

National case studies in Asia

The National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka: Engagement in Sri Lanka's SDG implementation

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The Government of Sri Lanka completed the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the status of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in June 2018, and the National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka (NASSL) was invited by the Government to review it. NASSL provided assistance, but due to inadequate funding it was unable to undertake more concrete follow-up action, most notably for its proposed interagency forum aimed at bringing together national scientific organisations to help achieve the SDGs. The National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka also discussed the Sri Lanka Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) on the Status of Implementing Sustainable Development Goals, coordinated by the Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform's Platform Facility. VPR noted that the Government introduced its "Science Indicators for Policy Development" with the objective of providing information on science, technology, and education to policymakers. It also noted that the Government had fallen behind in linking science and technology, and in building a knowledge society through improved scientific literacy while supporting national implementation of SDGs. The Sustainable Development Council (SOC), established in terms of the provisions in the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017, is now following-up VNR. For this purpose, several working groups are being formed, and NASSL will provide them with its expertise. NASSL acts proactively, communicating regularly with SOC and offering its services.