and Finance, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka, Makadura.
- ◆ Mr. P. Sivashankar, Faculty of Agriculture, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya.
- ◆ Dr. B.M.L.D.B Suriyagoda, Senior Lecturer, Department of Crop Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.



- ◆ Dr. Meththika Vithanage, Research Fellow (Chemical & Environmental system modeling), Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy.
- ◆ Dr. R.M. Nilanthi. A Wijewardana, Senior Research Officer, Institute of Post-Harvest Technology, Anuradhapura.

### **Workshop on “Work Life Balance for Scientists: Key to Success”**

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015, the NASTEC, in collaboration with Young Scientists Forum (YSF), organized a workshop for scientists at the Main Auditorium, Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo 7, on the topic, “Work Life Balance for Scientists: Key to Success”. The workshop was attended by more than 70 participants

The Objective of workshop was to create awareness on strategies for work-life balance to live a more productive and a content life.

The following resource persons conducted the workshop.

- ◆ **Self-Management for Work-life Balance**  
*Mrs. Sunethra Jayarathne Nugawela*  
*CEO, Sri Lanka Academy of Administrative Professionals*
- ◆ **Role of Team Work in Work-life Balance**  
*Mrs. Pavithra Wickramasuriya*  
*Senior Lecturer*  
*National Institute of Business Management (NIBM)*
- ◆ **Time Management for Work-life Balance**  
*Mr. Indika perera*  
*Consultant, Skills Development Fund Limited*
- ◆ **Stress Management through Music Therapy for a Balanced Life**  
*Dr. S. Siritunga*  
*Consultant Community Physician*  
*Non-communicable Diseases Unit, Ministry of Health*

### **Workshop on “Shaping a Successful Research Career for Young Scientists”**

Workshop on “Shaping a Successful Research Career for Young Scientists” organized by NASTEC in collaboration with YSF was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at the PGIA Auditorium, University of Peradeniya for post-graduate students and young academics. The workshop was attended by 73 participants. The participants were University Academics and Research Scientists/Officers attached to R&D Institutions. 3 guest speakers made presentations.

The following topics were discussed at the workshop.

- ◆ **Finding Funds for Research in Sri Lanka**  
*Dr. Nanda Gunawardhana*  
*Director, International Research Center, University of Peradeniya*  
*Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayaka*  
*Director/Agricultural Biotechnology Center, University of Peradeniya*

◆ **Path for a Progressive Post graduate Career**

*Panel Discussion Chaired by: Dr. Chalinda Beneragama  
Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture  
Panel Members: YSF Steering Committee Members*

◆ **Opening up of Post-Doctoral Opportunities**

*Prof. Missaka P. B. Wijayagunawardane  
Senior Professor - Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya*

## Workshop on "Writing a High Impact Research Article"

This workshop was held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015 Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) auditorium. It was jointly organized by the Young Scientists Forum (YSF) and the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC).

Purpose of this workshop was to encourage young scientists to share their scientific knowledge and experience gained through publishing their research work impressively.

This programme was attended by 130 participants and this was very useful for scientists and researchers who are keen on writing high impact research articles acceptable to standard national and international journals.

The following presentations were made at this workshop

◆ **Introduction to Workshop**

*Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena, Chairman, Young Scientists Forum, NASTEC*

◆ **W's in Publishing research articles**

*(Contents: Who should publish, what, when and where to publish and why publish)*

*Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya*

◆ **Do's and Don'ts in technical writing**

*(Contents: Use of proper English in writing, making sentences, common grammatical mistakes, spelling and terminology confusions, how to write unambiguous statements, avoiding vague sentences, 'complexity syndrome', verbosity and succinctness)*

*Prof. Buddhi Marambe, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya*

◆ **Stating 'Materials and Methods' precisely targeting reproducibility**

*(Contents: what to write and what not to write under the M&M section, how to write impressively, writing methods of measurements, proper use of SI units, writing statistical analyses, experimental design etc.)*

*Dr. Aruna Dharshan De Silva, Director/ Senior Research Scientist, Genetech Research Institute*

