

## Kerala State Higher Education Council

### Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Executive Body meeting held on 23.05.2023

The 35<sup>th</sup> Executive Body Meeting of the third KSHEC was held on 23.05.2023 at 11.00 am. through video conferencing. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M. Vice Chairman presided.

The following members attended the meeting.

- |    |                         |   |                               |
|----|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Prof.RajanGurukkal P.M. | : | Vice Chairman, KSHEC.         |
| 2. | Dr.FathimathuZuhara     | : | Member, Executive Body, KSHEC |
| 3. | Dr. R. K. Suresh Kumar  | : | Member, Executive Body, KSHEC |
| 4. | Dr. J. Rajan            | : | Member, Executive Body, KSHEC |
| 5. | Dr.RajanVarughese       | : | Member Secretary, KSHEC       |

Prof. Gopinath Raveendran, Vice Chancellor, Kannur University requested for leave of absence as he is travelling out of headquarters to attend a programme.

**The following agenda was transacted and decisions taken.**

**Item No. 1 Annual Report 2022-23.**

Approved the Annual Report for the year 2022-23

**Item No. 2 Annual Audit and Accounts Report 2022-23.**

Approved the Annual Audit and Accounts Report for the year 2022-23.

**Item No. 3 Study in Kerala Initiative of KSHEC.**

Kerala has a strong, untapped potential to attract international students for full-time and short-term programmes. However, only a few institutions in the State have a history of hosting international students.

According to the latest *All India Survey on Higher Education*, the total number of foreign students enrolled in Indian institutions during the 2020-21 academic year was 48,035. During this period, while neighbouring States like Karnataka and Tamil Nadu hosted 8,137 and 3,685 foreign students, respectively, Kerala could attract only 266 students. Even during 2019-20, before the pandemic struck, the share of international students in Kerala was very small: only about 302 students. (AISHE 2020-21 and 2019-20).

**Policy Context**

The importance of attracting international students has already been recognised by the State government, especially in the context of transforming Kerala into a knowledge economy. It is in this broad context that the *Commission for Reforms in Higher Education* recommended for promoting the inward mobility of international students to the universities and colleges in the State in the report submitted to the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala in July 2022.

**Capitalising on Strengths**

Better economic infrastructure, strong academic diaspora, excellent digital connectivity, multicultural society, geographic location and natural beauty, excellence in the State's education sector, good air connectivity and comparative safety, etc. are some of the factors that place Kerala in a strong position in the country to attract foreign students. Significantly, students from Kerala form an important group within international students in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and many other countries.

This would be helpful in attracting foreign students to the State to join for the short-term programmes. The diaspora links of the State could also be utilised effectively to attract students, along with other promotional activities.

### **Advantages**

The proposed “Study in Kerala” programme could be designed to improve campus diversity so that the programme would be beneficial to equip students to work in a global society. If tailored strategically, the programme could also deliver great economic benefit to the State in the long run, especially to generate additional financial resources for the institutions; apart from giving more visibility to the State’s tourism sector.

### **Playing to the Strengths**

The proposed Study in Kerala programme could be implemented in two phases. During the first phase, the programme should focus on attracting globally mobile students for short-term programmes offered by the select institutions. There is huge demand for self-funded short-term study abroad programmes in India at many universities located in the United States, Europe, Australia, Canada, etc. Faculty-led student groups from the universities and colleges of these countries could be attracted by offering two weeks/one-month innovative academic programmes on topics of global interest, along with innovative cultural immersion programmes. These programmes can be offered with or without academic credits. Host institutions should be allowed to charge reasonable fee for all the services they provide.

During the second phase, international students could be attracted to the full-time programmes offered by select universities and colleges in the State. Country-specific and region-specific strategies by focusing on Africa and South Asia will be helpful in attracting self-funded students to join full-time courses.

