

NATIONAL VISION

- ✦ *“The people of our country are now awaiting the victory in the ‘economic war’ in a manner similar to our victory in the war against terrorism”*
- ✦ *“Over the next six years, I will dedicate myself to increase our per Capita income to well above US\$ 4,000, thereby placing our country in the ranks of middle income nations”*

MAHINDA CHINTHA –VISION FOR THE FUTURE

OUR VISION

Prosperity through Inventions and Innovations

OUR MISSION

Be the leading catalyst in bringing out innovative capability of the nation

Be the forerunner of the facilitation process in converting ideas in to practical applications

OUR VALUES

- ✚ Inventors will perceive us to be proactive and supportive
- ✚ Government –As the service provider will see us as result oriented, well managed institution that takes effort to generate funds to be self sufficient
- ✚ Public –will see us as a people friendly government institution
- ✚ Staff-we will be a team committed to the cause of promoting inventiveness in the society

INTRODUCTION

Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC) is a statutory body established under the Sri Lanka Inventors Incentives Act no.53 of 1979 for the promotion and encouragement of Sri Lanka inventors and their manufacture. The official work of the Commission was started in year 1992. The Commission was set up initially under the Ministry of Trade as a parallel organization of National Intellectual Property Office. Hence some of the activities of the Commission were funded by NIPO. The rationale being the work the Commission yields in higher patent applications. Now the SLIC is functioning under the purview of the Ministry of Technology, Research and Atomic Energy and this source of funding is not available.

At the time the SLIC started its official work, the number of patent applications received by National Intellectual Property Office (NIPO) per year was around twenty five (25). Last year, in the year 2012 the number of local patent applications received by NIPO is two hundred and thirty seven (237). This figure reflects the creativity and inventive capability of the nation have been gradually increasing. But in comparison to some countries in Asian region such as Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia and India, our figure is considerably low. We as a Nation that is attempting to step forward a giant leap towards economic development it is crucial to identify the unique capability of the nation and pave the way for them to come forward for the benefit of entire nation. As a government institution, the SLIC with limited government funds allocations has a great responsibility to develop strategies

for make use of this kind of latent talents of the people focusing economic development of the country by generating funds to be self-sufficient as much as possible.

Inventions are first time solutions to obvious or latent problems. While innovations are adaptations and improvements to such inventions to suit market or user requirements better. For ease of reference throughout this document the **term invention** will be used to indicate both inventions as well as innovations. In General these can be grouped in to three categories.

Grass Root Inventions- these are simple solutions with low end technologies mostly mechanical. These generally do not command a high market premium.

Medium Level inventions- these tend to be combination of more than one technology such as electronic and mechanical know how. They generally have to compete with better solutions mostly from imported substitutes.

Advanced Level Inventions – inventions with high market potential developed using cutting edge research and technology

We have identified three factors that affect the quality and quantity of the inventions. They are:-

Economic Condition of the country- during economic downturns inventions tend to be more for cost saving and simpler

solutions. When risk free interest rates are high access to capital becomes an issue for inventors.

Education and Exposure – the overall quality of scientific education and the exposure the inventors have significantly influence the type of solutions they develop. This is quite evident from the type of inventions that are being submitted to exhibitions and for patenting.

Attitude of Society - how the general society, specially the policy makers, media and investors see the local inventors. These help them to commercialize their inventions. For instances countries like USA the highly developed venture capital markets and the Angel Investors have been key contributors to the success of inventors.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMISSION OVER THE PREVIOUS THREE YEARS

After a lapse of approximately fifteen months the Commission was reestablished by appointing the Commissioner and the two Assistant Commissioners in August 2011. Hence this brief overview capture the period from August 2011 to December 2012.

The first things the new board did was giving a new vision and mission to the institute, developing a corporate plan for the coming periods and motivating the team who are understaffed to implement the plan. With limited resources and limitations the

team was able to pursue the plan in a systemic way achieving goals.

The corporate plan had ten strategies and the progress is captured under those.

2011- FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER

1. Conducted the first ever national symposium for inventors with over 80 participating paying a fee.
2. Selected the winners for the 2010 Presidential awards
3. Commissioned a vendor to develop the web site
4. Signed an MOU with Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing whereby they will conduct annual seminar for inventors on Marketing Free of Charge.
5. Came to an agreement with Post Graduate Institute of Management and University of Kelaniya to partner MBA students to support needy inventors in developing business management capability
6. Conducted programmes for School Teachers promoting Inventors Clubs and activities.