◆ **Presenting and 'Writing' tables and figures with sense**

*(Contents: choice of descriptive statistics, the choice between tables and figures, choice of charts, how to prepare 'scientific' figures and tables, adding 'self-explanatory' captions, how to explain a table/figure etc.)*

*Dr. Renuka Silva, Faculty of Livestock, Fisheries and Nutrition, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka*

◆ **"Results and Discussion" or "Results" and "Discussion"**

*(Contents: how to write the 'results' and 'discussion' sections separately and 'Results and discussion' as a single section, describing tables and figures, what to write and what not to write in both situations, 'marketing' your data)*

*Prof. Nazeera Salim, Faculty of App. Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenapura*

◆ **Creating a high impact**

*(Contents: what is a peer reviewed journal, print or on-line, open access or restricted access, predatory journals, 'business' of impact factor, h-index, 1-10 index, what you should do to get recognized etc.)*

*Dr. Seetha Wickremasinghe, Actg. Director General, National Science Foundation*

◆ **One-of-a-kind article: Avoiding plagiarism**

*(Contents: what is and what is not plagiarism, professional plagiarism detection software, simple on-line checkers for plagiarism, do you need to worry about this? Etc.)*

*Dr. Prasad Jayaweera, Faculty of Applied Sc., University of Sri Jayewardenepura*

◆ **Practical Session I: Spot-the-mistakes**

*(This practical session was based on the Session II. Here, the participants were given some small parts of articles with some mistakes to see whether they can spot the mistakes. Then they were given the chance to re-write those parts correctly)*

*Dr. Charmalie Nahallage, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura*

◆ **Practical Session II: Making sensible Tables and Figures**

*(This practical session was based on the Session IV. Here, the participants were given some data/tables/figures. They were given the chance to prepare 'scientific' tables/figures and then they had to explain the tables/figure)*

*Dr. Chalinda Beneragama, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya*

## **Workshop on "How to Write a Winning Research Proposal - a Definite Guide"**

This workshop was held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. It was jointly organized by the Staff Development Centre, South-Eastern University of Sri Lanka and Young Scientists Forum (YSF) of the National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC).



Purpose of this workshop was to encourage young scientists to write high quality research proposals to obtain research grants from local and international funding agencies.

60 academics participated in this workshop and this was very useful for participants in writing proper research proposals that would attract funds.

Dr.Pradeep Bandaranayake (Director, Agriculture biotechnology Center, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya) and Dr.Nanda Gunawardana (Director, International research Center, University of Peradeniya) served as resource persons and following aspects were discussed by them.

- Who is funding what?
- How to formulate your research problem!
- How to set your goals and objectives!
- How to define your research methodology!
- How to set your budget!
- How to put everything together.

## Our Staff

### Executive Staff

#### Director

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



#### Senior Scientists

Mrs. Asha Pitadeniya  
*B.Sc., M.Sc. (Peradeniya)*



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



### Deputy Director - Finance and Administration

Mrs. G.C.K. Peiris  
*B.Com (sp.) (Accountancy) (Sri Jayewardenepura)*  
*APFA, CBA (ICASL)*



### Executive Secretary

Mr. Rukman Cooray Bulathsinghala



### Support Staff

#### Programme Assistant - Finance



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

#### ICT/Database Associate

Mr. Niranjan Anurada  
BIT, Colombo

### Management Assistants



Mrs. Nilmini Perera  
B.Sc. J'pura



Miss. Sayumi Wijesinghe



Miss. Nishanthi Maharage

### Receptionist cum Telephone Operator



Mrs. Dakshini Karunathilake



## Drivers



Mr. H. A. Anil Kumara Hettiarachchi  
Pradeep



Mr. I. G. Jayashantha Prabath



Mr. Eranda

## Office Aids



Mr. A. D. Dhanapala



Mr. Nishantha Piyadasa

## Research Assistants



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



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



## Staff News

### *Events attended by the staff*

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Ms.Asha Pitadeniya, Senior Scientist participated at an International Workshop on “Promoting Socio-Economic Equity in South Asia” held on 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015 in Colombo. She presented a paper titled “Infrastructure Management in Science and Technology for Socio-Economic Equity”

Mr. Nishantha Piyadasa, Office aide attended training on “Office Equipment Control” organized by the Skills Development Fund Limited (SDFL) on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Mr. Indika Siriwardena, Senior scientists participated at an International Workshop on “Energy Challengers in the Knowledge Economy” held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015, Hilton Hotel Colombo ,.

