

KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 44th Meeting of the Executive Committee of KSCSTE held on 2nd March 2016

Members Present:

1. Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE
2. Dr. M. Radhakrishna Pillai, Director, RGCB
3. Dr. G. C. Gopala Pillai, Managing Director, KINFRA
4. Prof. Oommen V. Oommen, Chairman, Kerala Biodiversity Board
5. Dr. B. G. Sreedevi, Director, NATPAC
6. Dr. P. G. Latha, Director, JNTBGRI
7. Sri. Shaju Representing the Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department, Govt. of Kerala
8. Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary (i/c), KSCSTE

The Executive Committee Meeting started at 10.30 a.m. at the conference hall of KSCSTE. The Chairman declared that the meeting was in order and initiated the meeting with welcome remarks.

Dr. Suresh Das briefly highlighted the programmes operated by the Council Head Quarters, and about the new schemes initiated recently. Members expressed their deep satisfaction over the way in which Council, is functioning and lauded its achievements.

The following decisions were taken against the agenda items placed before the Committee.

Agenda Item No.44.01

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of the Executive Committee

Decision: Confirmed the minutes of the 43rd meeting

Agenda Item No.44.02

Action taken report on the decisions of the 43rd Meeting of the Executive Committee

Decision: Noted and placed on record

Agenda Item No. 44.03

Reporting of Major Events since last meeting

1. Hon'ble President of KSCSTE nominated Dr. K. P. Sudheer, Professor, IIT Madras as Executive Director, CWRDM from among the panel submitted by the Selection Committee. Dr. K. P. Sudheer requested, deputation and other benefits before joining the Centre and also extending the joining time till 31.03.2016. This has been granted with the approval of Hon'ble President.
2. Dr. George Varghese is nominated as Member Secretary to KSCSTE for a period of 3 years and he joined on 15.02.2016 as Member Secretary. He has also given the additional charge of Director, KSCSTE until further orders.
3. The Hon'ble High Court has issued an order quashing the advertisement issued for selection of Director, KFRI and ordered to follow the rules in this regard taken by the State Council.
4. 28th Science Congress was held at University of Calicut during 28-30 January 2016. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala inaugurated the congress, which was attended by nearly 2000 participants including scientists, academicians, research scholars and students.
5. Professor Ei-Ichi Negishi, the Nobel Laureate in chemistry (2010) visited SRIBS as our invitee and delivered the third Nobel Laureate Lecture at Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum. Selected participants from various institutions in Kerala attended the programme. He was treated as a State Guest upon our request by the Govt of Kerala.
6. A workshop on Zika virus was conducted on 22 February 2016 at Mascot Hotel. Panel of experts from various institutions exchanged their views on subject. More than 400 participants attended the programme.
7. Science Day celebrated in the Council on 24th February 2016.

Decision: Noted

Agenda Item No.44.04

KSCSTE - Draft Annual Report for the year 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15

In accordance with the Article 8.3 of the Rules and Byelaws of the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, draft Annual Report on the working of the State Council for the year 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 is presented.

Decision: The Executive Committee received the annual report for the years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 and decided to submit the same to State Council for approval.

Agenda Item No.44.05

File No. 708/C5/2016/KSCSTE

KSCSTE –Science Popularisation Programme- 'Sasthrayaanam'

Proposal initiated by: Dr. Ajit Prabhu, Head, TDPMD, KSCSTE

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Director (i/c), KSCSTE

Actions will be taken by: Controller of Administration/TDPMD

Decision: Executive Committee decided to approve the proposal *Sasthrayaanam*, scheme proposed by TDPMD, for strengthening the libraries of the Govt. High Schools in the State with informative Science Books in Malayalam. The expenses can be met from the allotted budget for science popularisation.

Agenda Item No. 44.06

File No. 708/C5/2016/KSCSTE

KSCSTE - Science Popularization Programme – Enhancement of financial assistance

Proposal initiated by: Dr. Ajit Prabhu, Head, TDPMD, KSCSTE

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Director (i/c), KSCSTE

Actions will be taken by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: The Committee approved the recommendations of Science Popularisation Committee for the enhancement of financial assistance for Science Popularization Programme with maximum ceiling for the financial assistance to Rs. 5 lakhs for a programme.

Agenda Item No. 44.07

File No. 4018/C2/2015/KSCSTE

CWRDM – Construction of a new Trainees Hostel Complex in CWRDM

Proposal initiated by: Dr. Narasimha Prasad, Executive Director, CWRDM

Approved by : Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by : Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: Executive Committee considered proposal and accepted it in principle. Also decided to examine the proposal in detail and requested to invite details such as site & building plan for the Hostel Complex and budget estimate for furthering decision in this matter.

