

**MESSAGE FROM HIS
EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT**

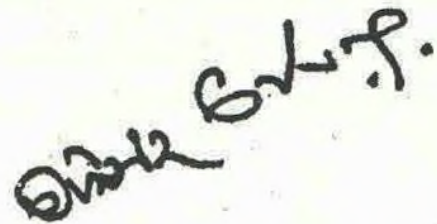
It is with a sense of pride and enthusiasm that I send this message for the event to celebrate the achievements made by our scientists and technologists towards economic and social development. I take this opportunity to publicly appreciate the silent contributions made to the national development by all the applicants and the nominees of the National Science and Technology Awards 2006 and, congratulate all the award winners. This is a mark of victory for science, innovation and for the future of our economy. We need to work together to move quickly to work out our innovation agenda.



We have stated in the Mahinda Chinthana, “at least 1% of the Gross National Product will be set aside by me for innovation in the field of Science and Technology. A system will be set in place to ensure that these innovations are at the disposal of the consumers as well as the business community”. I, along with the Hon. Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Tissa Vitarana have identified the importance of investing in high-tech industries and have proposed a National Nanotechnology Initiative to my Cabinet of Ministers with the Intention of rapidly developing the field of nanotechnology in Sri Lanka to suit local industries which will have to remain competitive in the global market.

I commend the Ministry of Science and Technology and the National Science Foundation for initiating this awards scheme to recognize, promote and support our unsung heroes. On this happy occasion, I urge more and more of our scientists and technologists to join hands with the Government in its Nation building process.

November 06, 2006


H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa
The President of Sri Lanka

Message from the Hon. Minister of Science & Technology

Sri Lanka is faced with the challenge of emerging from poverty and underdevelopment in the context of a highly competitive globalized world market. Both the advanced developed countries and the newly emerging developing countries, like South Korea, have made optimal use of their scientists and technologists to become leaders in the industrial application of new technologies like electronics, biotechnology and ICT. Sri Lanka has failed to do so and languishes in poverty.



The decision under the Mahinda Chinthana to increase the investment in Science and Technology (S&T) based R&D to 1% of GDP, from the earlier annual average of 0.14% has, if it is implemented, opened the door to convert the brain drain to a brain gain and to develop the cutting edge technology in Sri Lanka that is essential for SME based economic development and also to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) for larger scale enterprises. The decision by the President and the Cabinet to support the development of our Nanotechnology capability can for the first time enable Sri Lanka to become a leader in the application of a newly emerging technology, opening the way to real industrial development.

The achievement of real economic development demands committed political leadership backed by flexible imaginative financial and administrative support, overcoming bureaucratic bottlenecks, and the promotion of S&T to international levels so as to generate the requisite technology. There must be active involvement of the private sector in this effort and close cooperation with the public sector. Both must become more dynamic.

At a time when the nation is getting together to solve the national question and achieve a lasting peace, let us all on this World Science Day, dedicate ourselves to promote innovative S&T and generate the cutting edge technologies that are the key to all development, be it in the industrial, the service or the agricultural sectors.

The recognition given by H.E. the President and the nation to the scientists and technologists at this awards ceremony should stimulate the development of appropriate technology to boost up our economy and improve the quality of life of our people. I thank the President and all the enlightened leaders of our nation who are today supporting this effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. J. Vitarana".

Hon. Prof. Tissa Vitarana,
Minister of Science and Technology

November 10, 2006

National Science and Technology Awards -2006

Categories :

- New technologies with commercial potential
- Value addition to local mineral resources
- Quality improvement of products, processes and services
- Development of viable substitutes for imports
- Excellence in multidisciplinary team efforts in research and development
- Engineering product design and development for commercial Applications
- Locally developed new technologies which have resulted in successfully marketed products/services
- Outstanding leadership in introducing technologies/ services
- Development and adaptation of technologies for SMEs