# Acknowledgement

## Consultative Fora



### Steering Committee of the Young Scientists Forum

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| i) Mrs. Lohini Athiththan<br>Senior Lecturer,<br>University of Sri Jayewardenepura                | viii) Dr. Chulantha Jayawardena,<br>University of Moratuwa   |
| ii) Dr. Chalinda Beneragama<br>Senior Lecturer,<br>University of Peradeniya                       | ix) Dr. Aminda Perera<br>Wayamba University of Sri Lanka   |
| iii) Dr. Darshani Bandupriya<br>Senior Research Officer,<br>Coconut Research Institute            | x) Mr. P. Sivashankar,<br>Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka   |
| iv) Dr. Pradeepa Bandaranayake<br>Agricultural Biotechnology Center,<br>University of Peradeniya. | xi) Dr. B.M.L.D.B. Suriyagoda<br>Senior Lecturer,<br>University of Peradeniya  |
| v) Dr. Asitha Bandaranayake<br>Senior Lecturer,<br>University of Peradeniya                       | xii) Dr. Meththika Vithanage<br>Research Fellow (Chemical & Environmental<br>system modelling)<br>Institute of Fundamental Studies |
| vi) Dr. Selvaluxmy Chelvendran<br>Principal Research Scientist<br>Industrial Technology Institute | xiii) Dr. R.M. Nilanthi A. Wijewardana<br>Senior Research Officer<br>Institute of Post- Harvest Technology                         |
| vii) Dr. Indika Herath,<br>Soil Scientist<br>Coconut research Institute                           |  |



### Review Panel Members – National Research Council (NRC)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| i) <b>Prof. M.J.S. Wijeyaratne</b><br>Faculty of Science<br>University of Kelaniya | iii) <b>Prof. Kamal B. Gunaherath</b><br>Faculty of Natural Science<br>Open University of Sri Lanka |
| ii) <b>Prof. Kemal I Deen</b><br>Faculty of Medicine<br>University of Kelaniya     | iv) <b>Prof. W. G. D. Dharmarathne,</b><br>Dean,<br>Faculty of Science,<br>University of Ruhuna     |



### Review Panel Members – Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| i) <b>Prof. T.R. Ariyaratna</b><br>Department of Physics,<br>University of Colombo        | iii) <b>Prof. S.S. Colombage</b><br>Retired Professor of Economics<br>Retired Central Bank Senior Officer |
| ii) <b>Prof. J.C.N. Rajendra</b><br>Department of Physics<br>Open University of Sri Lanka | iv) <b>Prof. Laleen Karunanayake</b><br>Department of Chemistry<br>University of Sri Jayewardenepura      |

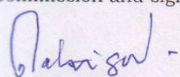


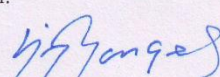
# Financial Statement

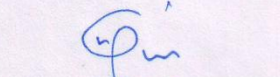
**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015**  
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

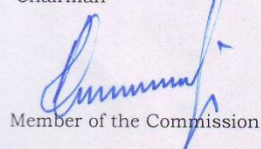
	Notes	2015	2014 Restated
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	672,270	323,797
Trade and other receivables	2	17,500	13,000
Inventories / Stocks	3	60,235	70,013
Prepayments	4	885,103	710,631
Staff Loans - Short-term	5	191,661	174,594
		<u>1,826,769</u>	<u>1,292,035</u>
<b>Non - current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	3,988,674	7,157,721
Refundable Deposit	7	1,275,500	1,275,500
Staff Loans - Long-term	8	421,259	375,420
		<u>5,685,433</u>	<u>8,808,641</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>7,512,202</b></u>	<u><b>10,100,676</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Accrued expenses	9	921,022	1,422,471
<b>Non - current liabilities</b>			
Deferred Income	10	2,894,974	6,946,934
Provision for Gratuity	11	2,430,916	2,263,734
		<u>5,325,890</u>	<u>9,210,668</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u><b>6,246,912</b></u>	<u><b>10,633,139</b></u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u><b>1,265,290</b></u>	<u><b>(532,463)</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS/EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated fund		2,831,946	2,899,822
Revaluation Surplus		2,589,250	1,629,300
Reserves		<u>(4,155,906)</u>	<u>(5,061,585)</u>
<b>Total Net assets/equity</b>		<u><b>1,265,290</b></u>	<u><b>(532,463)</b></u>

