

*Announcement*

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON  
S&T POLICY RESEARCH  
AND  
STATISTICAL INDICATORS

8-10 NOVEMBER 2006  
COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

**ORGANIZED BY**



Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned  
and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre),  
New Delhi, India



National Science Foundation,  
Colombo, Sri Lanka



National Science and Technology Commission,  
Colombo, Sri Lanka



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## Introduction

The evolution of new global economy has brought about renewed interest in innovative perspectives that could guide formulation and implementation of science and technology policies in developing countries. Multilateral arrangements like World Trade Organization (WTO) are impacting their economy and domestic policies including the policies related to science and technology in a variety of ways. S&T policies can no longer be considered in isolation from macroeconomic policies and those in socio-economic sectors like food, agriculture, water, health, education, energy, trade and industry. The national S&T policies and their implementation should adjust to the new global realities and also satisfy social and economic goals of providing higher levels of employment, quality of life and economic vitality for people. The issue is how to facilitate innovation-led growth to develop relevant technologies or enable industry to acquire and adapt technology from abroad, and innovate. Many developing countries are at crossroad in understanding implication of new policy contexts and create S&T policies that are interlinked with production and service sectors, competition and the rest of public policies.

The emergence of new technologies such as information and communication technology, biotechnology, new materials technology and nano-technology has given rise to opportunities for development as well as issues of intellectual property rights. The question of using traditional knowledge and skills by adding value through modern science and technology has also become significant. The national S&T systems would need to address these issues and harness opportunities.

The decision makers in developing countries are in need of more and better information for the formulation and implementation of S&T policies. Such data may include S&T statistics and indicators related to expenditures and human resources devoted to R&D, education of R&D personnel, measurement of technological innovation, and S&T outputs like publications, patents, technologies developed and commercialized, technological balance of payments, and high tech trade. The issues in creating such statistics, analytical capabilities and indicators to provide policy relevant insights are significant and should be addressed.

Recognizing the importance of these issues, the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) with the approval of its Governing Council announces the organisation of a 3-days international conference on **"S&T Policy Research and Statistical Indicators"** at Colombo, Sri Lanka during 8-10 November, 2006 jointly with the National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka and National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), Sri Lanka and invites nominations from the government ministries/departments, R&D institutions and S&T agencies of the member countries of the NAM S&T Centre and other developing countries for participation in the same.

## Objectives

The Conference is aimed at broadly addressing the present S&T policies being followed in various countries with their degree of success and also exploring the possibility of coordination among developing countries on S&T policies. The

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main objectives of the Conference are:

- To deliberate upon current trends and emerging perspectives on S&T policy and implementation in the context of globalization,
- To delve on new concepts and techniques for development and utilization of policy-relevant S&T statistics and indicators, and
- To assess strengths and weaknesses and share experiences of the developing countries in the areas of S&T policy, S&T statistics and information.

### **Issues and Focus**

#### **1. New Vision and Governance**

- Globalization: Implications for Change in S&T System
- New Forms of S&T Governance and Catalyzing Innovation and Growth
- Harnessing Benefits from New Technologies
- S&T and Social Goals: Food, Water, Nutrition, Health and Energy Security

#### **2. Strategies and Mechanisms for Implementation**

- Evolving New Models of S&T Support: Role of State, Private and Public Sectors and Public and Private Partnerships
- Technology Acquisition, Adaptation and Diffusion
- Protection of Intellectual Property
- Mobilizing Resources - Financial, Human and Capital and Strengthening S&T Infrastructure

#### **3. S&T Statistics and Indicators : What, How, Why and Policy Relevance**

#### **4. Sharing National Experiences**

#### **5. Looking Ahead : NAM S&T Centre Network on S&T Policy, Statistics and Indicators**

### **About the 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 organisation with a membership of 40 countries spread over Asia, Africa, Middle East and Latin America. The Centre was set up in 1989 in New Delhi, India in pursuance of the recommendations made in various NAM Summits for the promotion of science and technology cooperation among developing countries. The Centre undertakes a variety of programmes, including organization of workshops, meetings, symposiums and training courses and implementation of collaborative projects and offers short-term research fellowships to the scientists from the developing countries in association with various Centres of Excellence. The Centre also brings out technical books and other publications in different subjects. These activities provide opportunity for scientist-to-scientist contact and interaction; familiarising participants on the

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latest developments and techniques in the subject areas, identification of training requirements and expert assistance, identification of technologies for transfer between member countries, dissemination of S&T information, etc. The Centre also encourages academia-research-industry interaction in the developing countries through its NAM S&T – Industry Network programme.

