

Sri Lanka Inventors Commission

- **Introduction**

Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC) has been established in terms of the Sri Lanka Inventors Incentives Act No.53 of 1979. The principal objective of setting of the SLIC is to promote inventiveness of the nation by providing technical, financial and legal assistance.

Vision

Prosperity through Inventions and Innovations

Mission

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

Be a forerunner of the facilitation process in converting ideas into practical applications

The Commission adopted the above Mission having understood the role it should play in creating a conducive environment being a national body. With the limited resources available to the Commission in terms of man power and financial focusing on this larger role is believed to yield greater impact in the long term. It is a well accepted axiom in the field of inventions and innovations that three factors contribute to the inventive process in a society. They are the Economic Condition, Attitude towards inventions by the society and the level of Education or Exposure of the people. The commission focused more to influence the latter two factors. In order to achieve this a 10 point corporate plan was adopted by the Commission for the period of 2012-2014.

Performance up to September 2012

- **Presidential Awards**

The award presentation was held at the Temple Trees with the participation of the HE the President after a lapse of 04 years. The selection of winners for the Presidential Awards is done by a panel of judges appointed by the HE the President. The awards were presented for the winners of the year 2008, 2009 and 2010.

The award for the Best Invention of the years 2008, 2009 was not awarded as there were no inventions reached to the required level according to the Panel Decision.

Best Invention of the year 2010

Invention: Pneumatic self-retaining Surgical Retractor System to minimize the tissue damage of patients during surgeries.

Inventor: Dr. S.J.B. Lenadora

Field: Medicine

Prize Money: Rs. One Million



*Best Invention of the Year 2010
(Pneumatic self-retaining Surgical
Retractor System)*



*HE the President presents
Presidential Award for the Best
Invention of the Year 2010*



*Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithra Wanniarachchi
Minister of Technology & Research
presents an award for a winner.*

In addition to the best invention of the year, awards for the inventions in 12 fields such as Agriculture, Transport, Public Welfare, Medicine, Industries and Technology, Chemistry, Traditional Medicine, Arts, Engineering, Physics, National Security and Traditional Medicine were also presented. They were presented with a medal and prize money of Rs.100, 000/=.

The total value of prize money for the winners of fields in the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 was Rs.2.1Mn. The total number of winners were 27 including merits.

For the first time the panel of judges were also recognized by presenting a plaque.

In order to raise the profile of the event a large Press advertisement was published in E/S/T on the day of the event and followed up with a double spread advert in EST showcasing the winners.

A special TV programme was aired on ITN based on the event to provide further coverage to the event.

Through strategically managing media relations we were able to obtain a significant amount of free publicity for the event and for the inventors.

The total cost of the Presidential Award Ceremony was 8.6 Mn.

- **The first ever National Symposium for Inventors**

This was the first ever National Symposium held for the inventors. Over 80 inventors took part by paying the entrance fee. By a panel of experts in the fields of Intellectual Property Law, Business Management and Entrepreneurship shared their knowledge. Scientific institutes such as ITI, NERD, briefed them the services they offer to inventors and BOC, SANASA banks introduced the financial schemes they have on offer for inventors. The open forum provided an opportunity for the inventors to air their issues and concerns.



The distinguished invitees and lecturers s of the National Symposium



Enthusiastic participation of inventions

- **Sahasak Nimevum- the first ever National Exhibition of Inventions**

Sahasak Nimevum was the first ever national exhibition organized to showcase the Sri Lankan inventors. Exhibits were invited under 22 internationally accepted fields Applications were called from school students, university and technical college students, open category for individuals and institutions and commercialized inventions. Seven nationally important fields were introduced with a view to focus attention of the inventors towards them. They were; Solutions to make Disable independent, Environment, Energy, Food, Teaching Aids and import substitutions. Significant cash prizes were presented to the winners in the all participating categories except commercialized category. The prestigious “Dasis” award with a cash prize of Rs.750, 000.00 were presented to the best overall inventor in each participating category.

Ability to attract leading private sector corporates to sponsor all the Nationally Significant Category awards (Brandix) and the Dasis Awards (Dialog) and two entry level fields by AMW and Watalwala plantations.

A total of 912 inventions were submitted by the inventors from all parts of the country. Over 500 were from students representing all nine provinces of the country. These were shortlisted at provincial level from over 1500 entries. The Commission also acknowledges the support extended by the Vidatha Centres island wide who actively promoted the participation of local inventors. In some instances they had worked with local branches of banks to sponsor the cost of transportation of exhibits from faraway places.

Over 518 students and teachers who participated in the exhibition were provided with accommodation during the exhibition period.

The exhibition was declared opened by Hon Basil Rajapaksha the Minister of Economic Development with Hon Mrs Pavithra Wanniarachchi Minister of Technology and Research and Hon Bandula Gunawardena – Minister of Education.

The special guest for the second day was the deputy minister for technology and research Hon Faizer Musthapa while the special guest for the third day was the British High Commissioner Hon. John Rankin

Over three hundred thousand visited the exhibition held over three days at BMICH in five locations.

The awards presenting ceremony for the winners of “Sahasak Nimewum” was held on 06th December 2012 at the Main Hall of the BMICH. 235 winners were presented with awards and certificates.



The “Sahasak Nimewum” exhibition at the BMICH



Hon. Basil Rajapaksha, Minister of Economic Development is visiting the exhibition



The British High Commissioner is visiting the exhibition

- **School Programme**

One of the key functions of the Commission is promoting inventiveness among school children. Though there is a circular issued by the MOE to government schools of grades 1AB, 1C and Type 2 directing to set up School level inventors clubs, there is no such programme to cover the non-governmental schools.

