

KERALA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

(www.kas.org.in)

ANNUAL REPORT

(March 2018 - March 2019)

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

The last AGB meeting of KAS, held on March 17th, 2018 at Thiruvananthapuram, elected the new office bearers with Prof. Dr. G. M. Nair as the President. With great pleasure, as the General Secretary of KAS, let me present the report of the activities of the Academy for the period March 2018 to March 2019 for your deliberations and approval.

1. Membership

The Academy has 13 Hon. Fellows, 68 Fellows and 512 Life Members. On behalf of the Academy, it is my honour to welcome the newly elected Hon. Fellows and Fellows and all the new Life Members to the Academy and urge their continuous support and patronage in the activities of KAS.

2. Executive Council Meetings

The EC met 5 times during the period under reporting, and I use this opportunity to appreciate the meticulous planning and sincere effort put in by the EC members in organizing the activities of KAS.

3. Science Popularization Activities

I am proud to report that the previous year KAS has organised 11 programmes that include international seminars, national seminar, memorial lectures, endowment lectures, important science and technology day observations and fellowship conferment ceremony.

- i. **International Seminar on Phytochemistry-2018:** The two days programme was held at JNTBGRI, Palode, on 26.03.2018 and 27.03.2018, with the support of KSCSTE, Govt. of Kerala. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE. The programme consisted of invited talks by Dr. K. Suresh Babu, ICT, Hyderabad; Dr. Benny Antony, Arjuna Natural Extracts Ltd., Alwaye; Dr. Brijesh Kumar, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow; Dr. Nurhuda Manshoor, UiTM, Malaysia. 36 oral presentations and 48 posters were presented by researchers. The programme was attended by 180 participants from across the country and abroad
- ii. **Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award Ceremony-2018:** The half day programme was held at JNTBGRI, Palode, on 27.03.2018, as part of the International Seminar on Phytochemistry-2018. Prof. Dr. Salma Al Kindy, SQ University, Sultanate of Oman was the guest of honour. Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Nor Hadiani Ismail, Director, Atta Ur Rahman Institute for Natural Product Discovery (RiND), UiTM, Malaysia on the topic, 'Unveiling secrets of nature: Phytochemistry of rare Malaysian plants'. Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment award was presented to Mrs. Prabha B., CSIR-NIIST, TVPM.

- iii. **Dr. E.C.G. Sudarsan and Prof. Stephen Hawking Memorial Lectures:** The half day programme was held at Mar Ivanios College, TVPM, on 25.06.2018. Prof. Stephen Hawking Memorial Lecture was presented by Prof. Dr. George Varghese, Former Director, KSCSTE. Dr. E.C.G Sudarshan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Anil Shaji, IISER, TVPM. Around 150 students, faculty and scientists participated in the programme.
- iv. **Nipah Virus Outbreak in Kerala- The Lessons Learned. Seminar and Panel Discussion:** The half day programme was held at RGCB, TVPM on 31.07.2018 forenoon. The Seminar was inaugurated by Smt. Shailaja Teacher, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Social Justice. Sri. Rajiv Sadanandan IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, gave keynote address. Sri. M. C. Dathan, Scientific Advisor to Chief Minister and Prof. Dr. Oommen V Oommen, Former President, KAS gave felicitations to the programme. Dr. E. Sreekumar, RGCB, TVPM and Dr. A. S. Anoop Kumar, Baby Memorial Hospital, Kozhikode delivered introductory lectures. The panel discussion was chaired by Dr. B. Ekbal, Member, State Planning Board. Dr. G. Arunkumar, joined the programme through an online presentation from Manipal University. The programme was well attended by 325 participants from various Research and Academic Institutions across the state.
- v. **Fellowship Conferment Ceremony- 2018:** The half day programme was held at RGCB, TVPM on 31.07.2018 afternoon. Sri. Justice (Rtd.) P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala was the chief guest and he delivered the Honorary Fellowships of KAS to Dr. Suresh Das and Sri. M. Chandra Dathan and Dr. M. Radhakrishna Pillai (received by Dr. Santhoshkumar, RGCB). The Governor also gave away the fellowships (FAS) to Dr. Annie Abraham, Dr. Bibin John, Dr. Haridas M., Dr. Madhusoodanan P. V., Dr. Muthiah Rm, Dr. Pradeep N. S., Dr. Ruby John Anto, Dr. Sabu A. and Dr. Sameer Kumar V. B. and Dr. Mohan Kumar B (received by Prof. Dr. G. M. Nair).
- vi. **Ozone Day Celebrations-2018; Seminar on One Earth-Keep it Cool:** The one day seminar was held at University College, TVP Mon 18.09.2018, with the support of KSCSTE. The key note address on the topic 'Ozone layer and the alarming hole' was delivered by Prof. V. Prasannakumar, Former HoD, Dept. of Geology, Uty of Kerala. The theme presentations were delivered by Dr. Manulal P. Ram, KSHEC, TVPM; Dr. K.S. Sajin Kumar, Dept. of Geology, Uty of Kerala, Karyavattom; Dr. Prabha R. Nair, Space Physics Laboratory, VSSC, TVPM. The panel discussion on 'Climate change and flood in Kerala' was chaired by Mr. M. Shaneeth, VSSC. 75 participants including students, teachers and scientists attended the programme.
- vii. **Foundation Day Celebrations-2018; Seminar on Recent Trends in Science Education:** The half day programme was held at Mar Theophilus Training College, TVP Mon 18.12.2018. During the programme the genesis and activities of KAS were elaborated by Prof. Dr. G. M. Nair President, KAS and Prof. Dr. P. R. Sudhakaran and Prof. Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, former Presidents, KAS. Key Note Address on Science Education was given by Dr. David Devraj Kumar, Professor, Sci. Education and Director of STEM Education Laboratory, Florida Atlantic University (FAU), USA. Around 70 science education students and teachers were the participants of the programme.