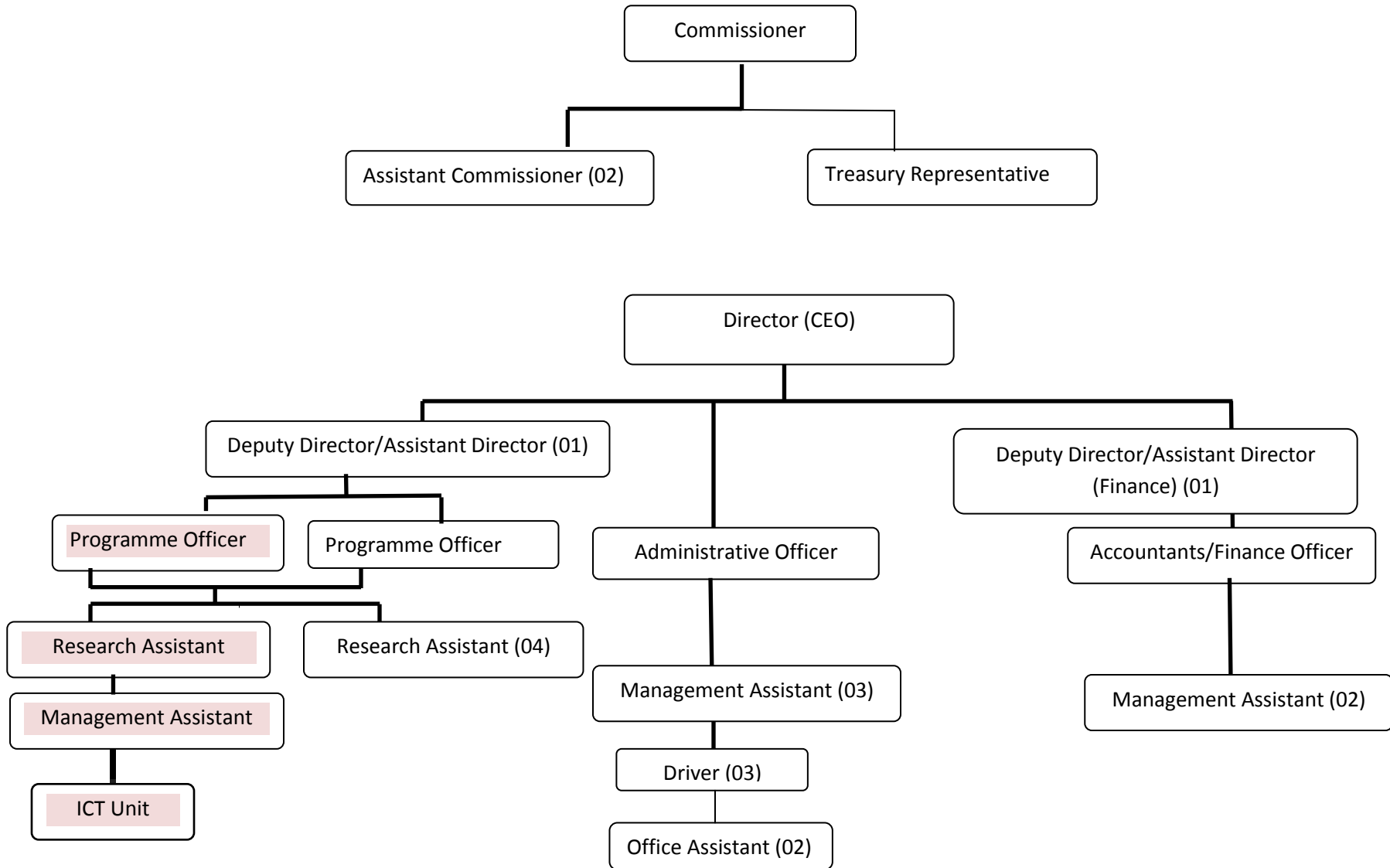
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE-2012

