

KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

(KSCSTE)

MINUTES OF THE 39TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date/Time: 17th October 2014/3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Venue: Sastra Bhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram

Present:

1. Prof.V.N.Rajasekharan Pillai, EVP, KSCSTE : Chairman
2. Prof.M.Radhakrishna Pillai, Director, RGCB : Member
3. Prof.K.K.Muhammed Yusuff, CUSAT : Member
4. Er.B.G.Sreedevi, Director, NATPAC : Member
5. Dr.P.G.Latha, Director, JNTBGRI : Member
6. Smt. Sheeja S. S. (Representing the Finance Secretary, GoK),
Under Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of Kerala : Member
7. Prof.George Varghese, Director, KSCSTE : Invitee
8. Shri P.Radhakrishnan, Additional Secretary to Govt & CoA : Invitee
9. Shri M.Rajan Panicker IA & AS (Retd.)Spl.Officer, SRIBS : Invitee

Secretary, DST, Gol, Secretary Planning & Economic Affairs, GoK, Sri. Paul Sebastian, Director, Regional Cancer Centre and the Member Secretary, Dr.K.K.Ramachandran could not attend the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and the special Invitees.

Item No.39.01 : Confirmation of the Minutes of the 38th Meeting of the Executive Committee

The minutes of the 38th meeting of the Executive Committee held on 19.09.2014 was confirmed. The observations from the members Dr. K. K. M. Yusuff and Dr. P. G. Latha , were noted by the EC and the changes were made accordingly. Observations from the Secretary, Finance on the minutes of the 38th Meeting were also duly considered and complied.

Item No.39.02 : Action taken report on the decisions of the 38th meeting of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee noted the action taken on 38th meeting of the Executive Committee held on 19.09.2014.

Item No.39.03: Enhancement of emoluments to Project Fellows

The Executive Committee approved the proposal of enhancement of emoluments of the Project Fellows and Technical Assistants subject to the budgetary provision of the Council as given below:

Name of Post	Existing		Revised	
	Emoluments	Qualification	Emoluments	Qualification
Project Fellow	Rs.11,000/- per month + 10% HRA	I class B.Tech	Rs.16,000/- p.m. in the first two years and Rs.18,000/- p.m. after two years) with 10% HRA	I class B.Tech or equivalent
	Rs.12,000/- p.m in the first two years and Rs.14,000/- p.m	M.Tech with I class B.E./B.Tech	Rs.20,000/- p.m. in the first two years and Rs.22,000/- p.m after two years)	M.E./M.Tech with I class B.E./B.Tech

	in the third year		with 10% HRA	
Technical Assistant	Rs.6,000/-per month	I class Diploma in Engineering	Rs.10,000/- p.m. with 10% HRA	I class Diploma in Engineering

Item No.39.04: Scheme for 'Science Literacy' for inculcating scientific awareness and for enhancing the developmental role of science in the Society

The proposal for starting Science Literacy Mission and request for Rs.7.5 lakhs under Plan Schemes for 2015-16 for conducting Science camps and awareness campaign at various educational institutions, NGO and Panchayats was recommended for forwarding to the State Planning Board and Government for consideration in 2015-16 Budget.

Item No.39.05: Audio Programmes through AIR by sponsorship

The Executive Committee approved the scheme for producing programmes through AIR and requirements of Rs.6lakhs during 2015-16 for this, and recommended this scheme for submission to the State Planning Board and Government of Kerala for inclusion in the Annual Plan for the year 2015-16.

Item No.39.06: Technology Development Fund to support the Young Innovator as a part of "YES" (Young Entrepreneurs Summit) of Government of Kerala

Approved in principle and recommended to send to Planning Board for consideration in 2015-16 Budget.

Item No.39.07: Refixation of Honorarium to Shri A.Prabhakaran, Media Consultant

The Executive Committee decided to enhance the honorarium of Shri A.Prabhakaran, Media Consultant from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.35,000/- in line with other senior consultants of similar qualifications and experience in the Council. Without additional financial commitments to the Government, meeting the expenditure from the concerned fund for the project staff.