The Accounting policies on pages 01 to 02 and Notes on pages 07 to 11 form an integral part of these Financial Statements. The members of the Commission is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these Financial Statements. These Financial Statements were approved by the members of Commission and signed on their behalf.

  
Chairman

  
Director/CEO

  
Deputy Director  
(Finance and Administration)

  
Member of the Commission



**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**  
(all amounts are given in Sri Lanka Rupees)

		<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Notes</b>		<b>Restated</b>
Recurrent Grant		19,795,000	21,213,100
Capital Grant - S & T Services	12	2,135,900	4,688,500
Amortization of Government Grants - Depreciation		4,712,636	4,696,870
Income	13	563,900	290,613
		<u><b>27,207,436</b></u>	<u><b>30,889,083</b></u>
 <b>Expenses</b>			
Personal Emoluments	14	10,327,921	9,279,705
Traveling	15	79,142	550,541
Supplies and consumables used	16	406,549	410,077
Maintenance	17	561,694	753,456
Contractual services	18	5,617,363	6,372,063
Transfers	19	2,994,398	2,972,991
S & T Services	20	1,618,316	6,396,196
Depreciation and amortization expenses	6	4,712,636	4,696,870
Total expenses		<u><b>26,318,019</b></u>	<u><b>31,431,899</b></u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from operating activities		<u><b>889,417</b></u>	<u><b>(542,816)</b></u>
 <b>Financial Cost</b>			
Gain on sales of property plant and equipment		16,260	820
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period		<u><b>905,677</b></u>	<u><b>(541,996)</b></u>



# Auditor General's Report



## විගණකාධිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව கணக்காய்வாளர் தலைமை அதிபதி திணைக்களம் AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT



මගේ අංකය  
எனது இல. }  
My No. }

TEC/A/NASTEC/1/15/23

මගේ අංකය  
உமது இல. }  
Your No. }

දිනය  
திகதி }  
Date }

August 2016

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 2015 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 2015 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and 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 of Part VII 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, will be issued to the Chairman of the Commission in due course.

### 1.2 Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The 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 Auditing 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 judgement, 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 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 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 2015 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 Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standard 07

The following observations are made.

- (a.) Although the entire class of assets should be revalued, the Commission had revalued only a part of the Property, Plant and Equipment.
- (b.) When assets are restated at the revalued amounts, it is necessary to reveal the effective date of revaluation, whether an independent Valuer had been appointed, methodologies applied in estimating the fair value of the assets and important assumptions made.





However, such disclosures had not been made in connection with the Property, Plant, and Equipment that had been revalued.

- (c.) The fair value of the fully depreciated assets still in use, should be shown in the accounts after being revalued. However, it had not been so done in respect of the assets valued at Rs. 15,445,186.

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

The "Report on the Review of scientific and technology activities conducted on the utilization of science and technology by the Public and private sector enterprises in Sri Lanka in the preceding year" that had been prepared for the years 2013 and 2014 in terms of Section 5(b) of the Science and Technology Development Act, No.11 of 1994, had not been presented to the Minister in terms of the provisions in the Act.

## 3. Financial Review

### 3.1 Financial Results

The following observations are made.

