

# **KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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## **REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES** **FOR THE PERIOD DEC 2016-MARCH 2018**

Honourable 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 the report of the activities of the Academy for the period Dec 2016-March 2018 for your consideration and approval.

### **I. Membership**

The Academy has now in its rolls ten Honorary Fellows, fifty nine fellows (FAS) and four hundred and eighty one life members. On behalf of the Academy, I wish to welcome all the Life Members and urge their continuous support in all the programmes of KAS

### **II. EC Meetings**

The EC met 6times during the period under reporting.

### **III. Science Popularization Activities -National Science Day 2017**

**National Science Day** and Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award Ceremony- 2017 was organized on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 2017. The programme was planned to generate awareness among the students, academia, and general public about the importance of National Science Day and on focal theme of NSD-2017.The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE. Prof. Dr. G. M. Nair, Vice President, KAS extended a warm welcome to all the participants and distinguished guests. Prof. Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, President, KAS delivered the presidential address The theme lecture on ‘Assistive Technology: A Great Equalizer for Persons with Disabilities’ was delivered by Dr. Akila Surendran, Senior Engineer, Centre for Assistive Technology and Innovation, National Institute of Speech & Hearing, Thiruvananthapuram. The programme was attended by 120 participants from schools, colleges and research institutions across the state. Also senior scientists, teachers such as Prof. Dr. Asoke Banerji, Amrita University, Kollam, Dr. Mangalam S. Nair, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. Padmaja V., College of Pharm. Sci., Thiruvananthapuram, Prof. C. P.Aravindakshan, Principal (Retd), Govt. Womens College, Thiruvananthapuram participated in the programme.Dr. K. G. Ajitkumar, Secretary, KAS extended vote of thanks to the delegates and distinguished guests.

The programme gave an awareness to the delegates on the latest scientific innovations in the field of assistive technology. The general suggestion and demand was to popularise such efforts that alleviates the issues related to differently abled persons by organising such programmes and through disseminating the information on science and technology developments in the field

### **IV. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award Ceremony- 2017**

Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award Ceremony organized along with National science day 2017 to commemorate the contributions of late Prof. Dr. A. Hisham in the field of phytochemistry. Prof. Dr. Ibrahim bin Jantan, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur gave the Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment lecture on the topic, 'Recent interests and advances in lead drug discovery from natural products of the tropical rain forests'. Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award was presented to Dr. Dhanya S. R., Research Fellow, NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram by Prof. Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, President, KAS. In the concluding session, Prof. Dr. G. M. Nair extended vote of thanks. Though the chemistry of plants have an immense potential, especially in the contest of the rich floristic wealth of the state, phytochemistry is less understood, especially among the student community and the programme gave an opportunity to understand and discuss the developments in the field.

#### **V. Science Popularization Activities**

Prof. Dr. G.M. Nair Vice President attended the seminar organised at School Environmental Science Mahatma Gandhi university in the month of October 2017

#### **VIII. Prof. Dr. Abraham Endowment**

The Academy organised Prof. Abraham Endowment Lecture on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at the Seminar Hall, Dept. of Botany University College, Thiruvananthapuram. The Endowment lecture was delivered by Dr. P M Priyadarsan, Former Deputy Director, Rubber Research Institute of India, Kottayam who is also a second generation disciple of Late Prof. A. Abraham. This programme was attended by Executive Members and life members of KAS. Prof. Dr. G.M. Nair presided over the function. Dr. A G Pandurangan, Scientists from JNTBGRI and Prof. K T Augusty the founder General Secretary of KAS also attended the programme. Post graduate students, research scholars and faculty members of University College and nearby colleges attended the programme. This was an opportunity of younger generation to understand the contributions of an illustrious professor

#### **X. Prof. Augusty Endowment Lecture**

This was organised at the Seminar hall of Biochemistry dept. University of Kerala on 12 March 2018. Prof. P.R. Sudhakaran former Professor and a close associate of Prof. Augusty delivered the endowment lecture

**IX. Honorary Fellows.** Executive Council of Kerala Academy of Sciences unanimously selected Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Vice President KSCSTE, Prof. Dr. M. Radhakrishna Pillai, Director, RGCB and Dr. M.C. Dattan, Scientific Advisor of Chief Minister of Kerala as honorary fellows based on their contributions to Science. The EC also identified 10 Life members as Fellows of the Academy. The award ceremony will be held shortly after getting concurrence of the Chief Guest

#### **X. Other activities**

EC entrusted Dr A. Sabu & Dr. N.S. Pradeep for starting a Science Journal jointly with KSCSTE.

The Executive Committee of KSCSTE agreed to provide financial assistance in 2015 and a space in Sasthra Bhavan. More over the then EVP agreed to use the address of KAS to KSCSTE. But unfortunately present officials rejected the minutes and not allowed to use the KSCSTE address to KAS. In all other states in India Academy is the part of Council. The new office bears will work together to get an office space and financial support from KSCSTE.

Inspite of the our best efforts, we could not find a permanent office space for KAS, Though EC of KSCSTE had earlier approved to allot an office space and allowed KAS to use Sasthra Bhavan address for communication, the same has not materialised as proper office orders were not issued. KAS is in the look out of a proper office space and permanent address as both are necessary for PAN for all future financial transactions

### **Acknowledgements**

The Academy owes much gratitude to Ms. Alfa Hisham for her continued and generous support for the conduct of the Seminar and Dr. Hisham lecture and award functions.

I now express my deep gratitude, on behalf of the Executive 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 much indebted to the President, Vice Presidents, Jt. Sec., Treasurer, EC members, Fellows and Life Members for their invaluable support.

If there were any short comings in my service to the Academy as its Gen. Secretary, the full responsibility of that is mine. I again thank you all and place this report for your consideration and approval.

Sd/-

Dr. K. G. Ajit Kumar

General Secretary, KAS