Item No.39.08: Filling of contract position for the Kerala State Centre for Assistive Technology

The proposal of engagement of Trainers and Counsellors for filling the contract positions in the Kerala State Centre for Assistive Technology was considered and it was decided to engage 4 Trainers and Counsellors for the Scheme. It was also decided to engage Shri Roshan Jose as Multimedia Assistant on a consolidated salary of Rs.15,000/- per month for a period of 6 months on contract basis. (Agenda Item No.39.13)

Item No.39.09: Visit of Dr.R.Prakash Kumar, Director, Malabar Botanical Garden to Missouri Botanical Garden to attend Education in Botanical Garden Congress

The Executive Committee approved the proposal for sanctioning Rs.2.5lakhs for the visit of Dr.R.Prakash Kumar, Director, Malabar Botanical Garden to Missouri Botanical Garden and to attend the Botanical Garden Congress and recommended to include the same in the budget for MBG for the year 2015-16.

Item No.39.10: Transfer of post, to SRIBS from KSCSTE

The proposal for 93 positions in various levels in SRIBS was discussed. The Executive Committee noted that sufficient number of posts are already available with the Council, since RGCB was taken over by Government of India and the posts were not

transferred to Government of India. The Non Plan allocations given to the Council was not reduced even though RGCB was separated. As such the Executive Committee approved shifting of these posts from the Council to SRIBS. The details of the posts are appended (Appendix-1)

Item No.39.11: Formation of Management Committee, Finance Committee and Purchase Committee for SRIBS

A proposal for formation of a Management Committee, Finance Committee and Purchase Committee for SRIBS was considered and it was decided to include a representative of the Government from Finance Department also in the Management Committee and Finance Committee, in addition to the members proposed. In the Management Committee, it was decided to include Principal, RIT, Pampady, Kottayam in his/her official capacity without indicating the name of the incumbent.

In respect of the Purchase Committee, it was decided to include an external expert also when the cost of purchase exceed Rs.10 lakhs. In respect of purchases above Rs.50 lakhs the approval of the Management Committee of SRIBS and that of the Executive Committee of the Council, also should be obtained.

Constitution of the Management Committee, Finance Committee and Purchase Committee subject to the above changes was approved. The members of the committee are given below:

1. Management Committee

1. Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE- Chairman
2. Sri. M. Rajan Panicker, Special Officer, SRIBS- Convenor
3. Prof. George Varghese, director, KSCSTE- Member

4. Smt. B. G. Sreedevi, Director, NATPAC, Trivandrum- Member
5. Principal, RIT, Pampady, Kottayam –Member

2. Finance Committee

1. . Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE- Chairman
2. Sri. M. Rajan Panicker, Special Officer, SRIBS- Member
3. Sri. Asokan, Finance Officer, KSCSTE-Member
4. Dr. C. Arunan, Scientist Coordinator, SRIBS-Member
5. Sri. Johny Joseph, Finance Officer, SRIBS- Convenor
6. Representative of Finance Department of Govt. of Kerala

3. Purchase Committee

1. Prof. George Varghese, Director, KSCSTE-Chairman
2. Sri. M. Rajan Panicker, Special Officer, SRIBS- Member
3. Sri. P. Radhakrishnan, Controller of Administration, KSCSTE-Member
4. Dr. C. Arunan, Scientist Coordinator, SRIBS-Member
5. Sri. Johny Joseph, Finance Officer, SRIBS- Member
6. Sri. Jiji John Thomas, Section Officer, SRIBS-Convenor

Item No.39.12: Hosting of IAA-IISL International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Management

The Executive Committee approved the proposal of hosting of IAA-IISL International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Management without any additional financial commitment from the Council or Government of Kerala, meeting expenditure, if any form the already sanctioned budget form the Conference Head. The EC also approved the MoU signed along KSCSTE, IAA & IISL for the conduct of the International conference.

Item No.39.13: Appointment of Mr.Roshan Jose as Multimedia Assistant in Centre for Assistive Technologies

(Taken up under Item No.39.08)

Item No.39.14: KFRI – Recruitment to the post of Scientist C/E1 (Wildlife Biology) – relaxation of age.

Age relaxation recommended by the screening committee of KFRI for the recruitment of Dr.Nicky.K.Xavier and Dr.C.P.Shaji as Scientists E1 was not agreed .

Item No.39.15: KFRI – Introduction of Senior Research Fellowship Programme

The Executive Committee considered the proposal of the Director, KFRI for introduction of Senior Research Fellowship Programme and to give the position to those who have completed 2 years in the projects and with a publication of at least one paper in peer reviewed journal and participation in one standard seminar. The Executive Committee noted that such a scheme cannot be introduced in one R & D centre alone and decided to get the views of Directors of all R&D Centres in this matter.

Item No.39.16: Recruitment of Project Scientist in Patent Information Cell(PIC) – Kerala.