Agenda Item No. 44.08

File No. 731/C2/2016/KSCSTE

NATPAC – Activities of NATPAC from since last EC meeting on 08.12.2015

Proposal initiated by: Dr. B G Sreedevi, Director, NATPAC

Approved by: *Dr. George Varghese*, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: *Mr. K.P. Sreekumar*, Controller of Administration

Major activities of NATPAC since last meeting

1. Safe Community Programme at Panchayath Level – (Thiruvananthapuram,, Palakkad, Alappuzha)
2. Safe Road to School Programme - (Thiruvananthapuram,, Palakkad, Alappuzha)
3. Road Safety Youth Leadership Programme (RSYLP) – 3 (Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad, Alappuzha)
4. Road Safety Awareness Programme to the Students of Higher Secondary Schools in Kerala – 6 (Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam)
5. Road Safety Education through Schools in Kerala – 3 (Palakkad, Kannur, Idukki)
6. One day training on 'Identification of dangerous and hazardous goods and dealing with emergencies' to Junior Sub Inspector – (Kannur, Ernakula (2), Wayanad, Malappuram).
7. Three day Training on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Goods to Drivers – 1 (Thiruvananthapuram)
8. Safe Community Programme for Corporation – 1 (Thiruvananthapuram)
9. Action started to reduce the traffic chaos at Kazhakkuttam junction and adjoining areas with the initiation of Mayor Sri. V.K. Prasanth. The area has become a major traffic hazard for vehicles as well as pedestrians due to heavy on street parking. Report is under preparation.
10. Representatives from Maruthi Suzuki visited NATPAC to finalize a joint Road Safety Action Programme at Gurgaon on 29.01.2016.
11. The Kerala State Policy on Road Side Advertisements submitted to Government by NATPAC has been approved and G.O. issued.
12. NATPAC Director represented the Transport Department for the meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Affairs delegation on 30.01.2016.

Awards Received

1. NATPAC was nominated in the Public Category of the 'India Road Safety Mission 2015' Awards instituted by Maruti & Times Now. The Certificate was presented by District Police Chief at New Delhi on 17.01.2016. A documentary on NATPAC was aired by Times Now National Channel in connection with this on 6th and 7th January, 2016.

2. Dr. B.G. Sreedevi, Director received the 'Kerala State Energy Conservation Commendation Certificate – 2015' in the category of individuals. The Commendation Certificate was presented by Shri. Aryadan Muhammed, Hon'ble Minister for Power, GoK on 14th December 2015 at Hotel Residency Tower, Thiruvananthapuram.

Decision: Committee noted the report.

The Executive Committee expressed its disappointment and unhappiness over not finding the report of other R&D centers other than NATPAC and decided to issue notice to all Directors concerned in this regard. The Executive Committee further requested KSCSTE to place a copy of this communication in the personal files of the officers concerned.

Agenda Item No. 44.09

File No. 618/C5/2016/KSCSTE

KSCSTE - Online conduct of KSCSTE Research Fellowship Examination

Proposal initiated by: Dr. C. Arunan, Head, Basic Science Division, KSCSTE

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Director, KSCSTE

Actions will be taken by : Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Head BSD division was called on and he submitted a revised note before the committee.

Decision: Approved the proposal for conducting KSCSTE Research Fellowship Examination online from December 2016 onwards with the help of M/S C-DIT Total Solution Provider considering their proficiency and experience in this field and with the capital expenditure for development of the software, testing, training etc. amounting to Rs. 9,84,368.

Agenda Item No. 44.10

File No. 978/C1/2011/KSCSTE

KSCSTE-Self sustainable and self-financing Pension scheme – formation of Pension Fund Trust

Proposal initiated by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: The EC nominated a committee including Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary, Dr. B G Sreedevi Director, NATPAC, and Dr. PG Latha Director, JNTBGRI to propose the nominations for the trust to EVP.

Agenda Item No. 44.11
File No. 05/SRIBS-DPR/2014/KSCSTE

SRIBS - Issue of administrative sanction and approval of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for SRIBS.

Proposal initiated by: Sri. Rajan Panikkar, Special officer, SRIBS

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Sri. Rajan Panikkar Special officer, SRIBS

Decision: Executive Committee approved the DPR and recommend for revising the administrative sanction for Rs. 100Cr. including Rs.77.82 crores for the building. Also decided to direct the Special Officer to keep a break up showing expenditure for Raw Building and Furnishings and Fittings along with the report.

Agenda Item No. 44.12
File No. 854/C5/2014/KSCSTE

Constitution of a Performance Appraisal Board

Proposal initiated by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: Committee decided to convene a meeting of all Centre Directors for appraising the matter with them and collecting their specific suggestions before creating the PAB. The EC members, Dr. Radhakrishna Pillai, Dr. GC Gopala Pillai and Prof. Oommen V Oommen shall also attend the meeting.

Agenda Item No. 44.13
File No. 928/C4/2016/KSCSTE

KSCSTE – Implementation of setting up of Wi-Fi coverage, setting up of Digital Library Server and setting up New Server for internal use

Proposal initiated by: Sri. Sabarish, Head, ISD, KSCSTE

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: Executive Committee approved the proposal and decided to implement the Wi Fi Connectivity at the earliest.

