

KERALA STATE COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 64th Executive Committee Meeting

The 64th meeting of the Executive Committee of Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) commenced at 10.00 a.m. on 11.09.2024 at Sasthrabhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram under the chairmanship of Dr.K.P.Sudheer, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE.

Members Present :

1. Dr.K.P.Sudheer
Executive Vice President, KSCSTE
2. Shri.M.Chandra Dathan
Scientific Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
3. Prof.V.K.Damodaran
Former Director, Energy Management Centre
4. Dr.Manoj P Samuel
Executive Director, KSCSTE-CWRDM
5. Dr Kannan C S Warriar
Director, KSCSTE-Kerala Forest Research Institute
6. Smt. Sreelatha Sukumaran
Additional Secretary to Government, Finance Department
7. Smt. Manju M S
Under Secretary to Government, Planning & Economic Affairs Department
8. Dr.A.Sabu
Member Secretary, KSCSTE

The Chairman, Executive Committee and the Executive Vice President, KSCSTE welcomed all the members to the 64th Executive Committee meeting.

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Decision
64.01	Confirmation of the Minutes of the 62 nd and 63 rd Meeting of the Executive Committee.	Confirmed
64.02	Action taken report on the decisions of the 62 nd and 63 rd Meeting of the Executive Committee	Member Secretary explained the action taken report in each item; Item No.61.09 - Payment of EPF from arrear – The Executive Vice President explained the present status, informing that the remarks

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13/9/24

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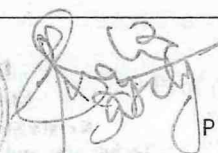
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		from Law Department is already received in S&TD, and based on the remarks, a proposal is submitted to the Hon'ble Chief Minister. Item No.62.09 - Decided to finalise the case after discussion in the next Director's meeting. Item No.62.22 – Executive Vice President explained the present status of the transfer of land of NCESS to NATPAC and reported that a High level meeting is necessary to sort out the issue. Item No.62.26.03 – Sri. M.C. Dathan suggested to review the guidelines once again for the next year.
64.03	Reporting of Major Events since the last meeting of Executive Committee	Noted. While explaining the upcoming conclave on the 'Role of S&T in Landslide Management' in October 2024, the following discussion took place. Sri. M.C. Dathan explained the climate change issues of the State and the present status of the data collection. The Executive Director, KSCSTE-CWRDM has also pointed out the role of the Institute in this. Prof. V.K. Damodaran explained the importance of a warning system for climate change in the State. Sri. M.C. Dathan said that at present we are able to predict the cyclone in advance, however we are not able to identify the discharge rate of rain clouds and which is very difficult.


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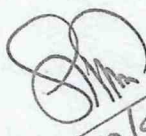
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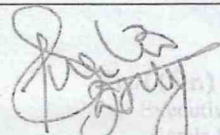


K. P. SUDHAKAR
 President
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		While explaining about Sparshaganitham – a mathematical training for visually impaired, Prof. V.K. Damodaran suggested to contact the experts from Manchester University, as Manchester University is doing more research in this field. Regarding STIC, the Member Secretary, KSCSTE has suggested to find the possibility of empanelling STIC as the recognised/empanelled agency of State PSUs for testing/calibration. Smt. Sreelatha Sukumaran, representative from Finance Department has suggested to approach Store Purchase Department for empanelling them as Total Service Provider (TSP)
64.04	KSCSTE - Budget Estimate for the financial year 2024-25	The Executive Director, KSCSTE-CWRDM has raised a concern regarding the non-plan allocation in the budget estimate. The Executive Committee authorized the Executive Vice President to rectify the same.
64.05	KSCSTE - Annual Report of KSCSTE for the year 2023-24	Approved.
64.06	KSCSTE - Annual Administration Report of KSCSTE for the year 2023-24	Approved.
64.07	KSCSTE - Revision of pay and allowances to the employees of KSCSTE and its R&D Centres	Noted
64.08	KSCSTE - Reviewing Authority of ACR/APAR- Discrepancy	Approved. As it involves Rule amendment, the Executive Committee referred the matter to State Council.
64.09	KSCSTE- Criteria for Assessment Promotion Score.	Approved. As it involves Rule amendment, the Executive