A special seminar was conducted targeting students and teachers of non-governmental schools on 29th March 2012. Sixty five teachers participated at the seminar and the highlight was the student inventors' presentations.

In addition 08 Seminars were conducted to revitalize the school programme covering 06 provinces.

- **Young Inventors Club on ITN**

Taking in to account the limited resources available, the Commission planned a reality type TV programme for the students of school young inventors clubs. This will be a 30 episode half an hour programme on ITN. Sampath Bank has joined as a co-sponsor of the programme. The concept of this programme was developed by taking in to account the ideas generated by student inventors at two special workshops including brain storming sessions. The programme will be telecast from ... 2012.

- **Inventions to Promote Science Education**

Inventions done in ten schools were filmed by the SLIC staff last year. A teacher explains the underlying scientific principles by using the inventions. These are scheduled to be telecast free of charge on Learn TV from the month of December. Subsequently they will be up loaded to the website. This will be a novel way to promote science education in the country as well.

- **Private Sector Access**

One of the main requirements of the inventors is an access to business management know how. Towards this end the Commission commenced a programme with Post Graduate Institute of Management of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura where the Master Students were introduced to interested inventors to develop their business further. This initiative got to a very positive start. So far five inventors work with the nominees of PIM. This is with no cost to the commission.

- **Empowering Inventors**

- A MOU was signed with the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing to conduct an annual marketing education programme for inventors. The first such event was held on 24.02.2012 at SLIM with 70 inventors participating. The feed-back from the inventors was very positive. This event was with no cost to the commission.
- Recognized commercially successful inventors by presenting a certificate, signed by the Hon. Minister at a special event.
- Facilitated significant media coverage for inventors and their inventions through regular newspaper articles. Approximately LKR worth of free media coverage was received in news papers alone.
- A MOU was signed with the Ray Wijewardena Charitable Trust, to select from Presidential Award winners to receive cash grants under the Ray award scheme. The six winners were short listed and the inventor of eco friendly passenger craft was presented with a cash grant of One Million Rupees from Commercial Bank and Technical Support from the University of Moratuwa
- The inventors who won awards at Geneva International Exhibition were recognized at the VIP lounge at the BIA for the first time in the history.
- Intervened on behalf of a number of inventions with other government agencies. It should be noted however with regret not a single government agency responsible at least acknowledged the letters sent by the commission.

- Issued specially designed LOGOs to the award winning inventors that can be used on the products and on their commercial communication material. This is also a first time event.

- **International Recognition to Inventors**

The SLIC sponsored the participation of Dr. S.J.B. Lenadora, the inventor of the year 2010, in the Geneva International Exhibition of Inventions. Dr. Lenadora won a gold medal for his Presidential Award winning invention; Pneumatic self-retaining Surgical Retractor System at the Geneva International exhibition.

The SLIC promoted the participation of Sri Lankan Inventors in the International Telecommunications Union Competition 2012.

- **Web Strategy**

The web strategy is a key component of the total strategic plan of the commission. This highly interactive web site acts as a portal to promote inventors, introduces them to industry and investors, and provide a platform to record school level invention ideas and to act as a knowledge portal. It publishes all the activities of the commission on a timely manner including progress against the corporate plan. It also has a number of downloadable materials useful to inventors such as a book on patents and draft non disclosure agreement.

- **SLIC programmes related to “Deyata Kirula” Development Programme**

The SLIC has scheduled to organize 04 awareness seminars in Polonnaruwa, Ampara, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee for the students and people who are interested in creating of inventions. After the 04 awareness seminars an invention exhibition will be organized to select inventions to be displayed at the “Dayata Kirula”, National Exhibition.

The first seminar of these series of seminars was held quite successfully in Chankalady National School on 07th November 2012.

- **Providing Financial Support**

Commission developed a comprehensive and transparent methodology to provide financial grants to suitable inventors who have potential, whose products show national significance, who has entrepreneurial potential. They will be selected from among the winners of the Sahasak Nimevum Exhibition. The recipients will be provided with required business know how and technology know how through link partners.

- **Governance**

A monthly board meeting was held where the progress is reviewed and strategies evaluated.

A total of 2 audit queries were received and all were satisfactorily responded.

The commission is supported by the Ministry through its Audit Committee, Technical Evaluation Committee and Tender Committee.

The advertising agency was appointed by a TEC headed by the president of the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing.

Two vehicles belonging to the commission were disposed realizing a LKR

The SORs were approved and suitable candidates were selected within internal staff following guide lines. Yet there are a number of vacancies to be filled.

The current staff strength of the commission

Director	01
Assistant Director	01
Assistant Director (Finance)	01
Programme Officer	03
Administrative Officer	01
Management Assistant	03
Drivers	02
K.K.S	01

Commission made proposals to update the act reflecting the new requirement and realities of the situation.



The events of awareness seminar held at Chenkalady Central College

- **Summary of main activities planned for the year 2013**

- National Symposium for inventors to exchange and share their experience, knowledge and ideas
- Holding of Presidential Award Ceremony of the year 2011 and 2012
- Holding of “Sahasak Nimewum”, National Invention Exhibition
- Revitalization of School, Technical College and University Inventors Circles and selection of student inventions for “Sahasak Nimewum”, National Invention Exhibition
- “Prathibha Prabha”, Tele Inventors Club Programme in collaboration of ITN

- Development of inventions up to finished product level
 - Participation of inventors in International Exhibition in International Exhibition of inventions
 - Setting up of Venture Capital Fund to provide financial assistance for inventors
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- **Total Expenditure as against the allocation of 2012 (up to end of August)**

Recurrent Expenditure	Rs 12,138, 906.90
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Capital Expenditure	Rs. 25, 229,194.04
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