



KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

SASTHRA BHAVAN, PATTOM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA, INDIA, 695 004

www. <http://keralaacademyofsciences.net>

REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOR THE PERIOD OCT 2014-NOV. 2015

Honorable President, Vice Presidents, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Council members, respected Fellows, former office bearers and Life Members of the Academy:

With great pleasure, may I now present a report of the activities of the Academy for the period Oct 2014-Nov 2015 for your consideration and approval.

The major activities during the period under reporting:

1. AGM
2. Institution of Endowments in the name of Dr Hisham and Prof. Dr. Abraham

Celebrations conducted

1. National Science Day with the focal theme of "Science for Nation building"

Symposia/Lectures

1. International Symposium on Phytochemistry, Dr Hisham Lecture and Award presentation
2. Infosys Lecture at Kannur by Dr. A. Ajayaghosh

Other activities include:

1. Signing of an MOU with Dr G. Madhavan Nair, President, International Association of Astronautics.

Detailed Report

I. Membership

The roll of the Academy has now in its rolls as Honorary Fellows: Dr. P. K. Iyengar, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Prof. Dr. M. S. Valiathan, Dr. Varghese Kurien, Dr. G. Madhavan Nair, Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Prof. Dr. M. Vijayan, Prof. Dr. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai and Prof. Dr. A. Ajayaghosh, fifty nine fellows (FAS) and four hundred and fifty life members. On behalf of the Academy, I thank the executive members of the Academy and especially Dr K. B. Ramesh Kumar of JNTBGRI for their sincere efforts in attracting new membership.

II. EC Meetings

The EC met seven times during the period under reporting. All the meetings were conducted at the Chairman's chamber, KSBB.

III. Infosys Foundation Lecture 2014

Infosys Foundation Lecture 2014 was held at K. M. M. Govt. Women's College, Kannur. on October 7, 2014. The prestigious lecture was delivered by the Infosys Prize Laureate Dr. A. Ajayaghosh, Director, NIIST and a Hony. Fellow of the Academy. The Academy is indebted to Infosys Foundation for partnering with the Academy a second time for the conduct of the ISFL and also for financial assistance.

IV. Nehru Centenary-cum-Foundation Day Lecture

Nehru Centenary-cum-Foundation Day Lecture along with the rescheduled Prof. Abraham Lecture and AGM of the Academy was held at the Conference hall of Sasthra Bhavan on 15th November 2014.

V. International Symposium on Phytochemistry, Dr Hisham Lecture and Award Ceremony

An International Symposium on Phytochemistry, Dr Hisham Lecture and award presentation were organised on 25th April 2015 at the hall of Science and Technology Museum. The symposium was supported by the family and well wishers of late prof. Dr. Hisham, KSCSTE and DST, Govt. Of India. Dr K B Ramesh Kumar, Scientist JNTBGRI served as the the convenor of the International Symposium and the related events. The President, Kerala Academy of Sciences welcomed the delegates and Dr Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE delivered the presidential address.

Fourteen nominations were received for the Dr Hisham award and a 3-member committee chaired by the noted phytochemist Dr P S Mohan (Prof and Head, Dept of Chemistry, Bharathiar

University), Prof. Dr. Haridas (Former Head, Dept of Biochemistry, Kannur University) and Prof Dr K N Rajasekharan as members evaluated the presentations. The committee recommended to present the first Dr Hisham Award to Dr Alan Sheeja which was presented during the International Symposium on Phytochemistry and Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award Ceremony by Prof. Dr. Salma Al Kindy, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman.

Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdur Rashid, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prof. Dr. V. George, Director, Amity Institute of Phytochemistry & Phytomedicine, Thiruvananthapuram and Prof. Dr. Mammen Daniel, Former Head, Department of Botany, MS University, Baroda presented invited lectures. The event was attended by more than two hundred delegates, invitees, well wishers of Dr. Hisham, his family, research scholars from colleges, university departments, and the major research organizations Directors, senior scientists, technologists and engineers from VSSC, NIIST, JNTBGRI, CTCRI and other research institutions and the Fellows and members of the Academy.

VI. National Science Day 2015

The National Science Day 2015 was celebrated in association with Mahatma Gandhi College on Feb 28th, 2015. The function was inaugurated by the President Prof Dr Oommen V Oommen, Chairman, KSBB. The National Science Day Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. George Thomas, IISER Thiruvananthapuram who spoke about the focal theme "Science for Nation Building". The function was very well attended by science post graduate students and research scholars from colleges, university departments, and the major research organizations. In addition to students, the participants included senior scientists, technologists and engineers from all the major research institutions in the vicinity and the Fellows and members of the Academy.