Agenda Item No. 44.14
File No. 677/C2/2016/KSCSTE

KSCSTE – Selection & Posting of Dr. Vinod Kumar T.G Nair candidate for the vacancy of the post 01, Scientist E1 (Ethnopharmacology)

Proposal initiated by: Dr. P G Latha, Director, JNTBGRI

Approved by : Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Dr. P G Latha, Director, JNTBGRI

Decision: The Executive Committee approved the selection.

Agenda Item No. 44.15
File No. 45/C2/2013/KSCSTE

CWRDM – Ratification of promotion given to Dr. George Chackacherry, Scientist C, CWRDM

Proposal initiated by: Dr. Narasimha Prasad, Executive Director, CWRDM

Approved by : Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Dr. Narasimha Prasad, Executive Director, CWRDM

Decision: Committee noted the actions.

Agenda Item No. 44.16
File No. 3025/C1/2012/KSCSTE

KSCSTE - Recruitment of Administrative /Technical Category through PSC

Proposal initiated by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: Committee has the general feeling that only non-managerial administrative staff may be selected through PSC. Before arriving at conclusive decision, an expert opinion in this matter may be sought.

Agenda Item No. 44.17
File No.596/C1/2014/KSCSTE

KSCSTE – Ratification of the engagement of Dr. George John, Programme Coordinator, SCRIPT

Proposal initiated by: Dr. GM Nair, Sr. Advisor, Bio technology commission and (i/c), SCIRPT

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary, KSCSTE

Decision: The EC ratified the engagement of Dr. George John to the post of Programme Coordinator, SCRIPT with consolidated monthly emoluments of Rs. 25,000 for a period of one year on contract basis.

The EC also decided to cancel an earlier order, appointing Dr. Satheesh Mundayoor as programme coordinator to SCRIPT, since he was then offered the posting on deputation grounds, and by protecting his salary. The earlier appointment was also not made against a sanctioned vacancy.

Agenda Item No. 44.18
File No.887/C4/2016/KSCSTE

KSCSTE –Maintenance works at Sasthrabhavan building

Proposal initiated by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Approved by: Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: The Executive Committee approved the proposal for the maintenance work.

Agenda Item No. 44.19

KSCSTE –Agenda for next State Council meeting.

Decision:

The Annual State Council of KSCSTE shall be conducted before March 2016. The following matters has to be placed before the State Council for the approval. Annual Reports for 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

1. Audited Annual Accounts for 2013-14, 2014-15
2. Approval of Grant-in-aid status to Kerala Academy of Sciences & M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation
3. Appointment of Auditors
4. Audit Report under section 12A(b) of the Income Tax
5. Denying of exemption of Income Tax
6. Matters referred by Executive Committee for consideration.

The meeting may be convened at the convenience of the President, i.e., Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Meeting admitted the following items as additional agenda.

***Additional Agenda Item No. 44.20.01
File No.205/C2/2016/KSCSTE***

KSCSTE –Re-designation of Senior Clerk/ Senior Typist having more than 25 years' experience as Superintendent

Proposal initiated by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Approved by : Dr. George Varghese, Member Secretary

Actions will be taken by: Mr. K.P. Sreekumar, Controller of Administration

Decision: The Committee decided to refer the matter to the Rule revision Committee for consideration.

Additional Agenda Item No. 44.20.02

Fast Track promotion of Technical staff, in JNTBGRI

Director JNTBGRI, Dr. P G Latha brought a note before the EC on matters related to the selection of nine technical staff who were found eligible to be promoted as scientists. The selection was made on 29.02.2016, on the basis of a subcommittee report. The 36th EC has decided to constitute a subcommittee for formulating a separate promotion scheme for qualified technical staff. The committee submitted its report on 23.02.2016. And the same was approved by majority on circulation.

Decision: The Committee decided to refer the matter to the State Council for appropriate decision, since it involves category change and will cause additional financial burden in future. The EC also noted that the note presented does not show the details of candidates and therefore requested to call for the details. The Member Secretary also informed the EC that few more candidates had also represented their cases to KSCSTE for similar

category change. The EC recommended that the same procedures shall be applied to all such candidates if implemented, before placing it to the state council.

Additional Agenda Item No. 44.20.03.

Regularization of service of Data entry operator/Lab Assistant in the vacant position – as per MoA between JNTBGRI and DBT.

Director JNTBGRI brought another note before EC for the regularization of a data entry operator/Lab Assistant in a vacant position as per MoU between JNTBGRI and DBT. Following open competition and selection, Mrs. Sawmiya Das, M. Sc. Botany, PGDCA and having one year DBT supported training in Bioinformatics, was appointed as Data Entry Operator with scale of pay 5200-20000 + 2400 GP as temporary project employee. Director, JNTBGRI requested permission of EC to regularize Data Entry Operator/Lab Assistant incumbent.

Decision: The Committee decided that the vacancy of Data Entry Operator/Lab Assistant of DBT Bioinformatics Centre of JNTBGRI can be filled up only by open advertisement and interview, following the rules of KSCSTE.

The meeting came to a close by 130 pm.

Dr. Suresh Das
Executive Vice President & Chairman

Prof. George Varghese
Member Secretary