### **Selection of Institutions**

Analysis of international student mobility patterns has shown that the choice of study destination of students has always been depended upon many factors such as easy visa processing and approval, availability of cross-cultural curriculum at host institutions, vibrant institutional platforms that help students to connect with each other, better on-campus dining options, good hostel facilities, websites that provide relevant information, inclusive campus facilities, faculty and staff with prior international experience and internship opportunities in the host country, among others. All these points need to be considered while selecting the host institutions in the State.

The programme may be implemented initially in two different phases, starting from the 2023-24 academic year. While the mission of the KSHEC during the first phase(2023-24) should be to attract short-term students, it could focus on full-time students during the second phase(2024-25). The Council should promote Kerala as an attractive destination among foreign institutions (for short-term programmes) and individual students (for full-time programmes).

Since the willingness of the best universities and colleges in the State to host international students are crucial for the success of the programme, the Council has an important role to promote the programme in the State among the institutions. The Council should also manage an online platform that would help foreign institutions and students to apply for the programme. The Council would also develop region, country and institution-specific strategies to raise the profile of Kerala’s higher education system through promotional activities by working closely with the State government.

After detailed discussion it was resolved to approve the Study in Kerala programme and initiate necessary steps in this direction.

#### **Item No. 4. Fixing the Pay and Allowance of Programme Officer (Internationalization)**

Reported the following details related to fixing of the Pay and Allowance of Programme Officer (Internationalization) forwarded to the Government.

1. The State Government has taken a policy decision in favour of making Kerala as a Higher Education hub. We have to build a sustainable higher education system that promotes academic and research collaboration among universities nationally and internationally. At the national level, this task is coordinated by the UGC and the MoE, Government of India, giving priority to Central Universities in the country.
2. UGC letter (DO No. 152-8/2020 (ic) dated 13.01.2021) has directed all the universities to appoint a Programme Officer who would be entrusted to coordinate the Internationalisation of our higher education systems. It would be difficult to appoint Programme Officers for each university in the state. But it would be plausible to appoint one Programme Officer in the Kerala State Higher Education Council who could coordinate the activities related to internationalisation in all universities. The task would be to attract students from abroad, to provide information about academic programmes, facilities, admission related services, as well as to foster cooperation with foreign universities for the benefit of students, teachers and researchers in Kerala.
3. The KSHEC has schemes like Erudite Scholar-in Residence-, Brain Gain, State Assessment and Accreditation, Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework, E Journal Consortium and Kerala Academic Library Network. The success of all these schemes demands networking and collaboration between researchers and universities in India and abroad. The council is also planning to launch 'Study in Kerala' scheme. This is a new initiative for tapping the potential for short-term / one-semester credit transfer programmes to attract students to higher education institutions in Kerala. This can be clubbed with the Knowledge Economy, Brain Gain and Tourism Promotion programmes of the state government. For coordinating the above schemes, the service of a programme officer with national and international Exposure is urgently required for the Council.
4. Administrative Sanction was given to KSHEC under the Higher Education Empowerment Implementation Plan to appoint one person to the post of Programme Officer (on a contract basis) for Internationalization of Higher Education. Since the post of Programme Officer is on a contract basis, the pay scale/ salary of this post is not fixed in the Government Order about contract appointment. Based on the Administrative Sanction given KSHEC through a duly appointed Selection Committee has selected one person who is currently working as a Deputy Advisor in the National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA) a University under the Ministry of Education, GoI, New Delhi. He is a Post Graduate in International relations and has an M Phil Degree from JNU, New Delhi. His present grade is equivalent to the permanent faculty. He is responsible for facilitating the India Bilateral Cooperation programme in education in NIEPA. Apart from research and advisory role, he is a member of the course development team of the NIEPA.

5. Currently he is drawing one lakh Rupees per month from the NIEPA on a consolidated basis. Apart from the salary he has been given the freedom to take up projects with the permission of the competent authority. He is also receiving an honorarium for serving on international committees. He has published several papers in national and international research journals on the internationalization of higher education on his own and in collaboration with Prof. Altbach, a world-renowned expert on higher education systems across the world

Hence based on the above facts and circumstances, permission may be granted to KSHEC to fix the salary of the Programme Officer Internationalisation (on contract basis) in KSHEC, as rupees one lakh, as consolidated amount, per month under Article 71(i) of the Kerala Financial Code for securing the service of the person who has much expertise and experience in the relevant field.