### **About NSF**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is a government organization established under the Science and Technology Development Act No. 11 of 1994. The NSF is the successor to the Natural Resource, Energy and Science Authority (NARESA) and the National Science Council (NSC), which was established in 1968. The NSF is administered by a Board of Management and comes under the purview of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The pivotal role of NSF is to promote Science & Technology in the country including the maintenance of an S&T database. It has a mandate to initiate, facilitate and support basic and applied research by Universities and science and technology institutions, promote human resource development in the country and provide the necessary support for development of national policies related to science and technology through the S&T management information system. NSF is also the central clearing house for the collection, interpretation and analysis of scientific and S&T related data. For more information about activities of the NSF the reader is referred to the website: [www.nsf.ac.lk](http://www.nsf.ac.lk)

Recognizing the importance of S&T policy research and the need to conduct policy related research for providing recommendations to higher authorities, NSF set up a S&T Policy Research Division (STPRD) in January 2005. An Advisory Board chaired by the Minister of Science and Technology of Sri Lanka guides the functioning of the STPRD.

### **About NASTEC**

The National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC) is the apex policy formulating and advisory body to the government of Sri Lanka on S&T matters. It was created by an Act of Parliament and came into operation in August 1998. NASTEC as a policy making apex body of scientists fulfils a need that has been highlighted for a long time by the Sri Lankan scientific community.

The objects and functions of NASTEC have been incorporated in the Science and Technology Development Act No 11 of 1994. The Chairman heads the Commission consisting of six eminent Sri Lankan scientists. The Director is the Chief Executive Officer and the Scientific Programme Managers facilitate and manage the Expert Study Groups and various consultative forums.

Since NASTEC staff does not comprise of experts in each and every field in S&T, there is a considerable dependence on consultant scientists. Therefore, as empowered by the S&T Act, Study Groups comprising the experts and consultants with prescribed qualification are appointed to work out matters related to S&T issues. The system of consultation also includes a Young Scientists Forum, a Senior Scientists Forum and a Forum of Directors, that contribute towards achieving NASTEC's objectives.

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### **Conference Participants**

The Conference has been primarily designed for the specialists and professionals from the member countries of the NAM S&T Centre and other developing countries who are engaged in R&D, planning and management on S&T policy and statistics. The participants may be from the government departments, academic and research institutions and agencies that are actively involved in the promotion, formulation or governance of S&T policies.

The selection of the participants will be strictly based on merit and the quality of the resume of presentation material to be submitted along with the completed Nomination Form. A pre-condition for participation in the Conference is that the participants must submit the final manuscript of their presentation material at least a fortnight before the commencement of the Conference.

English will be the official language of the Conference.

### **Conference Dates**

The Conference will be held during 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

### **Resource Persons**

The resource persons for the Conference will comprise of eminent S&T policy specialists from Sri Lanka and other countries.

### **Submission of Nominations**

Experts and scientists desirous of participating in the Conference, excepting those from Sri Lanka, are required to submit their nomination form directly to the NAM S&T Centre as early as possible but latest by **30<sup>th</sup> September 2006**. The form should be completed in all respects and no column should be left blank.

Participants from Sri Lanka may submit their requests directly to the National Science Foundation.

The submitted application should contain an extended abstract of the presentation to be made in the Conference.

### **Paper presentation**

The participants are expected to present Country Status Reports that describe the status of S&T policies and S&T statistical indicators in their respective countries.

### **Publication of Proceedings of the Conference**

The proceedings of the Conference, including the country status reports and key note papers presented during the Conference will be brought out in the form of a technical publication soon after the Conference. The scientists and experts finally selected to attend the Conference will be required to submit the full manuscript as per the Centre's prescribed guidelines at least 15 days before the commencement of the Conference (i.e. **24<sup>th</sup> October, 2006**).

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### **Conference Venue**

The Conference will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The exact venue will be notified in due course.

### **Financial Arrangement for Travel**

This is being conveyed separately to each member country of the NAM S&T Centre and other developing countries.

### **Local Hospitality and Travel within Sri Lanka**

All foreign participants will be received at the Bandaranaike international airport and would be taken to the venue of the Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Local hospitality, including accommodation, meals and local transport from 12 Noon of 7<sup>th</sup> November to 12 Noon of 11<sup>th</sup> November 2006 will be arranged by the NSF. The participants will have to make their own arrangement of stay beyond these days and therefore they should arrange their flight schedules accordingly.

### **Entry Formalities**

Visitors must be in possession of a current passport or any other internationally recognized travel document. They must be endorsed for travelling to Sri Lanka and have a period of validity of at least six months beyond the time of stay allowed in Sri Lanka.

### **Immigration and Health**

Participants of the Conference should have a valid visa for entry into Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan embassy / high commission located in the country of participants should be approached for obtaining an entry visa. If required, NSF, Sri Lanka will facilitate the issuance of a visa by providing the participants with an official letter of invitation.

Participants of the conference from yellow fever endemic countries must ensure that they obtain a Vaccination Certificate before arrival in Sri Lanka.

