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 சனாதிபதி அலுவலகம்  
 PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

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All Secretaries of Ministries  
 Chief Secretaries of Provinces  
 Heads of Departments/Heads of State Corporations and Statutory Boards

Establishment of the Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI)

The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the establishment of COSTI as the mechanism for coordination and monitoring of scientific affairs in Sri Lanka in August 2011, with the main focus on coordinating and implementing the National Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy that was approved by the Cabinet in August 2010.

The establishment of COSTI is in accordance with the functions assigned to the Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs by H.E. the President in terms of Article 44 of the Constitution by Gazette Extraordinary No. 1681/3 of 22 November, 2010.

This circular serves to inform you of the establishment of a Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) by the Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs, and to seek the cooperation of your Ministry and the institutions coming under your purview in regard to the activities of COSTI.

COSTI will function in accordance with the mandate of the Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs "to coordinate and monitor all scientific activities related to science, research, technology, industry, IT, skills development and engineering services with the objective of scientific development in Sri Lanka". COSTI will primarily focus on coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy by different line Ministries, Institutions and the private sector, and will report through the Minister (Senior) for Scientific Affairs to the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Science, Technology and Innovation, which will be established as part of the coordinating framework.

The main outcomes envisaged through COSTI are: (1) High tech industrialization to achieve rapid economic development, (2) Science and innovation led balanced societal development, (3) An inclusive development of a knowledge and science based society, (4) Internationally positioned enhanced knowledge creation and innovation capacity within Sri Lanka.

The **problems** that COSTI will address include (1) the present ad hoc, scattered, disjointed, poorly resourced national research that lacks a mechanism to harness the research output to benefit the country, (2) huge gaps in providing technology solutions to national development needs, (3) duplication of research efforts, (4) lack of public awareness of S&T activities and funding due to lack of coordination. COSTI will coordinate and work with your Ministry to identify, plan, promote and help to obtain funds for national research and development programmes that your ministry will have to be involved in implementing, so as to maximize the benefits from the investment.

A three year project which would facilitate the establishment of COSTI was approved for funding from the Consolidated Fund by the Department of National Planning of the Ministry of Finance in November 2011. A cadre of 41 was approved by the Department of Management Services. The Project Director is Professor Ajith de Alwis and he will work in close partnership with Professor Sirimali Fernando, the Sector Specialist to the Minister, who is the CEO of COSTI. The project office has been established in the Standard Chartered Building at Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 1.

Please extend your fullest cooperation to COSTI to operationalize the coordinating and monitoring framework by appointing suitable persons with adequate authority from your Ministry and Institutions to work with COSTI, and provide the required information and support.



Lalith Weeratunga  
Secretary to the President