GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Higher Education Department - Cochin University of Science and Technology- Centre for Advanced Technologies in Disaster Management - Sanction Accorded - Orders issued.

HIGHER EDUCATION (B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.194/2020/HEDN   Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 26/05/2020

Read 1 GO. (Rt).No. 584/2020/HEDN dated 5/5/2020
     2 Letter No.VC/ADMN/114/2020   dated 05.05.2020 from the Vice Chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology.

ORDER

In the context of SARS- nCoV- 2 pandemic and natural calamities like flood, Vice Chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology, after a discussion with the Indian Medical Association, has submitted a proposal vide letter read as 2nd paper above, for establishing a Technology Development Centre for Disaster Management in the University.

2. Over the last few years, Kerala has been buffeted by disasters such as NIPAH virus, unprecedented floods and now the SARS- nCOV-2 virus. A Centre for Advanced Technologies in Disaster Management in a good University, is therefore the need of the hour in Kerala. IMA had submitted a formal request to CUSAT to create such a Centre and the Vice Chancellor has taken the idea forward.

3. The emergency response plan for the management of patients and resources in any disaster, including COVID - 19, requires coordination between different stakeholders such as private hospitals, the District Control rooms, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), Health Department etc and the availability of real time information dashboards that provide real time capacity v/s actual utilisation of resources, with policy makers. It is important to have emergency ambulance command and control systems that can take the patients/high risk individuals to the nearest available designated hospital or quarantine centre efficiently. Besides, tele-medicine, counselling facilities and nutrition need to be ensured so that people receive prompt care and are guided correctly.   The effective management and coordination of multiple teams and stakeholders requires a software system that is developed, updated and upgraded over time.

4. An open source software solution called Coronasafe Network has been developed by an interdisciplinary group of volunteers from various domains such as public health specialists, Health program managers, software engineers, academicians and Government officers to manage the patients and resources required in COVID-19. It has been piloted in Ernakulam district. It is likely to be rolled out in all districts. The proposed Centre can take up further development and upgrades of this software system with the help of students, industry and the open source community, to start with.

4. Government have examined the matter in detail. The order, vide 1st paper read above, has been issued encouraging Universities to offer industry based courses. Government are now pleased to accord Administrative Sanction for setting up a Centre for Advanced Technologies in Disaster Management in CUSAT subject to the following:

i) The Centre will function with an independent administrative and financial status for ensuring effective and speedy implementation of the programmes and activities.

ii) It shall take up development and upgrades of Coronasafe software system with the help of students, industry and the open source community to make it secure, reliable and scalable. The Centre shall also develop innovative products for all disasters and courses with the industry in areas including disaster management, technologies in public health, strategic leadership and other allied domains. Towards this the Centre may establish an Industry Technology Advisory Board and a Working Group including top leaders of the industry especially those industry professionals and academic community who have been associated with the creation of the CoronaSafe Network.

iii) The financing required for the operational running of the Centre shall be raised by the industry through sponsorship of research and development and CSR funds. The money so raised can be used for procurement of server space and equipments, paying stipend/remuneration to those who work part time/full time under a contract, meeting travel and incidental expenses etc as approved by the Working Group.

iv) Government/ University funds shall be earmarked for specific academic or research projects only

v) The Centre shall apply for funding schemes from various Government/Non Government sources to meet its operational requirements

vi) Separate accounts may be maintained by the Centre in order to account for the funds raised by the industry and the funds granted by Government/CUSAT for academic/research projects

vii) The Centre shall seek support of KSUM so that maximum interface with industry is available for the Centre to work along already established infrastructure in the State.

vii) Besides the network engineers already working on the Coronasafe platform, about 100 students drawn from the colleges under KTU and CUSAT shall be provided projects which can give them invaluable hands-on-training in an evolving real life scenario as well as provide them the necessary credits under their programme.

viii) CUSAT shall arrange for credit transfer to other Universities so that students across Universities get the benefit

ix) Prof K K Saju, former Coordinator of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre and who has been involved with the Coronasafe Network may act as the Academic Coordinator of the Centre.

(By order of the Governor)
DR. USHA TITUS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

To:

The Vice Chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology.

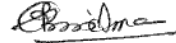The Registrar, Cochin University of Science and Technology.

The Principal Accountant General (Audit/ A&E), Kerala.

The Director, I&PRD.

www.highereducation.kerala.gov.in

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Section Officer