- (a.) According to the financial statements presented, the operations of the Commission for the year ended 31 December of the year under review, had resulted in a surplus of Rs. 889,417 as against the deficit of Rs.542, 816 in the financial result for the preceding year. Accordingly, an improvement of Rs. 1,432,233 in the financial result of the year under review as compared with the preceding year was indicated. The decrease in the expenditure by Rs 5,113,880 despite the decrease in the income of the year under review by Rs. 3,681,647 had attributed to the improvement of the financial result.
- (b.) An analysis of the financial results in respect of 4 preceding years from the year under review revealed that , the deficit that continued from 2011 to 2014 had converted to a surplus in the year 2015. The contribution of Rs. 7,460,849 for the year 2011 after adjustment of the employees' remuneration and the depreciation on non-current assets had improved continually improved to Rs. 15,946,234 by 114 per cent in the year under review.

## 4. Operating Review

### 4.1 Performance

In terms of Section 05 of Part 1 of the Science and Technology Development Act, No.11 of 1994, the functions of the Commission include: advising the Government on policies and plans for the development of Science and Technology, strengthening of economic growth, health and





nutrition and alleviation of poverty, implementation of science and technology for the development of human and other resources required for education, training and research, preparation of policies and plans relating to the allocation of funds for research and development, submission of a report to the Government annually by reviewing the Science and Technology institutions in Sri Lanka, convening the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology biennially and providing a forum for the discussion of Science and Technology, and presentation of a report to the Minister in that connection.

The following observations are made on execution of the aforesaid activities.

- (a.) Action had not been taken during the year under review to commence the reviews by identifying the science and technology institutions.
- (b.) Although the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session of the Sri Lanka Conference on Science and Technology had been held in the year 2014 by spending a sum of Rs. 2,995,861, and an agreement had been entered into for the development of 10 areas in science and technology, the process had remained dormant.

#### 4.2 Procurement and Contract Process

Contrary to Guideline 8.9.1 of the Government Procurement Guidelines – 2006, security services for the year under review had been obtained from a private institution at a contract value of Rs. 763,477 without entering into a written agreement.

#### 4.3 Staff Administration

The following observations are made.

- (a.) The approved and actual cadre of the commission had been 18 and 15 respectively and as such there were 3 vacancies as at 31 December 2015.
- (b.) Action had not been taken to make recruitments for 02 posts of Scientist, and a post of Administrative Officer rendered vacant during the year under review. According to the Action Plan, it had been planned to commence 03 academic group activities during the year under review, whereas 02 activities had not been commenced. Although the final report of the activity commenced had been prepared, action had not been taken to issue the report. The Chairman of the Commission informed that those activities could not be commenced due to the dearth of staff in the Scientific Service that existed in the Commission over a long period of time.





5. Accountability and Good Governance

5.1 Internal Audit

An Internal Audit Unit for the execution of internal audits had not been established in terms of Financial Regulation 133 (1) (a) of the Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. However, an Annual Audit Plan for the year under review had been presented to the Commission by the Internal Auditor of the Ministry on 02 September 2015.

5.2 Budgetary Control

A comparison the budgeted expenditure of the year under review with the actuals, revealed saving of provisions on 21 items ranging from 50 per cent to 100 per cent. As such it was observed that the budget had not been made use of as an instrument of management control.

6. Systems and Controls

Deficiencies 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.

Area of Systems and Controls

Observations

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| (a) Procurement          | Procurement of services without entering into formal agreements.    |
| (b) Budgetary Control    | Saving of provisions due to failure to prepare estimates properly.  |
| (c) Staff Administration | Failure to take action to fill vacancies in the Scientific Service. |

H.M. Gamini Wijesinghe.  
 Auditor General

**Answers relevant to the report of the Auditor General in terms of Section 14(2) (c) of the Finance Act No.38 of 1971 on the financial statements of the National Science and Technology Commission for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015**

**2.2 Opinion in the financial statements**

**2.2.1 Sri Lanka Public Sector 07 Accounting Standards.**

(a) Noted to revalue the relevant class of assets during the revaluation of property, plant and machinery in future.

(b) This revaluation was done on 15.12.2015 by the Valuer of the Valuation Department for Colombo Metropolitan area and disclosure of this in the accounts has been omitted. Action will be taken in future for proper disclosure of the revaluation of the property, plant and machinery within the financial statements.

(c) Action will be taken to revalue these items in the coming year and report in the accounts.

