

Proceedings of the Executive Council meeting of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Applications held during its XX Annual Conference at the Department of Statistics, Pondicherry University, Puducherry on 29 January, 2018 at 9.00 a.m.

The Executive Council meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Dr. V.K. Gupta, in Chair
2. Dr. R.B. Barman
3. Dr. Rajpal Singh
4. Dr. A.C. Kulshreshtha
5. Dr. Rajender Parsad
6. Dr. A.K. Nigam
7. Dr. Bikas K. Sinha
8. Dr. A. Dhandapani
10. Dr. D. Roy Choudhury
11. Dr. Ashish Das
12. Dr. Alope Lahiri
13. Dr. Hukum Chandra
14. Dr. B.N. Mandal
15. Dr. K.V. Palanichamy
16. Smt. Shibani Roy Choudhury

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members and then the agenda items were taken up.

1. Tribute to Dr. K.C. Raut, Life Member of the Society

Tributes were paid to Late Dr. K.C. Raut, life member of the Society, who left for heavenly abode on November 27, 2017 at Bhubaneswar. It was informed that on behalf of the Society, a condolence message was sent to his family by e-mail through Dr. A.K.P.C. Swain, a life member of the Society. Also, the message was sent by post to his home address. One minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

2. Confirmation of the proceedings of the EC meeting held during the 19th Annual Conference of SSCA at SKUAST-J on 6th March 2017

The proceedings of the Executive Council (EC) meeting held at the SKUAST-J, Jammu on 6th March 2017 were circulated among the EC members. Since no comments were received on the proceedings, these were confirmed.

3. Arrangements of the conference

The Organizing Secretary of the XX Annual Conference of SSCA was invited at the EC meeting to provide a brief account of the arrangements made for organizing the conference in respect of the scientific programmes for the three days (29th – 31st January 2018), boarding and lodging of the delegates, etc. He informed that a total of 150 abstracts of contributory papers and 85 invited speakers including plenary speakers were received. Few abstracts were also received on the spot. It was also informed that the organizers have got financial support from a number of

organizations, namely, DST, NABARD, CSIR, DRDO, UGC and Indian Bank, Pondicherry University Branch. The members expressed satisfaction at the arrangements and thanked the organizers for accomplishing the herculean task.

4. Presentation of the report of the activities of the Society

The Secretary, Dr. Dipak Roy Choudhury presented the activities of the Society during the intervening period of two Conferences. Dr. Ashish Das presented the audited report of the society for the financial 2016-17.

5. Action taken report on the EC meeting of the last year

Secretary informed that during last EC meeting, a four-member sub-committee was constituted to find the feasibility of instituting a life time achievement award to the outstanding scientists every year by adopting certain criteria and framing such rules and regulations for the purpose. The sub-committee had submitted its report to the LOB at its eighth meeting in January 2018. The LOB brought attention to some other related issues and requested the sub-committee to relook the recommendations based upon the deliberations in its meeting. The sub-committee has been requested to submit the revised report to the LOB. In the mean time it was decided that the speaker of the Memorial Lecture be given a Certificate for delivering M.N. Das Memorial lecture. It was also decided that all the speakers who had delivered the MN Das Memorial Lecture in the past be given the certificate. Accordingly, the certificates were given to Dr. R.B. Barman, Dr. A.C. Kulshreshtha, Dr. A.K. Nigam who were present in the meeting. Dr. Alope Dey and Dr. A.K. Srivasatava would be given the certificate at Delhi.

Special proceedings of the 19th annual conference of the Society were published and are available at the website of the Society. Few copies of the same were printed for distribution to the authors and their organizations and EC members.

6. Dr M N Das Memorial Young Scientist Award 2018

The President informed that a total of ten papers were received for the consideration of the award and as per the rule of the award, three of them have been selected for presentation of their respective research papers at the conference.

7. Election of Executive Committee (EC) members and office bearers

There are 15 EC members. As per the norms, every year five members who have completed 3 years of term may be re-nominated/replaced by new members suggested by the Executive Council and approved by the general Body. This year the 5 outgoing members are (i) Dr. B.N. Mandal, (ii) Dr. P. Rath, (iii) Dr. S.A. Mir, (iv) Dr. Girish Jha and (v) Dr. P.C. Gupta. It was also deliberated that one of the organizers of the conference may be nominated as an EC member out of the 5 positions. The Executive council proposed that following five may be nominated to Executive Council after the approval of General Body: (i) Dr. P. Rath, (ii) Dr. S.A. Mir, (iii) Dr. Manish Trivedi, IGNOU, (iv) Dr. Ranjit Kumar Paul, IASRI and (v) Dr. R. Vishnu Vardhan, Pondicherry University. The proposal of EC for 2018-19 is given in the Annexure and would be placed in the General Body meeting of the Society for its approval.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the services rendered by Dr. B.N. Mandal, Dr. Girish Jha and Dr. P.C. Gupta, Executive Council members for their effective role in managing the day to

day work of the society. It was also decided to send the appreciation letter to the outgoing members for the services rendered by them.

8. Appointment of auditor for 2018-19

It has been proposed that M/S Panjrath Kapoor and Company, Chartered Accountant, who is presently auditor of the Society, might be continued to look after the accounts of the Society for the next financial year 2018-19 due to their satisfactory and timely completion of audited report. The Firm has audited and prepared accounts of the society for 2016-17 and would also file the income tax returns for the current financial year 2017-18 (Assessment year 2018-19).

9. Discussion on strengthening and enhancing visibility of the journal of the Society and printing of few copies of the same.

