



National Science  
Foundation:  
Models, Processes, and  
Practices in facilitating the  
National Economic Policy  
of the Government.

Ministry of Education

Sri Lanka Innovators' Forum - Gamani Corea  
Foundation on 24th February 2023 at BMICH

# Motivation.....

Let's be positive as we are a strong nation though, Sri Lanka facing its worst economic crisis since independence according to UN report June - Sept 2022.

It's the responsibility of all the citizens and abroad to contribute and share their knowledge to salvage Sri Lanka from its current predicament.

Thank you, Gamini Corera Foundation for creating a platform and inviting specialists from all over the world with a genuine desire to contribute their expertise and share their knowledge.

## Public Sector the driving force for development.....

- The public sector helps a country's economic development by promoting rapid economic growth through infrastructure creation and expansion.
- It generates job opportunities, which further contribute to the development of the financial resources of a country.
- In this regard public sector resources and capacity are critical for sustaining growth, managing risks and reducing poverty.
- At this juncture public sector Sri Lanka is in need of a change in organizational culture and that it needed to trickle down from the policymaking level.
- The public sector in Sri Lanka needs reforms, particularly State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) as in multinational companies which are performance-driven.
- The public sector should also have ongoing training for its employees to ensure that they are up to date in their respective fields and retain skills necessary for their duties.
- However, we need to note that in addressing to the present status of the country, public sector needs to take the leadership promoting private sector, creating a conducive environment for them to perform.
- **NSF promotes partnerships between the public sector and private sector in delivering its mandate.**

# Public Sector Reforms.....

- (My personal view) Public sector has to be strengthened like in other countries, developing and developed in ensuring material wellbeing of Sri Lankas.
- For an example Canada's civil service has played an important role in building modern society, social cohesion and economic prosperity.
- This kind of progress depends on the continued work of a high-performing, adaptable civil service according to Mark Jarvis in the publication called creating high performing civil service against the backdrop of disruptive change.
- In this regard we need to study the models of Singapore, Korea, Malaysia, and New Zealand as best practices.



# The National Science Foundation

- The National Science Foundation, which comes under the Ministry of Education , mandated to serve and strengthen the Science and Technology sectors in Sri Lanka, performs its tasks in accordance with the Science and Technology Development Act.
- Accordingly, the National Science Foundation facilitates research and development and innovation to create a knowledge economy.
- Being a premier scientific body in Sri Lanka, NSF also facilitates capacity building, infrastructure development, technology transfer, knowledge creation and sharing in all fields of science & technology to improve the quality of life of the people.

Technology is  
the key  
driver of  
economic  
growth of  
countries


- Understanding that the technology is the key driver of economic growth of countries as it transforms economies into large-scale industrialized, capital-intensive production systems which are competitive due to higher economies of scale,
- ...in facilitating economic development of the country , the National Science Foundation, as a hub institution with an extensive network with academia, R&D institutions and industry at home and abroad....
- .... initiated several National programs and projects in the year 2022 and 2023 with in its mandate in responding to change and new normal



## Holistic approach through partnerships. ....

- We expect those to be geared towards efficient, effective, timely, environmentally friendly, and politically neutral, cutting across class, sector, and nationality.
- Those also expect to bring solutions beyond the current practices in isolated areas and bring meaningful solutions to a plethora of issues by adopting a more holistic approach specifically through partnerships.

# NSF - Building a Healthy Nation through Food and Nutrition Security. ....

- The food security situation in Sri Lanka remains unstable.
  - Around eight in ten people are turning to food-based coping mechanisms to keep food on the table, according to WFP's August remote household food security surveys.
  - More than one-third of the population (37 percent) is now facing acute food insecurity, according to WFP's remote household food security surveys for August.
  - In considering this challenge, NSF in collaboration with the Food Security Division of the Presidential Secretariat introduced the National Food Security Program for Sri Lanka with a vision in Building a Healthy Nation through Food and Nutrition Security.
- 



