



KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Reg No: 1492/90

Report of the Activities of the Academy for the period April 2008- Aug 2010 presented before the AGM on

Respected president KAS, esteemed Fellows and Members of the Academy,
President KAS was selected to deliver the silver jubilee talk in life sciences session in
the congress.
I have great pleasure to place this report of the Academy before the AGM for
consideration and approval.

The AGM of the Academy held on 4th April 2008 at Hotel Mascot elected the following
council of office bearers for the period 2008-10 and the new council took over the
charge.

President : Prof. Oommen V Oommen


Vice Presidents : Prof. Prasanna Kumar. V
Sri V P Balagangadharan

General Secretary : Sri N Raveendran Pillai

Treasurer : Dr. SUDHA. J.D

Joint secretary : Dr. Parkash Kumar R

Executive members :

Prof K N Rajasekharan, Dr Rm Muthiah, Dr K Radhakrishnan, 
Prof R Kaleysaraj, Dr C Jayan, Dr A Subramoniam,
Dr Jayasree Nair G R, Dr K G Ajithkumar, Dr V R Ravindran, Dr K Krishnan

Membership: As on date 220 members are enrolled as life members of the Academy of
which 7 were admitted during the report period. Two of our esteemed members Dr V R

Ravindran (EC member) and Dr (Smt) Sudha Ravindran passed away early this year in a road accident. The Academy expresses its deep sorrow and places on record the valuable services the couple had given to the Academy and their contributions to the scientific world and pray for the departed souls.

Financial status: The financial position of the Academy is intact and detailed report is going to be presented by the treasurer.

Executive Meetings: The EC had 7 meetings during the report period to discuss and plan various activities of the Academy.

Report on the activities:

The Academy was a partner in the conduct of the One Day workshop held for School children by the Centre for Bio Informatics, University of Kerala - April 2008

Submitted the detailed report to KSCSTE along with audited report and fund utilization certificate on the "Workshop on Formulation of Research Projects for Funding" an activity financed by KSCSTE. Academy received Rs 34233/- towards settlement of accounts.

A talk by Sri L Radhakrishnan IAS, Power Secretary to Govt of Kerala on "Energy Crisis and Options available for Kerala" was held on 21st July 2008 at Hotel Pankaj. The Programme was well attended and well received by the members.

A talk by Dr K N Ninan former President KAS and Deputy Director VSSC was organized at Hotel Mascot in September 2008 jointly with Polymer Society of India and High Energy Materials Society. The topic was "Chemicals for Indian Space Programme". Majority of the members of the Academy attended the talk. Dr Ninan was felicitated on the eve of his retirement from ISRO service on that occasion.

The Academy participated in the 2nd Thiruvananthapuram Pusthaka Mela organized by the State Balasahithya Institute from Dec 20 -28, 2008 at Kanakakkunnu Palace. The Academy presented different types of programmes on each day in its "Creativity Corner" which was inaugurated by Prof A Jayakrishnan Vice Chancellor University of Kerala on 21st December. Dr Achyut Sankar S Nair made a presentation and interacted with school students after the inauguration. Dr Thanu Padmanabhan, Sri Sudhakaran, Dr J D Sudha, Sri P Radhakrishnan and Sri K Ramachandran made presentations on different subjects and interacted with students from various schools. The press gave very good coverage to the programme.

A talk by Prof M Jayaprakash, former Prof of Zoology, M G College was held at KSCSTE auditorium in association with KSCSTE, for school children on the occasion of the 200th Birth year of Charles Darwin and 150th year of release of his book on "Origin of Species" in Feb 2009. ^{the}

An interactive lunch on meeting was held with Prof Bruce Alberts former President, US Academy of Sciences and currently editor in chief of "Science" at Hotel Mascot on 24th Feb 2009. Various aspects of Science education were discussed. The session was well attended by members.

A talk by Dr Bert de Groot, Max Plank Institute of Biophysical Chemistry, Germany was organized jointly by the Academy, KSCSTE and Association of British Scholars at KSCSTE Auditorium on 28th Feb 2009. Members of the Academy and school children attended the programme.

Prof K T Augusti Endowment lecture was delivered by Prof (Dr) A Jayakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala- October 2009. The topic was "25 years of polymer Research, yet much remains". The talk was organized at the Biochemistry department Auditorium, University Campus, Kariavattom. The talk was attended by over 100 persons including members of the Academy, faculty members of the University and students. The presentation of Prof Jayakrishnan was well received by the participants as evidenced by the amount of interactions.