- viii. **National Seminar on Recent Trends & Advancements in Regenerative Medicine and the Role of Omics and Biomarkers in Health:** The two days programme was held at University of Kerala, Karyavattom on 28.02.2019 and KAS was the co-organiser of the programme. The programme consisted of invited talks by eminent scientists in the field of health sciences. Around 120 participants attended the programme.
- ix. **Science Day Celebrations-2019; Seminar on Advances in Raman Spectroscopy:** The half day programme was held at All Saints' College, TVPM on 28.02.2019. The key note address on the topic 'Raman Effect @ 91: Life and Times of Sir C V Raman' was delivered by Dr. K.N. Narayanan Unni, CSIR-NIIST, TVM. The theme presentation was delivered by Dr. Yoosaf Karuvath, CSIR-NIIST, TVM. A demonstration of Handheld Raman Spectrometer was done by Ms. Neethu Emmanuel, CSIR-NIIST. Around 100 students and teachers participated in the programme.
- x. **International Seminar on Current Trends in Herbal Drugs and Pharma Industry:** The two days programme was held at College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Govt. Medical College, TVPM on 29.03.2019 & 30.03.2019 and KAS was the co-organiser of the programme. The programme consisted of invited talks on various aspects of pharmacy related fields, and oral and poster presentations by researchers. More than 300 delegates attended the seminar.
- xi. **Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award Ceremony-2019:** The half day programme was held at College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Govt. Medical College, TVPM on 30.03.2019, as part of the International Seminar on Current Trends in Herbal Drugs. Hisham Endowment Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Priyani A. Paranagama, Director, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Prof. Dr. A. Hisham Endowment Award was presented to Dr. Greeshma Gopalan, Research Associate, CSIR-NIIST, TVM and the awardee gave a short presentation of her achievements in phytochemistry.

4. Other activities

- i. Availing a permanent office space for KAS still remains a dream though several options were tried. However, the academy received consent for using the address of IU-CGGT, Karyavattom for all official purposes and the new address of KAS is;
- Kerala Academy of Sciences
Inter University Centre for Genomics and Gene Technology (IUCGGT)
Department of Biotechnology, University of Kerala
Karyavattom 695 581, Thiruvananthapuram
- ii. During the period, KAS received the Permanent Account Number (PAN) (No. AAFAK6295H), that facilitates financial transactions.
- iii. The Andhra Pradesh Akademi of Sciences" (APAS), Amaravati, AP is organizing the 5th Andhra Pradesh Science Congress at Srikakulam during 7th to 9th November, 2019, and has invited delegates from KAS to participate in the programme.

5. Acknowledgements

The Academy is grateful to Dr. A. Jayakumaran Nair, Hon. Director, IU-CGGT, University of Kerala, Karyavattom, TVPM for kindly permitting the Academy to use the mailing address of IU-CGGT for all official purposes of KAS.

The Academy acknowledges gratefully the financial support received from KSCSTE, TVPM and the generous support and co-operation in organizing various programmes by Research/Academic Institutions such as KBC, TVPM; JNTBGRI, Palode; RGCB, TVPM; Mar Ivanios College, TVPM; University College, TVPM; Mar Theophilus Training College, TVPM; University of Kerala, Karyavattom Campus; All Saints' College, TVPM and College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Govt. Medical College, TVPM. The Academy owes much gratitude to Ms. Alfa Hisham for her generous support for the conduct of Prof. Dr. Hisham Endowment function.

The Academy gratefully acknowledges the sincere efforts by Dr. P. Sreejith and Prof. Dr. Padmajain organizing various programmes in association with KAS.

The Academy fondly acknowledges all the invitees in various programmes and thankful for their words of wisdom that enlightened the scientific community.

The Academy is thankful to Dr. Soniamol Joseph, Mar Ivanios College and Dr. Cinthya Christopher, All Saints College for their sincere efforts in adding new members to the academy.

KAS is much indebted to the former Office bearers especially Prof. Dr. Oommen V. Oommen and Dr. K. G. Ajithkumar for their constant support and advice throughout.

I now express my deep gratitude to the President, Vice Presidents, Jt. Sec., Treasurer, EC members, Fellows and Life Members of the Academy for their invaluable support in conducting the activities of the Academy.

Let me at the end, urge all the fellows and members to actively participate in all the activities of the academy, so that the programmes of KAS becomes meaningful, taking the academy to greater heights and fame.

I place this annual report for discussion and approval of the AGM.

Sd/-

Dr. K. B. Rameshkumar
General Secretary, KAS