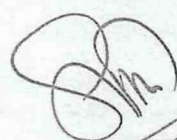

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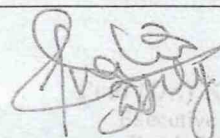
		Committee referred the matter to State Council.
64.10	KSCSTE- Assessment Promotion of Administrative and Technical Staff	Approved. The Executive Committee suggested to report the matter to Government after implementation. Smt. Sreelatha Sukumaran from the Finance Department expressed a differing opinion on the EC's decision.
64.11	KSCSTE - Kerala Science Congress - Cash Prize for Best Paper Award	Approved and decided to open separate bank accounts for endowment and corpus fund which is to be raised by sponsorship and other measures.
64.12	KSCSTE - Innovation hub and Business incubation facility	Approved.
64.13	KSCSTE - Regularising the appointment of Ms. Sakhilekha A, Librarian Grade-I in the Common Pool Library Service	Decided to maintain status quo.
64.14	KSCSTE - Ratification of Extension of tenure of Adv. P. C. Sasidharan as Standing Counsel, KSCSTE	The Executive Committee entrusted the Executive Vice President to prepare a new panel for the appointment of Standing Counsel and to complete the procedures by 31 st October, 2024.
64.15	KSCSTE - Appointment of Statutory Auditors of KSCSTE for the financial year 2023-24- Ratification	Ratified.
64.16	KSCSTE- Enhancement of Dearness allowances to the employees of KSCSTE and its R&D Centres- Ratification	Ratified.
64.17	KSCSTE - Enhancement of monthly remuneration of Project Officer of NGC- Ratification	Ratified and approved the annual enhancement at par with other similar projects in future.

64.18	KSCSTE- Permission for the foreign journey of officers of R&D Centres – Ratification	Ratified.
64.19	JNTBGRI - Appointment of Sri.Balachandran S, Driver, KSCSTE - JNTBGRI - Ratification	Ratified.
64.20	KSCSTE - Extension of Leave without allowance to Project staff– - Ratification	Ratified as a special case.
64.21	KSCSTE –TA/DA for Project personnel attached to various projects in KSCSTE and its R & D Centres – Revision of grade	Approved by correcting as “ <i>the grade of Project staff/personnel employees in KSCSTE in various projects based on pay of the post mapped to the current provisions</i> ”
64.22	KSCSTE – Room Rent Reimbursement rate – Revision	The following were decided, and approved The rate of room rent for reimbursement is enhanced as proposed and allowed as follows: Grade I – 2500/- Grade IIA – Rs 2000/- Grade IIB – Rs 1500/- Grade III – Rs 1250/- Grade IV – Rs 800/- For travel associated with projects sanctioned by Central Government organizations, accommodation entitlements will be governed by Central Government regulations. In both cases mentioned above, hotel bills or receipts should include the firm's GST number, while settling the claim.
64.23	KSCSTE - Painting of Sasthrabhavan Building	Approved.
64.24	KSCSTE - Proposal for enhancement of the Post Doctoral Fellowship amount	Approved to enhance the PDF amount to Rs.60,000/- per month, however, without HRA and


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Member Secretary

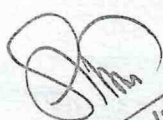
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P. SUDHEER

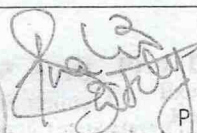
Vice President

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		Rs.75,000/- per year contingency grant. It was also suggested that the emoluments given to Project Staff needs an upward revision, and should be worked out and placed in the next EC.
64.25	KSCSTE - Implementation of a suitable Pension Scheme for employees who joined the service after 01/09/2014 at various R & D Centres	Decided to constitute a Committee to prepare a proposal. Committee members include Shri.M.C.Dathan, Dr.Manoj P Samuel, Controller of Administration, KSCSTE, Additional secretary S&T and representative of Finance Department.
64.26	KSCSTE - Media Consultant for KSCSTE & its R&D Institutions	Approved with the following conditions : 1. The remuneration should not exceed Rs.25,000/- per month. 2. KSCSTE should prepare detailed guidelines for appointment along with duties and responsibilities. 3. Executive Vice President is authorised for the same.
64.27	CWRDM - Implementation of Five day working pattern in KSCSTE-CWRDM	Approved to implement the five day working pattern to all R&D Centres under the Council subject to the approval of the State Council. However, the KSCSTE HQ should observe the present 6 days a week working status.
64.28.01	KSCSTE - Enhancement of gratuity in respect of employees drawing CSIR Scale	Approved.



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64.28.02	KSCSTE - Establishment of Science Park at Kannur- AED Consultant- Release of consultancy fee	Approved.
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The Executive Committee also discussed about the Writ petitions filed by the retired employees of NCESS for unlimited gratuity. In this regard, NCESS has requested for an undertaking for reimbursing the amount by KSCSTE to the petitioners after releasing the payment to KSCSTE by NCESS based on the Judgement. In this regard, KSCSTE was sought the concurrence of Government regarding the matter of executing an undertaking from our end to the effect of disbursing back the amount given by NCESS and the Government in S&TD has informed that Government cannot take on the additional burden brought upon the Council due to the own decision in fixing Gratuity and directed to take steps to settle the above matter between Council and GoI-Ministry of Earth Sciences. An SLP is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court filed by NCESS in the subject. As per clause 1.2 of the MoU signed between the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Science and Technology Department, Government of Kerala and Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) for the take over of CESS by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, to take over the administrative control of CESS with its present assets, infrastructure and liabilities including that of the manpower employed (by CESS) as on 31.12.2013. The petitioners of this case are the retired employees of CESS and their plea is to release balance amount of gratuity with interest due to them. As such the liabilities on account of their gratuity has to be met by NCESS. In the light of these arguments, the Executive Committee suggested not to execute any such undertakings till the finalisation of SLP.

The meeting concluded at 1.00 p.m.


13/5/24

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