



CONCEPT NOTE ON INNOTECH 2020 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION EXHIBITION

Introduction

The Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (MHETI) and State Ministry of Technology and Innovation (SMTI) is engaged in various Research and Development initiatives in collaboration with Government Research Institutes (GRI), Universities under the purview of the Ministry and with private sector collaboration. These initiatives are focused towards various economic sectors including agriculture, health, environment, water, etc. In order to compete with global and regional growth in the field of technological development, the MHETI and SMTI together with its Institutes and universities is currently focused on promoting R & D in advanced, disruptive and modern technologies such as nanotechnology, robotics, industrial automation, biotechnology, genomic science, artificial intelligence etc. It is envisaged that by adopting advanced and disruptive technologies in R & D, the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) sector can triple its contribution towards GDP.

Although the Ministry and its Institutes are closely engaged in R & D related to important economic sectors, the knowledge created and product developed as a result of R & D are not communicated /disseminated to relevant target groups and not benefitted especially by industry and entrepreneurs and general public at large. There is a considerable gap between the knowledge created and its application at ground level. With the advancement of technologies globally, it is important that Sri Lanka creates an enabling environment for the STI sector to compete globally and to create a knowledge sharing platform so that all segments of society specially schools, universities, private sector, inventors, entrepreneurs etc. will be part of this. Having such an enabling environment will facilitate achieving the objectives of having a technology based society as highlighted in the **Vistas of Prosperity**; the current National Policy Framework.

Objectives

In this context, the Ministry intends to organize an exhibition i.e. **INNOTECH 2020** with the main objectives of showcasing research and development outcomes and innovations of the institutes and universities operating under the purview of the Ministry and promoting science literacy at all levels of the society. The proposed Exhibition will also be a platform for school and university students, tertiary and higher educational institutions to popularize their inventions and create enthusiasm amongst younger generation to engage in science and initiate startups based on new inventions and innovations. In addition R & D outcomes and inventions of Triforces and Police will also be exhibited during the exhibition.

Venue and themes

The proposed exhibition will be held from **11th-14th March 2020** in Pitipana, Homagama in following premises.

Sri Lanka Institute of Nanotechnology
National School of Business management (NSBM)
Mahinda Rajapaksa National School
Department of Measurements Units and Standard Services

The proposed exhibition will be organized under following three categories:

Educational Zone
Innovation Zone and
Research and Development Zone

Target Group

Target Group of the exhibition will include, school students, university students, tertiary and other higher educational institutions, entrepreneurs, inventors, private sector and general public.

Scope of the Exhibition

The exhibition will include following

- Products and prototypes as a result of research and development of Institutes and universities
- Inventions from research institutes, universities and individual inventors
- Display of inventions and exhibits from tri-forces and police
- Edutainment activities (math lab, educational games etc)
- Awareness creation and demonstration on new and emerging technologies (use of solar energy, 5G& IoT, neuro technology, usage of drones etc)
- Mobile Planetarium, night sky observation camps, student demonstration on water rockets etc.
- Exhibits of students of NSBM (Engineering and IT faculty)
- Awareness materials to increase knowledge on STEM and other related fields
- Entertainment activities (Dog show, horse show, street drama, musical and cultural shows etc.)

Implementation mechanism

The exhibition is organized under the guidance of Hon. Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation Dr Bandula Gunawardena, in collaboration with Hon. Minister of Education Dullas Alahapperuma, and under the chairmanship of Hon. State Minister of Technology and Innovation Thilanga Sumathipala. All institutes coming under the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation and State Ministry of Technology and Innovation in collaboration with the Ministry of Education will take part in exhibiting the exhibits under different zones. More than 1 million visitors are expected for the exhibition and the exhibition will be held from **9.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. every day. Special transport arrangements will be made available to attend the exhibition.**