The Academy played a key role in the selection of school children for participation in the 97th National Science Congress held at University of Kerala in January 2010. Dr K G Ajith Kumar co ordinated the activities from Academy side. ~~Prof Oommen V Oommen President KAS was selected to deliver the silver jubilee talk in life sciences session in the congress~~

The Academy participated in the 3rd Thiruvananthapuram Pusthaka Mela also organized by the State Balasahithya Institute from Dec 20 -28, 2009 at Kanakakkunnu Palace. The Tangram programme by the Academy was received by the students enthusiastically.

End
The Academy is a partner in the conduct of " Two Day National seminar on Bioremediation" organized by NSS College, Karamana under UGC funding – Sept 2010.

"Science is Exciting" Programme.

The major event of the Academy during the report period was the "Science is Exciting" programme. The programme was financed by KSCSTE (Rs 1.80 lakhs) and covered 40 schools from Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts (HS and +2 levels) and had the approval of DPI, Govt of Kerala. The programme consisted of two presentations at each school on science, scientific events and personalities, challenges in science, conservation of natural resources and bio diversity followed by an inter- district Quiz competition for the teams from the 40 schools and finally an one day workshop at Thiruvananthapuram for selected students from the 40 schools. The Quiz competition and one day workshop were held at the KSCSTE Auditorium.

The programme was formally inaugurated at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pattom on 16th October 2009. Sri James Varghese IAS, General Education Secretary to Govt of Kerala.

The presentations at schools were made by experts *such as* ~~like~~ Sri P Radhakrishnan, Dr CKS Pillai, Dr Anil Bhardwaj, Dr C Jayan, Prof Kaleysaraj, Dr K G Ajith Kumar, Dr Jayasree Nair G R, Dr Sudha J D, Sri M Shaneeth, Sri K Ramachandran and Sri N Raveendran Pillai. Each presentation was followed with interactive session. The programme was generally well received. The schools at rural areas were very keen to have more such programmes. The programme has directly covered over 10000 students in the 40 schools. Many schools had limitations like suitable space to conduct such programmes with the participation of about 200-250 students at a time. The Academy places on record our gratitude to the school authorities and the students for their co-operation.

The Quiz completion was held on ²⁰¹⁰24th Jan 2009. 28 teams selected from the schools participated. Dr Benny K George, Head, Spectroscopy Section, VSSC and former Secretary KAS was the Quiz master. Loyola School team won the first prize and K V Pattom stood second. They were presented with cash prizes and certificates which were presented by Prof A Jayakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala. All the six finalist teams were also given consolation prizes. All the participants were given certificates.

²⁰¹⁰The One Day Workshop was held on 9th Feb 2009. 101 students attended along with 8 teachers. Prof (Dr) A Jayakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala inaugurated the workshop. The touched upon the excitement in undertaking science studies, the type of funds available the returns through IPR etc. Dr E P Yasodharan, EVP, KSCSTE delivered the felicitation talk. Presentations were made by Sri P Radhakrishnan, Prof V Unnikrishnan Nair, Prof M Jayaprakash and Prof Oommen V Oommen. The presentations were followed by interactive sessions. At the end of the day, there was a feed back session where one student from each participating school expressed their views about the programme as a whole. The students were very enthusiastic and active and many expressed the view that more programmes of this type shall be arranged especially for the schools in rural areas. All the participants were given certificates.

A booklet on "Science is Exciting" was brought out, which was released by Dr E P Yasodharan, EVP, KSCSTE during the One Day Workshop. Copies were distributed to participants of the one day workshop and also copies were sent to all the participating schools. The booklet contains the programme content and articles on the theme and also snaps of the activities.

Detailed report of the programme along with audited statement of accounts and fund utilization certificate were submitted to KSCSTE by 8th March 2010 and after a brief presentation before the monitoring committee in May, the total funds were released.

In general the programme was a grand success. The print and electronic media gave good coverage to the programme at all stages. It is gratifying to note that the Academy could complete the programme in style as projected by us, within six months. I thank the President KAS, EC members, the faculty, the school authorities, the students and each and every one who have contributed to the successful completion of the programme.

On this occasion I place on record with gratitude the support given by KSCSTE in our activities by way of financial assistance, providing the beautiful KSCSTE auditorium for our programmes and above all the moral support.

I also thank all our esteemed fellows, members and welcome the new members and request each one of you to participate more actively in the activities of the Academy.

I place this report before the AGM for approval.

...../09/2010

N Raveendran Pillai
Secretary, KAS