# NSF in strengthening quality of TVET education Sri Lanka....

- The Central Bank of Sri Lanka declares that workers' remittances have been a key pillar of Sri Lanka's foreign currency earnings, providing a substantial cushion against the widening trade deficit and thereby enhancing the external sector resilience of the country.
- Being a major source of foreign exchange earnings, workers' remittances have covered around 80 percent of the annual trade deficit, on average, over the past two decades, according to the Central Bank.
- Therefore, it is the most opportune time for the Government to start assessing the quality of TVET education and produce more skilled, employment-worthy individuals through the existing system .
- Considering the country's high literacy rate and visibly unique high intelligence in youth, Sri Lanka unquestionably has the capability of producing perhaps the best-skilled worker fraternity to challenge competing countries.

Addressing  
high priority  
national  
concerns. ...

With that objective NSF has introduced a programme in Capacity building of vocational trainees/Instructors addressing emerging fields and demand in the global labour market harnessing the knowledge of expatriate scientists in the Global Digital Platform (GDP) constructed by NSF.

**The purpose is to connect expatriates to R&D institutions and other public sector organizations and match-making, addressing high priority national concerns.**

Now, we have connected expatriates for projects of national development of public and private entities.

NSF, jointly with MoE, will draw upon the expertise available in SL and abroad through STMIS and GDP to produce a future-ready STEM-savvy workforce

# NSF - Creating opportunities for cross-industry partnerships

- Being one of the leading R&D organizations in the country, NSF has identified the need of a platform in **creating opportunities for cross-industry partnerships** in their efforts:
  - To strengthen the manufacturing community
  - To support new partnerships and to help manufacturers with emerging technology,
  - To adopt sustainable solutions and transform their interventions allowing production industry in Sri Lanka, which has been lagging behind over the past years
- For that NSF has constructed the National Instrument Database



# Augment the culture of entrepreneurship in our country. ....Research and Development

- we NSF, expect that our involvement in research will augment the culture of entrepreneurship in our country.
- It can also provide solutions and learning opportunities to inspire the entrepreneurial minds in our country to build more businesses creating better opportunities.
- This in return will stimulate more efficient production of higher quality goods and services, on which our nation's prosperity depends.



NSF : to build a creative, innovative and entrepreneurial nation.

- Many countries are basing their aspirations for progress on innovation, placing it at the heart of their growth strategies.
- Successful research institutions need to be aware of the broad trends in research such as increasing collaborations and the formation of networks so they can support their research projects to bring economic benefits to the country.
- NSF facilitates to bring science to the general public, to disseminate scientific knowledge and to foster a scientific way of thinking among people.
  - In this regard NSF is planning to Introduce a novel and innovative TV programme to build a creative, innovative and entrepreneurial nation.
- NSF facilitates Ministry of Education in reforming and promoting STEM / STEAM education in Sri Lanka.

Power of  
partnerships  
..... to support  
government  
to build  
prosperity  
and resilience.

- We NSF believe in power of partnerships in delivering our mandate in strengthening our initiatives towards the economic development of the country in this transitional phase.
- NSF has supportive expert committees in facilitating our programs.
- Across the spectrum of economic challenges, we need private sector resourcefulness and cooperation to advance sustainable development.
- Thank you again, identifying, vetting, launching, and managing a mutually beneficial partnership between NSF and Gamini Corera Foundation enabling us to establish stronger programs and strategies to reduce the impact of economic shocks and support government to build prosperity and resilience.

# Conclusion..... make the process seamless for our external and internal partners.

- We believe that from strategic planning to final implementation, collaboration is key to the success of any economic development initiative.
- We strongly believe that the models and practices NSF planned and launched will facilitate the National Economic Policy of the government in addressing macro-economic issues of the country.
- Our mission is to make that happen and we do hope that this initiative too will immensely contribute to that...



JNSF celebrates 50 years  
with increased impact factor  
0.682

---

The National Science Foundation proudly announces that according to Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2022, the Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (JNSF) has raised its Impact Factor to 0.682 for scholarly articles published in the journal.

The JNSF was indexed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in 2008 and still the only Sri Lankan journal to be indexed in SCIE.



Dr Sepalika Sudasinghe  
Director General  
National Science Foundation

