

KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Annual report presented at the General body meeting held on 28th April 2001 at the auditorium of Animation Centre, Trivandrum.

Honourable president, fellows and members,

I have great pleasure to present before this meeting the annual report of the Kerala Academy of Sciences for the year 2000-2001 for discussion and approval. The present executive committee assumed office on 5th June 1999 for a term of two years. The committee felt that it is better to hold elections in April itself so that the term of office shall coincide with the accounting year. This report is an account of activities from 17th June 2000 to 28th April 2001.

During the period of the report the EC met 9 times to plan and organise various programmes.

Membership status

At present the Academy has five honorary fellows twenty-seven fellows and 145 lifemembers in good standing.

Activities

It was reported in the last meeting that the Academy has been identified as the regional centre for the conduct of the red rover goes to mars contest organised by the Planetary society in collaboration with NASA. The Academy could successfully complete the selection procedures and 12 students from various categories were recommended to the National Centre. Out of the recommended candidates five were shortlisted by the National centre and were invited for the National level selection. An interactive programme was conducted at Trivandrum for the benefit of the candidates for national level selection. Four candidates, one each from Trichur and Ernakulam and the other two from Trivandrum participated in the programme, presented their project and obtained useful guidelines from our resource persons. Fifteen member-scientists and academics from various branches interacted with the participants. It is a matter of pride to the Academy as well as to the state that out of the nine candidates selected on national level two are from our state, and are recommended and trained by the Academy.

A lecture on Nehru and Science was organised at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom, on 14th November 2000, in connection with the Nehru Centenary Celebrations. Sri. V.Ramachandran, former chief secretary delivered the lecture. The programme was well appreciated by the teachers and students and they wished that the Academy in future also may extend similar programmes to the benefit of younger generation.

National Science Day was celebrated with a seminar on Information technology in Science education on 28th February 2001 at the Kariavattom campus of the University of Kerala. Sri. G. Vijayaraghavan, former CEO of the Technopark, Kariavattom delivered the key note address and Sri. A. Prabhakaran, Director, SIET, Govt. of Kerala presented the paper on the application of Information technology as a tool in Science education in the State. The seminar and the discussions followed were well attended by college teachers from different parts of the state, students from engineering colleges as well as computer science departments and researchers.

National Environment Awareness Campaign was organised with the support of Ministry of Forests and Environment, Govt. of India and STEC, Govt. of Kerala. As a part of the campaign programmes were conducted for students. A workshop on the theme Clean and Green environment was organised at University of Kerala, Kariavattom campus. The theme was presented by Dr. Oommen V Oommen, Professor and Head of the University department of Zoology. Dr. T.S.Nair, Scientist, TBGRI and Dr. M.Balakrishnan, Professor of Zoology and Dr. G.M.Nair, Professor of Botany gave lectures on various aspects of the theme. The workshop was attended by teachers, research scholars and students.

The activities were supported by various organisations especially the Ministry of Forests and Environment, STEC, ISRO, VSSC, University of Kerala and Kendriya Vidyalaya Pattom. The Executive Council is indebted to them.

The Executive Council places on record its appreciation to those Fellows and Members, whose untiring efforts helped the Academy to gain more visibility.

I submit this report for discussion and approval.