**Item No. 5 Modifications in the CMNPF Fellowship Agreement.**

Resolved to make necessary modifications in the Agreement executed by CMNPF Fellows related to discontinuance of the Fellowship without prior approval from KSHEC.

**Item No. 6 Orientation Programme -KIRF.**

Resolved to organise Orientation Programmes in all Districts for Principals/ IQAC coordinators in connection with the activities of State Assessment and Accreditation centre (SAAC) and Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF).

Reported the details of the conduct of Orientation Programmes in connection with Accreditation and Ranking scheduled at the district level including Mar Ivanios College, Thiruvananthapuram (29.05.2023), CMS college Kottayam (29.05.2023) and Marian College, Kuttikkanam (30.05.2023).

**Item No. 7 Request of Dr. Zubair Medammal (Calicut University) to waive the conditions related to Foreign Fellowship.**

After detailed discussion, it was resolved not to forward the representation of Dr. Zubair Medammal.

**Item No. 8 Reporting – International Conference cum Hands-on Workshop on Translational Research in Medical Devices 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023 at Sri Chithra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology (SCTIMST).**

Reported the details of the proposed International Conference cum Hands-on Workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023 at Sri Chithra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology (SCTIMST) and the organizing committee constituted with the following members.

**Prof. M.S. Valiathan, (Patron)** National Research Professor, School of Life Science, Manipal University [mvaliathan@gmail.com](mailto:mvaliathan@gmail.com)

**Prof. Rajan Gurukkal P.M., (Chairman)** Vice Chairman, KSHEC, [rgurukkal@gmail.com](mailto:rgurukkal@gmail.com)

**Dr. Sanjay Behari.** Director, SCTIMST [director@sctimst.ac.in](mailto:director@sctimst.ac.in)

**Dr. Mohanan Kunnummal,** Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Health Sciences, [vc@kuhs.ac.in](mailto:vc@kuhs.ac.in).

**Dr. P.R. Harikrishna Varma,** Head of BMT Wing, SCTIMST. [bntu@sctimst.ac.in](mailto:bntu@sctimst.ac.in)

**Dr. Roy Joseph** (Scientist G, Dept. of Medical Devices Engineering) SCTIMST.  
joseph@sctimst.ac.in

**Dr. Vijayakumar** (Former Professor of Community Medicine, Medical College  
Thiruvananthapuram), communitymedicine@gmail.com

**Dr. Fathimath Zuhra**, (Former Professor, Dept of Life Sciences, University of Calicut)  
Member, Executive Body, Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC),  
kfZuhra@gmail.com

**Mr. C. Padmakumar**, Special Officer, Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic  
Council (K-DISC), so.kmtc@kdisc.kerala.gov.in

**Dr. Rajan Varughese, (Convenor)** Member Secretary, KSHEC.  
msheckerala@gmail.com

**Item No. 9 Seeking explanation – Complaint related to alleged forgery of Certificate issued by SD College Alappuzha.**

It was resolved to proceed in the matter based on the legal opinion and if necessary, forward the same to the Department of Higher Education, for further action.

**Additional Agenda**

**A1. Purchase of new Vehicles for KSHEC**

It was resolved to seek Government permission for purchasing a new vehicle, replacing the old staff vehicle (Car, KL -01 AR 682, Year of Registration 2007) which is not in a running condition.

Further resolved to seek the Government permission to purchase a new vehicle to the Hon'ble Vice Chairman by replacing the vehicle (KL 01-BE 9565) as it has exceeded the kilometer limit and 10-year period.

**The Minutes were read and confirmed**

The Meeting which started at 11.00 am concluded by 1.00 pm



**Member Secretary**



**Vice Chairman**