Strategy	Performance	Financial Progress								
1 Re position presidential awards aligning them to national development goals	<p>Held the event at the Temple Trees.</p> <p>Rewarded winners of 2008, 2009, 2010.</p> <p>Special TV programme on the awards ceremony and prominent media advertising to enhance image</p>	8.6 Mn								
2. "Sahasak Nimevum" national exhibition and inventions month to widespread innovative culture	<p>The first ever national exhibition of inventions and innovations was held at BMICH from 29th September to 1st October. 921 inventors over 1000 inventions. More than 500 student entries from all parts of the country.</p> <p>Four Participating Categories, 22 technical fields, special awards to winners in seven Nationally significant fields. "Dasis" Award to the overall winner.</p> <p>Significant private sector partnership</p>	<p>Cost incurred by the SLIC 12.88 Mn</p> <p>Value of Sponsorships</p> <table> <tr> <td>Awards</td> <td>2.55 Mn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Media</td> <td>4.6 Mn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TV Productions</td> <td>0.3 Mn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Refreshments</td> <td>0.1 Mn</td> </tr> </table> <p>Total Value of Sponsorships 7.55 Mn</p> <p>Total Cost 20.43 Mn</p>	Awards	2.55 Mn	Media	4.6 Mn	TV Productions	0.3 Mn	Refreshments	0.1 Mn
Awards	2.55 Mn									
Media	4.6 Mn									
TV Productions	0.3 Mn									
Refreshments	0.1 Mn									

Strategy	Performance	Financial Progress
<p>3.Revitalize school level programmes leveraging the power of electronic media</p>	<p>Conduct 02 regional programmes to educate teachers, directors</p> <p>08 student seminars</p> <p>09 Sessions in all nine provinces to select candidates for the Sahasak Nimewum, National Exhibition</p> <p>Commenced the first ever Television Reality Show to promote innovation.</p> <p>First series will cover 30 weeks</p> <p>Obtained co-sponsorship from Sampath Bank</p>	<p>Total cost 12 Mn</p> <p>Sponsorship Value Rs.1.5 Mn</p>
<p>4. Facilitate greater access to funds and to private sector for inventors.</p> <p>5. Empower inventors through provision of knowledge and access to expertise</p>	<p>Short listed potential inventors from among winners of Sahasak Nimevum through a transparent system to be given grants.</p> <p>Number of inventors introduced to PIM experts for support.</p> <p>Provided down loadable book on patenting and a Non-Disclosure Agreement through the web site</p>	<p>Free of Charge</p>

Strategy	Performance	Financial Progress
6. Web strategy as a key enabler	<p>Launched a comprehensive web site that can act as a buyer seller mart, a place to show case, meet potential investors etc. and to gain knowledge.</p> <p>The web site is actively managed and updated with latest information.</p> <p>On average it receives over 500 unique visitors a month.</p>	Rs.0.322 Mn
7.International recognition for our inventors	<p>Fully sponsored the 2010 Presidential Award winner to Geneva Exhibition. He and the other person won a Gold and Silver awards respectively. They were welcomed at VIP Lounge at BIA and arrange front page and prime time news coverage.</p> <p>Promoted international exhibitions and competitions among local inventors</p>	0.8 Mn
8. Update the act to reflect the needs of the day	With the assistance of the Secretary of the MORT&AE the amendments were drafted and submitted	
9. Capability development of the staff	<p>A special workshop for the whole team was conducted</p> <p>In addition officers were nominated to 10 job related training programmes</p>	Rs.0.063 Mn
10.Strong governance framework	<p>Board Meetings are Held Monthly</p> <p>All outstanding audit queries responded</p>	

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION



ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN –SWOT ANALYSIS

The following key issues are identified and will be addressed by the Strategic Plan

Ref	Observation	S W O T	Issue	Possible Action
01	Even after a lapse of several years over 1500 students submitted their inventions to be considered for the provincial level competitions. Over 500 took part at the “Sahask Nimevum” Exhibition. With limited media exposure over 10,000 students visited the exhibition. Entries came from all parts of the island.	S	There is potential to be leveraged to promote inventiveness in the school system.	Build on the Young Inventors Club Programme to make it a popular programme
02	There is a system within the MOE to promote inventors clubs in 1AB, 1C and type 2, & 3 schools. (1AB with A/L classes on all three streams, 1C Without Science either Arts or Commerce or Both, 2 Only up to O/L, Primary Up to grade 5). 1AB 716, 1C 2027, Type2- 4045, type 3 2943 It is estimated over 1000 such clubs are active across the country. There are 9 Provincial Coordinating Directors and 96 Zonal Directors in charge of Technology Education who are responsible for promoting			Stream line the school level activities Bring in private sector sponsorships to reduce the burden on the government in organizing regional level events.