VII. Prof Dr Hisham Endowment and Prof. Dr. Abraham Endowment

Ms Alpha Hisham deposited 1.5 lakhs as the Prof. Dr. Hisham endowment. The Academy is thankful to her and the well wishers of Prof Dr Hisham for entrusting the conduct of the Dr Hisham endowment award selection and endowment lecture with the Academy.

The Academy is also highly thankful to Prof. Dr. K. T. Augusti in entrusting with the Academy a sum of Rs 50,000/- for conducting the Prof. Abraham endowment lecture.

VIII. Honors to the members

The tenure of Prof. Dr. Oommen V. Oommen as the Chairman of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board has been extended. Dr. Ajayaghosh, has been appointed as the Director of NIIST, Trivandrum. Dr. R. Prakashkumar, has been appointed as the Founder Director of Malabar Botanical Gardens. Prof Dr Prasannakumar and Prof. Dr. K. N. Rajasekharan have been selected as UGC Emeritus Scientist.

IX. Other activities

The Academy was represented by the office bearers at the "Celebrating the Sciences" event held by the Infosys Science Foundation to applaud world class research in India and Kerala, on Friday, June 26, 2015, at Thiruvananthapuram.

The Academy was represented by the President Prof. Dr. Oommen and Prof. Dr. Augusti at the National Seminar organised by Department of Zoology, University of Kerala.

The Academy received an invitation from the British Deputy High Commission, Chennai for a meeting at Trivandrum for discussing avenues of interaction between British High Commission and KAS in the promotion of science education related activities. The office bearers of the Academy met the Knowledge Economy Adviser of the British Deputy High Commission Chennai and discussed a range of topics including initiatives, future plans and developments on 29 May 2015.

A joint meeting of KSCSTE-KAS was held to condole the demise of Bharat Ratna Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam to be held at the Sasthra Bhavan, KSCSTE Pattom Conf Hall on Fri., 31 Jul 2015.

The registration of the Academy was renewed and is now current after a gap of 17 years. The Academy is grateful to the Registrar of Societies for the support received as part of the renewal of the registration.

Dr Madhavan Nair, former Chairman, ISRO and the then President, International Academy of Astronautics IAA expressed a desire to entrust with the Academy a sum of Rs Six lakhs to be used for the conduct of a biannual Conferences on Climate change. This proposal was supported by the EVP, KSCSTE, Dr Suresh Das. The matter was presented to the EC and subsequently the President signed an MOU to this effect. Dr Madhavan Nair also graciously offered office space, on cost sharing basis, at the building where he has an office at Vellayambalam. IAA head quartered in Paris, cooperates

closely with national academies to foster a spirit of cooperation and progress that permeates national boundaries, cultures, and institutions.

Acknowledgements

The Academy is highly thankful to KSCSTE for its multifaceted support including finances, and making available the facilities at the Sasthra Bhavan. The Academy acknowledges gratefully the support received from KSBB in the form of financial support, access to its facility to hold EC meetings and for hospitality. Infosys Science Foundation is thanked for its continued recognition of the Academy as a joint organizer for the Infosys Science Lecture in Kerala. The academy also thanks DST for financially supporting the Intl Seminar on Phytochemistry. The Academy owes much gratitude to Ms Alfa Hisham for her generous support for the conduct of the Seminar and Dr Hisham lecture and award functions.

The Academy wishes to thank Dr Ramesh Kumar and his team for organizing the International seminar and the Dr. Hisham Lecture and Award function in a grand manner. The Academy greatly appreciates the meticulous planning and sincere effort put in by him for the conduct of the event.

I now wish to express my deep gratitude, on behalf of the Exec. Council and on my personal behalf, to all the esteemed Fellows and Life Members of the Academy for their sincere support, participation and co-operation for the conduct of the affairs of the Academy. I am deeply grateful to the President, Vice Presidents, Jt. Secy, Treasurer, EC members, Fellows and Life Members for their invaluable support.

If there were any shortcomings in my service to the Academy as its Gen. Secy, I accept the full responsibility. I now thank you all and submit this report for your consideration and approval.

Sd/-

Dr. K. G. Ajit Kumar

General Secretary, KAS