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 தேசிய விஞ்ஞான தொழில்நுட்ப ஆணைக்குழு
 National Science and Technology Commission



17/06
2014

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31/9, 31/10, හිමිලි ලේකම්ගේ මාවත, කොළඹ 8
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09th June 2014

Our ref. NASTEC/CEO/RB1/14/06/049L

Prof. M.D. Lamawansa
 Dean, Faculty of Medicine
 University of Peradeniya
 Peradeniya

E-NB
 S - amulya

Dear Prof. Lamawansa,

Seventh Sri Lanka Biennial Conference on Science & Technology (BICOST VII)

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) has been mandated by the Science and Technology Development Act of 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-economic development of the nation.

The seventh conference of the series is scheduled to be held on 07th July 2014 at Waters Edge, Battaramulla. The focus of the conference will be "*Development of a National Science and Technology Investment Framework for 2015-2020*". In developing this investment framework, ten most relevant areas where R&D is vital have been identified and the working documents developed in these areas by ten groups of experts, will be presented at the conference.

On behalf of the Chairman, Prof. Dhammika Tantrigoda and the Members of the Commission, I am delighted to invite you, to participate at the conference. If you are unable to participate, please nominate a senior official on your behalf to participate at the conference.

We would appreciate it if you could fill the attached Registration Form and forward it to the **NASTEC Secretariat by 20th June 2014**. You may also email your response to nastecsl@yahoo.com. The enrollment of participants will be on the basis of receipt of the enclosed form at the NASTEC Secretariat. Upon your confirmation, the programme of the conference and other relevant documents will be sent to you. In the meantime if you require any other information or clarifications about the conference, please do not hesitate to contact me at NASTEC Secretariat.

Looking forward to an early response,
 Sincerely,

Dr. Muditha Liyanagedara
 Director/CEO

Encl. Registration Form & an inception note

REGISTRATION FORM

The Seventh Sri Lanka Biennial Conference on Science and Technology (BICOST-VII)

07th July, 2014, Waters Edge, Battaramulla

Please complete this form and return to the NASTEC Secretariat on or before **20th June, 2014**. The information you provide will help us to correspond with you efficiently and ensure that your name will appear correctly on the Conference Documentation.

Title : Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.

Name :

Designation :

Institution :

Address for all future correspondence:

.....
.....
.....

Tel : (Official)

Mobile :

Fax :

Email :

Please delete/fill appropriately.

- ☐ I will /will not participate at BICOST VII.
- ☐ I have nominated Prof./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.
on my behalf.

.....
Signature

.....
Date

The 10 Interventions

For the issues identified in the ten focus areas solutions are expected to be found through R&D and other activities in the following 10 fields which we call interventions. Therefore, for each focus area there are 10 interventions in which solutions can be found for issues identified in each focus area.

1. Policy Studies
2. Pure and Applied Research
3. Promotion of Innovation
4. Application of Nanotechnology
5. Application of Biotechnology
6. Application of Indigenous knowledge
7. Intellectual Property Rights
8. Capacity Building
9. Application of ICT
10. Marketing and popularization



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National Science and Technology Investment Framework for 2015-2020

An Inception Note

Background

Many countries in the world, including those in the Asian region have made enormous strides in national development through timely and appropriate interventions of science and technology in areas relevant to economic and social development.

A comprehensive plan of action to gainfully utilize science and technology to respond to Sri Lanka's needs and its development agenda has become an immediate priority.

Recognizing this, an Investment Framework to carry out research and development activities in the form of 10 interventions on carefully identified 10 focus areas have been formulated.

Expected outcomes of this investment will be the enhancement of the quality of life of the people, and the enhancement of the economic development of the country through S and T based solutions.

The 10 Focus Areas

1. Water

Water is a basic and essential requirement of all living beings. Clean water is increasingly becoming a scarce resource in the country. With the increasing water shortages, provision of adequate water for agriculture has also become a major issue.

2. Food, Nutrition and Agriculture

Ensuring food safety and providing nutrition-rich food to the country's increasing population are some of the major challenges faced by Sri Lanka. While agriculture is essential for food and

nutrition, some of the agricultural practices adopted by farmers contribute to many environmental and health hazards.

3. Health

Sri Lanka is facing a threat from the increasing levels of communicable and non-communicable diseases. In order to have a healthy population that can contribute to economic development it is necessary to prevent, control and cure such diseases. The knowledge in indigenous medicine should also be scientifically analyzed and utilized to obtain alternative solutions for health issues.

4. Shelter

Cost of constructing a house is becoming increasingly unaffordable for the majority of the population. Establishing of environment friendly shelter provision using low-cost construction materials has become a major challenge.

5. Energy

Energy has become one of the most decisive factor in Sri Lanka's socio-economic development. Demand for energy is increasing at a rate of 7% per year. Dependence on fossil fuels for energy contributes to many environmental hazards as well as increased cost to the people.

6. Textile Industry

Textile industry is one of the major foreign income generator and the highest employment generator of the country. The issues here are high dependency on foreign inputs and low value addition.

7. Environment

Environmental issues are in increasing trend due to human activities detrimental to the environment. This situation leads to climate changes and environmental hazards such as

droughts, floods, earth-slips. Under-utilization of country's rich biodiversity and prevention of bio-piracy are also issues to be addressed.

8. Mineral Resources

Sri Lanka is blessed with many natural resources, including some mineral resources of best quality. They are under-utilized locally and export in raw form or with very low value addition. It is necessary to explore the so far untouched mineral resources and to improve value addition to existing resources for exporting.

9. ICT and Knowledge Services

ICT industry brings an annual income around US \$ 600 Million to the country. There is a possibility of increasing this by providing proper incentives and removing certain obstacles to the industry. Knowledge services should also be expanded into areas of statistical and mathematical modeling and other types of data analysis and forecasting.

10. Basic Sciences, Emerging Technologies and Traditional Knowledge

Today's basic sciences will give birth to tomorrow's technology. Investing in basic sciences as well as capacity building in emerging technologies is vital for the country's development. At the same time, proper use of the knowledge inherited from our ancestors may help finding solutions for many pressing issues of the country.