Ref	Observation	S W O T	Issue	Possible Action
04	When IP infringements happen Inventors find it difficult to fight alone. Though the commission is expected to support in such situations has no capacity in terms of Human resources, nor the financial resources	W	Build internal capacity	Justify and recruit a legal resource to the commission
05	Commission is housed in a 2558 Sq. feet area in the LANLIB building with very poor infrastructure facilities and the continuity of the tenancy is doubtful as the owner is being liquidated.	W	Will have to find a suitable location and this will increase the operational cost.	Find an affordable suitable location to house the commission
06	In order to effectively carry out activities in Tamil Speaking areas the Commission does not have competent Tamil Programme officers	W	Inconsistency in delivery of service and inability to implement the language policy of the government	Ensure recruitment of at least one Tamil Speaking Research Assistant when filling vacancies during 2013
07	There is a long delay in getting patents by the inventors due to lack of competent persons to draft patent applications and the limitation of number of patent examiners at the NIPO	W	This becomes bottle neck. The reason is linked to the number of applications received and the level of technology involved as well,	Increase the patent application writing competency. Encourage inventors to apply for patents.
08	Following the Sahasak Nimevum exhibition and other promotions there is an increased enthusiasm to bring out inventions	O	Need to build on this enthusiasm and manage the momentum	Strong media culture Events and opportunities recognize and reward inventors

Ref	Observation	S W O T	Issue	Possible Action
09	Most of the inventions tend to be low tech- due to the degree of science education and the exposure	T	Formal and non-formal education need to provide exposure and education	<p>Increase opportunities for inventors to see latest developments in the world. Encourage universities and other higher education institutes to form active inventors clubs and initiatives.</p> <p>Explore opportunities for GRIs within the “Divineguma” Programme since at that level there can be opportunities.</p>
10	There are many barriers for inventors when it comes to implementation their ideas and commercializing them,	T	Position Innovation and Invention as a core item of the national agenda	Organize a high profile event with all stake holders including policy makers so the issues pertaining to inventors are identified and actions agreed
11	Still most inventors who interact with us demonstrate a dependent mentality. They tend to look for the government to provide support and buy their products	T	Empower them, and develop entrepreneurship	<p>Develop mechanisms so Inventors will have access to Capital, Market and Technology.</p> <p>Create a conducive environment for inventors to thrive.</p> <p>Create mechanisms to introduce inventors to the industry</p>

Ref	Observation	S W O T	Issue	Possible Action
12	Quite a number of inventions have very little market potential	T	Focus inventors attention to market trends ahead of the curve	Provide communication platforms highlighting areas with potential/ increase access to appreciation of marketing knowledge
13	There are a number of government agencies that promote and support inventions	T	Overlap of efforts and in efficient use of national resources. There are some inventors who have benefited from number of agencies to develop the same invention.	Share information at least among the institutions within the ministry

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2013-2015

The identified Key Thrust Areas are as follows.

Ref	Thrust Area	Key Strategy	Outcomes at national level	Reference to corresponding strategies
1	Quality Enhancement of Inventions	Enhance exposure and education opportunities so that the quality of innovations become more and more advanced	The number that wins national and international awards The number commercialized and the value generated.	1.1 to 1.5
2	Commercialization	Facilitate access to Capital, Technology, Markets	The number of innovations commercialized and the value generated The number of angel investors supporting inventors	2.1 to 2.9
3	Empowerment of Inventions	Empower and Enhance the Image of inventors and innovations becoming a key item in the national agenda	The amount of media publicity to innovations, recognitions offered to inventors by various other public and private organizations	3.1 to 3.7
4	Sustainability of the activities of the commission	Reduce Financial Dependency by bringing in corporate sponsorships	The proportion of funds that will come from private sector for various events organized by SLIC Number and amount of money provided to inventors by private sector	4.1 to 4.3
5	Capability Development	Develop Human Resources	Ability to implement proposed plans effectively.	5.1 to 5.4

1. QUALITY ENHANCEMENT OF INVENTIONS

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Exposure and Education to Promote more improved or technologically advanced Inventions.	1.1 Ensure establishment of Inventors Clubs in all the target schools.	No of Active Young Inventors Clubs	1250	1.75Mn	1550	2 Mn	2000	2.5Mn
	1.1.1 Conduct programmes for the regional directors	No of events	01		02		03	
	1.1.2 Get schools to register the clubs in the SLIC web site	No of Clubs registered	1250		1550		2000	
	1.1.3 Train the regional level judges to ensure consistency in evaluation of student inventions.	No of professionals trained	250		-		-	
	1.1.3.1 Provide a guide book in print form and as downloadable item through the web				-		-	
	1.1.2 Ensure regularity in zonal, provincial and national level competitions so there is predictability to the programme	Publish the dates No of Zonal level competitions	94 09		94 09		94 09	
	1.1.3 Bring in regional and provincial level sponsors for the exhibitions	Proportion of the costs borne by sponsors	10	15	20			
1.1.4 Engage private sector organizations to promote various competitions among inventors clubs leveraging the strength of having a data base.	No. of private sector organizations organized such competitions	02	-	05	-	10	-	