The proposal from PIC to change the qualifications for the post of Project Scientist to first class B.Tech/BE/first class Post Graduation in (M.Sc.)in Science was agreed to subject to the condition that the designation of the Project Scientist should be changed to Project Associate.

Item No.39.17: Joint submission received from Deputy Registrar (Admn.)and Deputy Registrar (Accounts), KFRI to restore the parity in pay scale with that of Deputy Secretary in Government Secretariat

It was decided to obtain the recommendations of the Management Committee of KFRI regarding the granting of pay scale of Deputy Secretary in Government Secretariat to similarly situated posts in R&D Centres.

Item No.39.18: Appointment of Library and Documentation Officer.

The recruitment of Librarian and Documentation Officer at KSCSTE Headquarters may be made following the existing rules of KSCSTE.

Item No.39.19: Appointment of Internal Auditors of KSCSTE Headquarters.

The proposal of appointing M/s.Cyriac and Associates, Chartered Accountants as Internal Auditors on a consolidated monthly fee of Rs.12,000/- per month plus service tax was approved.

Item No.39.20: Recruitment of Administrative/Technical category through PSC

It was decided to continue with the existing procedure regarding the recruitment of staff in the Council, the reservation rules and the rules regarding age relaxation etc. prescribed by the Government. It was further noted that this is a policy matter and consideration by the State Council and the Government would be required for initiating any step in this regard.

Item No. 39.21: Recruitment of Scientists - Request to grant permission for age relaxation in the case of internal candidates.

No details regarding the age of the candidate Shri Abdul Hameed and how many years age relaxation is required etc. have not been specified. Further it appears that there were 12 qualified candidates including Shri Abdul Hameed. Relaxation in age is possible only when sufficient number of candidates with requisite qualification are not available to fill up the post. The Executive Committee has directed to get clarifications on these points.

Item No.39. 22: 27th Kerala Science Congress – Progress of activities.

The Executive Committee noted the progress of the activities of the 27th Kerala Science Congress.

Item No.39.23: KFRI – Regularization of Helper on contract basis

The Executive Committee decided to obtain the recommendations of the management Committee of the KFRI regarding the regularization of the 5 contract employees there.

Item No.39.24: Institution of “Mangalyaan” Post Doctoral Fellowships in Space Science & Technology for Developmental applications commemorating the Mars Orbital Mission Success of the ISRO

The Executive Committee approved the proposal of sanctioning 10 “Mangalyaan” Post Doctoral Fellowships in Space, Science & Technology at a monthly payment of Rs.30,000/- each with usual annual Post Doctoral Fellowship contingent grant commemorating success of “Mangalyaan”. Executive Committee has further approved the setting up of an expert committee for evolving guidelines for the award of the Fellowships.

Item No.39.25: Switching over of Project Staff from one Division to another without completing the tenure of the Project.

The Executive Committee approved the proposal of switching of Project Staff from one project to another Project modifying the existing guidelines that staff engaged in a Project cannot be transferred to another project (during the tenure) without completing the term.

Item No.39.26: Regularization of Contract/Daily Wage basis Employees of KSCSTE – referring to the Government.

Eight contract employees working in the KSCSTE have submitted representation endorsed by the President of the Council, the Hon'ble Chief Minister for regularisation of their posts in the Council.

The Executive Committee decided to process the representation, as per eligibility, period of contract engagement in the Council, availability of existing and future vacancies, and the requirement and forward the screened in proposals to the Government. As per Council Rule II, Pa VI appointment to those posts shall be made from the nominees of the Employment Exchange. However, a few regularisation have been done in the Council, with the approval by the Government during the last 12 years, as special cases considering their long-term engagement in the Council. The EC resolved to send these proposals of following 8 workers on contract, along with the files to the administrative and finance department, in the Government.

1. Soumya M. S, 2. Manonmany. R, 3. Seena R. S, 4. Sini R. S, 5. Dhanya Surendran, 6. Divya B. S, 7. Senthil Kumar and 8.Akhila T.

Item No.39.27: Selection Committee of the Science Writing and Communication fellowships-Recommendations of the Expert Committee

The EC resolved to accept the recommendations of the selection committee constituted by the Council for the Award of the P. T. Bhaskara Panicker Emeritus Fellowship, the Senior and Junior fellowships in Science Writing and Communication. (Council (M) order No.86/2014/KSCSTE Dated 22.05.14), as per the Guidelines approved by the Council and G.O. Dated 21.7.14.

The meeting ended at 5:00 PM.