

Meeting Report: Tie-up between Electricity Sector and Engineering Colleges

Date: 22/06/2023

Time: From 2.30 pm to 5.55 pm

Location: KSERC Court Hall

Attendees: A total of 18 individuals participated in the event, comprising 16 faculty members and 2 students.

Objective: The objective of the meeting was to be an interactive meeting regarding the collaboration of Engineering Colleges with KSERC.

Agenda:

1. Welcome Speech: Hon. Secretary, KSERC
2. Self Introduction
3. Keynote Address: Hon. Chairman, KSERC
4. Presentation: Interns of KSERC & Officials from KSEB
5. Interactive session about the tie-up of engineering colleges with KSERC for discovering the vast potential of action research in the power sector of kerala.
6. Vote of thanks: Najma Farsana (intern of KSERC)

Discussion Summary:

1. Welcome Speech: Hon. Secretary, KSERC

The discussion was opened by our Secretary Shri. Satheeshchandran C R, with a warm welcome to all the attendees, expressing his gratitude for their presence and participation. The welcome speech aimed to create a positive and engaging atmosphere for fruitful discussions.

2. Self Introduction:

Everyone who participated in the discussion, including our Chairman, Shri T. K. Jose, and members Shri B. Pradeep and Shri A. J. Wilson, employees of KSERC, representatives from KSEBL, and the guests, introduced themselves.

3. Keynote Address: Hon. Chairman, KSERC

The Chairman expressed gratitude to everyone who took the time to attend the discussion and highlighted the importance of collaboration between KSERC and engineering colleges as well as teachers. The purpose of this collaboration, as

explained by the Chairman, was to promote action research and policy research in the energy/electricity sector. Furthermore, the Chairman elaborated how he utilized young engineers from various civil engineering departments in different engineering colleges to prepare Detailed Project Reports for rivers in Kerala. This initiative could provide better results with less time.

Additionally, the Chairman emphasized the significance of research in energy storage systems, recognizing its role in advancing the energy sector and addressing challenges related to storage and distribution. Lastly, the Chairman shared ideas on how to earn and develop skills within the core field itself, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and professional growth.

4. Presentation: Interns of KSERC & Officials from KSEB

In the presentation made by KSERC interns, the roles, responsibilities, and functions of KSERC were mentioned. This included an overview of the regulatory body's mandate and its role in overseeing the electricity sector in Kerala. Following that, a brief introduction of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) was provided, highlighting its significance as the apex regulatory body at the national level. The process of forming regulations was explained, outlining the steps involved in developing and implementing regulatory frameworks in the energy sector. The existing tariff structure in Kerala was discussed, providing an overview of the rates and charges applicable for electricity consumption in the state.

The presentation also touched upon the concept of distribution licensees, explaining their role and responsibilities in the distribution and supply of electricity to end consumers. The main objective of the collaboration between KSERC and the engineering colleges was clearly explained. The focus areas included research and development initiatives, conducting training programs and workshops, facilitating internships and industrial visits, and collaborating on curriculum development. These ideas aimed to promote knowledge sharing, practical exposure, and skill development among students and faculty members.

During the presentation by KSEBL, the main issues faced by the organization were discussed. These included challenges such as aging infrastructure, integration of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) and Renewable Energy (RE) sources, development of expert systems to identify evolving faults, predicting optimal and economic maintenance schedules with minimal outages, grid stability and frequency control, grid resilience and reliability, energy storage and grid flexibility, grid security, and cybersecurity, as well as power quality issues.

5. Interactive session about the tie-up of engineering colleges with KSERC for discovering the vast potential of action research in the power sector of kerala.

During the discussion, the Chairman emphasized the need to create a provision for facilitating collaboration. Some guests mentioned a government website that offers projects for students and faculties. However, it was noted that this website is accessible only to government institutions and not to self-financing colleges. The Commission clarified that the opportunities provided by them are open to all colleges, irrespective of their financing.

Faculty members from CET shared insights into their ongoing projects, focusing on areas such as voltage stability, G2V coordinated charging, and renewable energy integration. Shereef sir, from CET, mentioned that he was doing research on the regulatory part. They also mentioned the challenges they faced in obtaining data from KSEBL for their projects. The Member (Technical) reassured everyone that they would resolve this issue by providing the required data, emphasizing its significance in bringing about substantial changes in the state. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of raising public awareness about energy conservation.

KSEBL expressed their willingness to provide the necessary data, demonstrating their commitment to enhancing the energy sector in the state. Their proactive stance in sharing data signifies their dedication to improving and transforming the state's energy sector.

The Member (Law) ensured to sustain the internship programs for students. The Commission emphasized the significance of internships, particularly in core fields, and highlighted the opportunity provided by Moolamattom substation for students and faculty members to gain industrial exposure.

6. Vote of thanks: Najma Farsana (intern of KSERC)

She expressed her gratitude and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the discussion, especially considering the busy period colleges were going through due to the admission process. Despite the time constraints, they managed to find time and actively participated in the discussion.

Action Items:

1. The Chairman engaged in a conversation with the representatives of KSEBL, requesting them to provide the necessary data required for the projects. Recognizing the importance of data availability, the Chairman emphasized its significance for facilitating effective project work.

2. Furthermore, the Chairman sought input from the attendees regarding their ideas on promoting and enhancing the collaboration. This open-ended question aimed to encourage active participation and generate innovative suggestions from the participants.
3. Additionally, the Chairman requested the participants to provide their contact information, particularly their email addresses, for future communication regarding the upcoming meeting procedures.

Next Steps:

It was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled in approximately four weeks from the current date. This timeframe was chosen to allow sufficient time for further thinking and progress on the discussed topics. The Chairman informed that the specific date and time of the next meeting will be communicated to all participants in due course.