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Exposure and Education to Promote more improved or technologically advanced Inventions.	1.2 Develop Young Inventor Club TV programme to be a high profile reality show so that it can be a one hour programme with strong sponsorship support.	No. of telecasts Viewer Ratings.	30		30		30	
	1.2.1 Expand the programme to showcase international school inventions so the horizons are broadened.	No. of such international inventions telecast	-	04Mn	30	04Mn	30	02Mn
	1.3 Continue to develop programmes using student inventions to explain scientific principles and show them over learn TV and such educational channels	No. of telecasts						
	1.4 Constantly update SLIC web site with latest inventions in the world.	No. of hits to the site per month	around 700		around 1000		around 1500	
	1.5 Actively promote inventors clubs in private and semi government schools, Technical Colleges and Universities as well.	No. of Young Inventors Clubs formed in 1.private sector schools and registered in the SLIC site 2.Technical Colleges 3.Universities	10 15 02	0.25Mn	15 20 04	0.25 Mn	20 06	0.25Mn

2. COMMERCIALIZATION

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Facilitate Access to Capital, Technology and Markets for Inventors and their inventions	2.1 Establish a formal linkage with inventors, the commission and the private sector by establishing the Industry Inventor Round Table (IIRT) set up with the nominees from Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, National Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Young Lankan Entrepreneurs.	No. of opportunities received by the inventors	10	–	20	–	30	–
	2.2 Financial support for inventors through a proper selection criteria	Number of recipients No. who reached target after the grant Amount	20 16 Depend on the project	4.0Mn	25 22	5Mn	30 30	5.5Mn

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2103		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Facilitate Access to Capital, Technology and Markets for Inventors and their inventions	2.3 Propose to the government to provide triple tax deductibility up to 10 Million per year for investments in any inventor's project recommended by SLIC in order to create a culture of angel investors	MOF accepting the proposal Number of inventors Benefited Amounts invested	16	–	22	–	30	–
	2.4 Propose full tax deductibility to any promotional expense incurred by companies to promote inventiveness by way of recognizing National or Provincial Level activities that is recognized or organized by SLIC.	Number of corporate initiatives	05	–	10	–	20	–
	2.5 Recognize the contributions made by Media Stations and Publications to promote inventiveness in the society by presenting awards at the National Inventions Awards Presentation.	Number of awards presented Amount of coverage in media for inventors/ Programmes	02 awards 6000 col cm	–	02 awards 7000 col cm	–	02 awards 10000 col cm	–

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Facilitate Access to Capital, Technology and Markets for Inventors and their inventions	2.6 Continue to introduce Inventors to the Technology providers such as NERD, ITI to fine tune their inventions.	Number requests received	10	–	15	–	20	–
		Number benefited	10		15		20	
	2.7 leverage Sahasak Nimevum Exhibition to be a trade show where the inventors can launch their products and to market	The total value of the transactions made	0.05Mn	–	0.1Mn	–	0.2Mn	–
	2.8 Explore the possibility of part sponsorships for a separate advertisement in a selected newspaper on a regular basis to showcase products of small scale inventors.	Number of advertisements	02	–	06	–	12	–
		Sales generated as a result						
2.9 Develop a mechanism where GRIs can be bought under the Divineguma Programme and transferred to target recipients through the Vidatha Centres with a view to support the poverty alleviation programme.	Number of GRIs purchased by DNP	10	–	15	–	20	–	
	And number transferred	10	–	20	–	20	–	

3. EMPOWERMENT OF INVENTIONS

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Empower and Enhance the Image of Inventors and bring innovation to the focus of the National Priorities	3.1 Organize a summit that brings all stake holders to a single forum, thus creating a vibrant national priority for innovations. First summit to be organized in partnership with SLIM – on the theme “Innovation - The Missing Link for Economic Development”	Amount of media coverage to the event Emergence of a strong private public partnership to promote inventions	01 major event	1Mn		1Mn		1Mn
	3.2 Annual Presidential Awards to the selected inventors with Patented inventions. (currently the event is being held bi annually owing to the limited number of applications)	No of awards presented for the year 2011/2012 No of awards presented for the year 2013/2014	Depend on the No. of inventions reached to the required standard of the award		10Mn	–	–	Depend on the No. of inventions reached to the required standard of the award