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

Action has been taken to present the report prepared for years 2013 and 2014 to the Ministry

**4. Review of Operations**

**4.1 Performance**

(a) Reviewing of all institutions identified to be reviewed has been concluded by 2014. Out of those institutions, Atomic Energy Authority (AEA) and Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) were reviewed for the second time as well and it was observed that sufficient time had not lapsed to commence the second round of the review of the other institutions. Therefore it was decided to review Agricultural Research Institutes. Accordingly, Agricultural Research Institutes identified for review in 2015 are listed below.

1. Field Crops Research and Development Institute (FCRDI)
2. Fruit Crop Research and Development Institute (FRDI)
3. Horticultural Crop Research and Development Institute (HORDI)
4. Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI)
5. Plant Genetic Resources Centre (PGRC)
6. Institute of Post Harvest Technology (IPHT)

As Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy (SLCARP) also reviews Agricultural Research Institutes, a discussion had to be carried out with that institution and reach an agreement to avoid duplication of the reviews. A considerable amount of time was spent for that process. Therefore, review of the



said institutions in 2015 was delayed. Approval has been obtained from the Department of Agriculture by now for the review of these institutions.

- (b) Even though preparing this plan is the responsibility of the institution, the responsibility for its implementation is assigned to other Ministries led by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Research. However, Cabinet approval was obtained for this plan and it was presented to His Excellency the President on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 under the title “National Research and Development Framework” for implementation. If the Commission had functioned throughout 2015 the said task could have been concluded within 2015.

#### **4.2 Procurement and contract process**

Noted to establish a written contract when calling for quotations for security service again.

#### **4.3 Administration of the staff**

- a),b) Applications were called on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to recruit to the two posts of Scientists. Since a large number of applications were received, a written examination was carried out to select suitable people from the applicants who fulfilled the basic qualifications. The evaluation process is currently ongoing.

It was planned to recruit for the post of Management Assistant after the recruitment of two Scientists.

Recruitment for the Administrative Officer is currently being carried out. For that purpose a newspaper advertisement was published on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016 calling for applications.

### **5. Accountability and Good-governance**

#### **5.2 Budgetary control**

Although the Rs.52.9 million 2015 budget estimation of the institute was sent to Budget Department after getting approval at the Commission meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014, said department amended it to Rs.50 million. Also since there was no Chairman and commission members appointed to the institute during February to July 2015, the time was inadequate to carry out the activities as planned. Therefore the budget estimation was amended again to Rs.36.6 million at the 164<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Reasons for the remaining of 40% of the Budget estimates of the institution are given below.

## Reasons for unutilized recurrent expenditure in 2015

### Expenditure for foreign visits

Provisions allocated for foreign trainings / workshops were not utilized as foreign trainings / workshops that comply with the objectives of the institution were not received.

### Salaries and wages

Those provisions remained unutilized as recruitment due for 2 designations could not be done as scheduled due to various reasons.

### Expenditure for stationery, fuel, travelling, Research Assistant and printing and publications

As certain science and technology activities planned for 2015 could not be carried out as the Commission was not appointed and due to shortage of scientific staff in the institution, provisions allocated for stationery, fuel, travelling, Research Assistants, printing and publications remained unutilized.

## Reasons for unutilized capital expenditure allocations for 2015

- Nonoccurrence of a necessity for spending the provisions allocated for rehabilitation of property and plant.
- Not purchasing Air conditioners and computers within the year under review as the machines planned for replacement were further usable at optimum level despite the expiry of the expected useful lifetime.
- Rs. one million was allocated for establishing an intercom system with the expectation of purchasing a system of high standard. But in procurement, a system with all facilities in line with the specifications of the institution could be purchased at a low cost, those allocations remained unutilized.

### Science and Technology activities

Those provisions remained unutilized because the science and technology activities could not be carried out as planned as a Chairman and members were not appointed to the Commission from February to July 2015 and owing to the shortage of scientific staff.

As the above matters were beyond our control, budget estimates could not be utilized as planned.

## **6.0. Systems and control sectors**

Action will be taken to pay special attention to these three sectors of control.

Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara  
Director /C.E.O.