It was informed that till now, 15 volumes of the journal of the society have been published, the latest one being a special volume entitled “Randomised Response Techniques and Their Applications” published in 2017. This is an online journal with open access to all readers. The readers can read, download and print full length papers without any cost. The journal has a policy of bringing out special volumes on emerging thematic areas. Five such special volumes have been brought out so far by the Society. Another special volume entitled ‘Survey Methodology and Applications’ in honour of Prof J.N.K. Rao, Distinguished Research Professor, is expected to be brought out by May end to felicitate him on his 80th birthday. Another Special Volume in honour of Prof Arun Nigam, a distinguished researcher, will be brought out to felicitate him on his 75th birthday. Efforts are also being made to release another special volume on Design of Experiments in the year 2019.

It has been informed that a proposal was made at the last meeting of the LOB to print some copies of the journals of the Society in addition to uploading the same on its website. To start with, it has been suggested to print a maximum of 100 copies of the special volume in honour of Prof. J.N.K. Rao. It was also proposed at LOB that a maximum of 100 copies of the journals, special or otherwise, might be printed on a continuous basis. The number would be guided by the requirement. This would facilitate its distribution to Libraries and some renowned research institutes resulting in spread of the popularity of the journal. The cost of the Journal would be the same as was decided earlier. EC members agreed to the proposals.

10. Regional Office of SSCA at Rajkot

The Society presently has a Regional Office at the Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat. The idea of having Regional Office was to conduct research on issues of current interest in the regions in and around Gujarat in the form of symposia, special talks by eminent personalities on the subject, seminars, workshops, etc. with the aim of increasing the popularity of the Society. Initially, some work in that direction was carried out by that office but since the last two years, no tangible progress of work was visible there. The Centre incharge had also retired from the active service and there was no one in the Department to take care of the activities of the regional office. The matter was discussed at length and it has been proposed to wind up that office *w.e.f.* 1st April 2018.

11. Other issues

- i) For increasing the visibility of the Society in addition to holding annual conferences, Dr. R. B. Barman said that SSCA may join with other professional statistical societies to form an 'Apex Society', which might organize seminars, workshops etc. focusing on real national issues on the pattern of the Royal Statistical Society. In that situation, many organizations would come forward as sponsors for organizing these types of events. SSCA may lead the Apex Society. Even organizations like NABARD, MOSPI might come forward for these types of events addressing key issues of the country. Dr. Arun Nigam suggested that the society might provide statistical consultancy to Research Scholars / Institutions seeking such services.
- ii) Dr. Rajpal Singh, Patron of the Society, proposed that to encourage the young scientists, two separate awards, namely, Talented Scientist Award and Inspired Scientist Award might be conferred every year. President informed that besides the winner of Dr. M.N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award, the two other contestants invited for the presentation of the research papers, are given the appreciation/merit certificates every year. However, the Executive Council was requested to look into the feasibility of instituting such awards.
- iii) A proposal was once mooted at a LOB meeting to bring internationally renowned statisticians as honorary members of the Society. Bringing such renowned statisticians to the mainstream may help in accelerating the growth of the society. It would also help enhancing the visibility of the society globally. In this context, the President also read a mail from Prof Aloke Dey, who also suggested bringing big stalwarts of international eminence as honorary members of the society. It was also suggested by Prof Aloke Dey that if the proposal is approved by the Executive Council, then Prof JNK Rao and Prof Rahul Mukerjee may be included as Honorary members after obtaining their consent. This would, however, be not done regularly. The proposal was agreed upon unanimously. The two names suggested were approved for Honorary Membership.
- iv) Regarding organization of XXI Annual Conference of SSCA, it was informed that two universities, namely, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Cooch Behar (W.B.) and Gauhati University, Guwahati have been approached for the same. Dr. Rajpal Singh informed that he would try to get the next annual conference to be organized at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore (M.P.). The LOB/Executive Council may decide on the venue after going through these proposals or any other proposal that the Executive Council / LOB deem worthy.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

APPENDIX
LIST OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2018-19

Founder President

Late Prof. M.N. Das

President

V.K. Gupta, Delhi

Executive President

Rajender Parsad, Delhi

Patrons

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. R.B. Barman, Mumbai | 5. A.C. Kulshreshtha, Delhi |
| 2. Rajpal Singh, Bhopal | 6. Pankaj Mittal, Delhi |
| 3. Alope Dey, Delhi | 7. A K Nigam, Bengaluru |
| 4. R.C. Agrawal, Delhi | 8. Prithvi Yadav, Hyderabad |

Vice-Presidents

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. S.D. Sharma, Gurugram | 4. Bikas K. Sinha, Kolkata |
| 2. D.K. Ghosh, Rajkot | 5. A. Dhandapani, Hyderabad |
| 3. V.K. Bhatia, Delhi | |

Secretary

D. Roy Choudhury, Delhi

Foreign Secretary

Sudhir Gupta, USA

Treasurer

Ashish Das, Mumbai

Joint Secretaries

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|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Alope Lahiri, Delhi | 2. L.M. Bhar, Delhi | 3. Hukum Chandra, Delhi |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|

Members

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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Anshu Bhardwaj, Delhi | 9. Piyush Kant Rai, Varanasi |
| 2. Amarendra K. Jha, Delhi | 10. Manish Kumar Sharma, Jammu |
| 3. Shibani Roy Choudhury, Delhi | 11. P. Rath, Delhi |
| 4. Rahul Gupta, Jammu | 12. S.A. Mir, Srinagar |
| 5. Alka Arora, Delhi | 13. Manish Trivedi, Delhi |
| 6. K.V. Palanichamy, Chennai | 14. Ranjit Kumar Paul, Delhi |
| 7. Manisha Pal, Kolkata | 15. R. Vishnu Vardhan, Puducherry |
| 8. Praggya Das, Mumbai | |

Ex-officio Members

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| 1. Chair Editor, S. & A. | 3. Director, IASRI |
| 2. Executive Editor, S. & A. | 4. DG, CSO |