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Empower and Enhance the Image of Inventors and bring innovation to the focus of the National Priorities	3.3 “Sahasak Nimevum” Exhibition to the flagship activity that show cases Sri Lankan Inventors, bring them to the fore, introduce them to the investors and customers and popularize inventiveness. The exhibition to be developed a self-sustaining event eventually becoming a regional exhibition	No. of Exhibitors	500	13Mn	600	12Mn	700	11Mn
		No. of sponsorships	10		15		20	
		Value of sponsorships		10Mn		12 Mn		15Mn
	3.3.1 Exhibition to have two key segments. One for the competition and the other for trade stalls for Sri Lankan Inventions with a reasonable contribution towards the cost of the exhibition.	No. of Trade Stalls	20		30		50	
		Target income		0.05 Mn		0.1Mn		0.2Mn
	3.3.2 Entries to the exhibition segment to be featured under the national themes (to be reviewed annually) and selected after a preliminary screening process for non-school categories and the school segments purely to be from the chosen entries at provincial level competitions. Consider new areas such as Robotics	No of inventions from each province	1000	–	1500	–	2000	–
		No. of inventions screened	500		750		1000	

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Empower and Enhance the Image of Inventors and bring innovation to the focus of the National Priorities	3.3.3 Significant portion of the exhibition related costs such as awards etc.to be borne by commercial sponsorships.	No of Sponsorships and value as % of the total cost	10		15		20	
	3.3.4 The Awards Presentation to be coupled with the presidential awards for maximum impact and visibility.							
	3.3.5 Invite participants from the SAARC region and find suitable international partners who can promote the exhibition in the region. Once the event gets the right momentum participation can be under commercial basis. Sri Lanka Tourism can be potential strategic partner	No. of entries from other countries Value of proceeds	10		20	0.2Mn	50	1Mn
	3.3.6 Continue to nominate inventors in international exhibitions and aim to have a Sri Lankan Pavilion in the Geneva Exhibition in 2015 with 100% corporate sponsorships.	No of awards for Sri Lanka No of inventions found market opportunities abroad	03					

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Empower and Enhance the Image of Inventors and bring innovation to the focus of the National Priorities	3.4 Declare August as the Month of Inventions and arrange to issue a stamp to commemorate “VidyaJothi Ray Wijewardene –for the year 2014			–	Release the stamp	–		–
	3.4.1 Continue partnership with the Ray Wijewardene Charitable Trust in the annual “Ray” award presentation	No of inventors recommended for Ray awards No of Award recipients	Depend on the no. of Presidential Award winners and Sahasak Nimewum winners Depend on the No. of inventions reached to the required standard of the award					

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
	3.5 With the participation of NIPO and WIPO offer a programme to train and develop patent application drafters.	No. of fee levying courses conducted	-	-	01	0.5Mn	01	0.75Mn
	3.6 Continue the web strategy further updating the web site and leveraging same to disseminate knowledge, show case inventors and to build a community.	No. of inventors registered in the site Number of unique visitors to the web site	200	0.5Mn	300	0.1Mn	500	0.5Mn
	3.7 Recruit a legal officer to the commission who can provide preliminary legal advice and support to the needy inventors	No of inventors supported in drafting patent applications	10		20		30	

4. SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Reduce Financial Dependency	4.1 Develop required guide lines and seek approval to build the Inventors Fund within the Commission as prescribed in the act where the fund can invest in to potential ventures.							
	4.2 By promoting the angel investor concept the number that needs support from the government to be reduced	The number reduced						
	4.3 Sahasak Nimeveum exhibition to make the main income generating event of the commission. compare to the architects exhibition or International Book fare)	Total amount of income generated						

5. CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

Strategy	Key Activity	Key Performance Indicator	2013		2014		2015	
			Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
Develop Human Resources Capabilities of Staff	5.1 Expose the staff to courses that will enhance the communication skills in English and improve the ability manage written communications independently	No. of employees who received training courses	10	1Mn	05	0.5Mn	10	1Mn
	5.2 Automate routine activities maximizing the investment in ICT	No of automated processes						
	5.3 Expedite the process of discarding unutilized and obsolete physical assets of the Commission	The amount discarded						
	5.4 Once the premise is finalized adopt 5S system to improve efficiency of operation.	Continuation						