### **About Colombo and Its Surroundings**

Colombo is the largest city and the commercial capital of Sri Lanka. The official administrative capital is Sri Jayawardenepura, Kotte, just 10 Km (6 miles) away from Colombo. Sites of interest include the clock tower, the President's residence and plenty of colonial remnants. It is here that most of the gracious old buildings from the Dutch, Portuguese and British colonial eras are to be seen. The eastern part of the city is home to the Pettah bazaar district, which is an experience in itself and a good place to do a spot of souvenir shopping as well as brush up on your haggling skills. Further south is the city's seafront known as Galle Face Green, where locals enjoy games of cricket, fly kites or take evening strolls watching the sunset. The city's other main attraction is the Dehiwala Zoo, which has a particularly good daily elephant show. Those looking to brush up on some culture should check out the Art Gallery and the National Museum, which both contain some very worthwhile exhibits. The nearest beach is about 20 minutes away at Mt Lavinia although it is not as good as some of the more southern beaches. A major university, numerous colleges, the national museum, several Buddhist and Hindu temples, churches, mosques and many more attract visitors to Colombo year round.

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### Currency

Sri Lankan currency is Rupee (SLR).

1.00 USD (United States Dollar)  $\approx$  104 SLR (Sri Lankan Rupees)

### People and Culture

Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious country. It is a land of religious freedom and tolerance. It has a population of 19.5 million, of which the majority is Sinhalese. Buddhism is the major religion while other religious groups are Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Sri Lanka's literacy rate of 88.6% is one of the highest in Asia. Sinhala and Tamil are official languages in Sri Lanka. English is widely spoken and understood. Place names and signboards on buses and trains are usually in all three languages.

### Other Useful Information

Sri Lankan Standard Time is 5.5 hours ahead of GMT.

The temperature during the period is likely to be around 25-30°C min/max.

The voltage is 220 volts / 50 Hz.

International dialing code: +94

Internet Domain: lk

### Note

- **Individual participants or their governments / institutions will be required to bear the following costs:**
- All expenses in the home country incidental to travel abroad, including expenditure for passport and visa, required medical examinations and vaccinations and miscellaneous expenses such as internal travel to/from the airport of departure in the home country.
- Salary and other related allowances for the participants during the conference.
- Cost of medical insurance to cover the period of their participation in the conference in Sri Lanka.
- **The organisers will not assume responsibility for the following expenditure in connection with the participant's attendance in the conference:**
- Insurance, medical bills or hospitalisation fees.
- Compensation in the event of death, disability or illness of participants.
- Loss of personal belongings or compensation for damage caused by climatic or other conditions.
- Travel or other costs incurred by the dependents, who might accompany the participants.



### **NAM S&T CENTRE**

**Prof. Arun P. Kulshreshtha,**

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**Mr. M. Bandyopadhyay,**

*Senior Expert & Administrative Officer*

*Address, Tel. and E-mail: (O) as above. Tel. (R) 91-11-29941203*

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)**

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**Website: <http://www.nsf.ac.lk>**

### **NATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (NASTEC)**

**Prof. Nalini Ratnasiri,**

*Chairperson,*

*National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC),*

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**Website: <http://www.nastec.lk>**

*In order to avoid confusion, interested scientists from countries other than Sri Lanka may in the first instance please correspond only with the NAM S&T Centre, and not with NSF or NASTEC. All these applications will be initially processed by the NAM S&T Centre. Scientists from Sri Lanka may however submit their requests to the NSF.*



CENTRE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE  
NON-ALIGNED AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

International Conference on  
S&T Policy Research  
and  
Statistical Indicators

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA  
November, 8<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> 2006

NOMINATION FORM

(Please TYPE or use BLOCK capitals; No column should  
be left blank, otherwise the form will be rejected.)

Affix  
Recent  
Photograph

SECTION A

(To be filled in by the nominee)

- 1 Name (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms):.....  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Other Names)
- 2 Designation (Position held) .....
- 3 Nationality: .....
- 4 Date of Birth:..... Place of Birth (City) ..... (Country) .....
- 5 Passport No (If available): .....Place of issue: .....  
Date of Issue: ..... Valid upto: .....
- 6 Name of the Sponsoring Organisation: .....  
Full Address (Office):.....  
.....  
Phone: ..... Fax: ..... E-mail: .....



7 Full Address (Home): .....

.....

Phone: ..... Fax: ..... E-mail: .....

8 Educational Qualification: Highest Degree: .....

Year of Award: ..... University: .....

Field of Study: .....

9 Brief Bio data: .....  
(To be attached on separate sheet)

10 What in your opinion qualifies you for the participation in this workshop  
(To be attached on separate sheet)

11 Brief (1/2 page) Resume of your presentation in the workshop  
(To be attached on separate sheet)

Date: ..... Signature: .....

## SECTION B

### ENDORSEMENT BY NOMINATING AUTHORITY

(Applicant must get the following endorsement signed by the Focal Point of the NAM S&T Centre in his/her country or the concerned Scientific Ministry / Government Agency. For the name/address of the Focal Point please visit Centre's website [www.namstet.org](http://www.namstet.org))

Signature: .....

Name (in full): .....

Designation: .....

Date: .....

SEAL