



Indian Veterinary Association, Kerala past glories rekindled

Joseph Scaria & Theodore John

Till 1969 there existed only one association for the Veterinarians of Kerala namely the Kerala Veterinary Association. Realising the need to have a separate Service organisation in 1969 the Kerala Veterinary Surgeons Service Association was formed. From then onwards the Kerala Veterinary Association has functioned as a professional body working on the lines of the National IVA. But as years passed the activities of Kerala Veterinary Association lost luster. It was at this juncture that the Veterinarians from all parts of the State assembled in early 1978 and laid the foundation for the formation of a new professional association. An adhoc committee was formed with Dr. Sivasubramaniam as the coordinator to materialise formation of the new professional body. On 9.12.1978 the Veterinarians of the State assembled at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Mannuthy and unanimously elected a Central executive Committee with Dr.K.J. Simon and Dr. T.R. Bharathan Namboodiripad as the first President and General Secretary respectively.

The formal inauguration of the association was celebrated in a befitting

manner on the 11th and 12th of May 1979 at Town Hall, Thrissur. The two day programme included a Scientific Seminar and an Animal Husbandry Seminar. Sri. P.K. Vasudevan Nair, Chief Minister, Sri. K.P. Prabhakaran, Health Minister, Sri.C.Achutha Menon, Ex.Chief Minister, Sri.N. Kalceswaran, Vice Chancellor of KAU, Dr. P.K. Nambiar, Director of Animal Husbandry and many other distinguished guests graced the function. A Souvenir was also released to commemorate the inaugural function.

It was proposed to affiliate the Association to the Central body and also to be registered as a professional body under the name IVA, Kerala Branch, soon after the organisation set up was completed. Unfortunately this could not be materialised before the inauguration. The Secretary of national IVA vide letter dt 9.10.1979 accorded affiliation to our association as IVA, Kerala Branch. With the new name IVA, Kerala was registered under S.No. 271/1979 as a professional society.

The Constitution and bye law of Indian Veterinary Association, Kerala was resolved to register the association at the meeting held on 12.5.1979. Dr.T.R. Bharathan Namboodiripad, Dr. K.V. Athman and Dr. K.N. Aravinda Ghosh are the signatories of the 1st Constitution and the bye law printed and published.

In 1982-83 spearhead by IVA and with the whole hearted support & co-operation of our sister service organisations we were able to persuade the government to create Assistant Director Posts under AHD in all Taluks of Kerala. The same coordinated effort helped us to get the government start Veterinary Polyclinics at Taluk level.

It was in 1985 that IVA, Kerala along with other service organisations could fight out and create the post of fourteen Joint Directors as the District Animal Husbandry Officers. In this connection the sincere efforts taken by Dr. G. Nirmalan, Dr. George Varghese (TVPM) and Dr. M.M. Chacko need special mention.

In 1985, IVA, Kerala under the presidentship of Dr. G. Nirmalan, joined hands with KVSSA and held the first combined convention in November at Thrissur. Thus Dr. G. Nirmalan succeeded in putting to practice his words 'Oneness among Veterinarians'. It is these immortal words of Dr. G. Nirmalan that we adopted as our Silver Jubilee Year Slogan.

Dr. Joseph Scaria
President

Dr. Theodore John
General Secretary

Indian Veterinary
Association, Kerala





In 1986 the joined effort of IVA, Kerala, KVSSA & AHOAK helped us to refix the ratio promotion from Veterinary Surgeon to Assistant Director as 1 : 3.

In the 10th AGB, held on 12.12.87, at Matheethra Auditorium, Kottayam, Dr.K.V. Ashokan presented the bye-law of the Veterinarian's Welfare Society. The general body approved the bye-law and constituted an adhoc committee to oversee the formation of the Veterinarians Welfare Society. The adhoc committee consisted of the following members :

Chairman	:	Dr.G. Nirmalan
Vice-Chairman	:	Dr. E.P. Muraleedharan
General Secretary	:	Dr.K.V. Ashokan
Joint Secretary	:	Dr. T.V. Sasidharan
Treasurer	:	Dr. N.R. Harshakumar

The Welfare Society was formally inaugurated on 14th August, 1988 at Museum Hall, Trivandrum by the Honourable Minister for Animal Husbandry. Shri.E.Chandrasekharan Nair.

The first Veterinarian's annual convention under the joint auspices of IVA, Kerala, KVSSA and AHOAK was held in December 1987 at Kottayam. The government decision to change the working hours of Veterinary Hospitals Dispensaries from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. was formally declared by the then Honourable Minister for Animal Husbandry Shri. P.P. Thankachan at the AGB, held at Kottayam on 21st January 1996.

It was in 1988 that the Kerala Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the bill implementing VCI Act 1984 in Kerala State. In 1988, the registration tribunal headed by Dr. G. Nirmalan was constituted, materialising the long cherished dream of the Veterinarians of Kerala. Thus the post of Registrar, KVSC, in the cader of Additional Director could be created. In 1995 we could get the government appoint the Chief Returning Officers and Assistant returning officers to hold elections to the KVSC as per the time table approved by the government. The elections were held in 1996 and the council came into being fulfilling the long cherished dream of our Association.

The prestigious Rabies Control Programme implemented by the Association with the concurrence of the government was started in the year 1990. The programme was implemented through out Kerala for five years.

The land where in the existing Veterinarian's building is situated at Ayurveda College Junction at Trivandrum was bought in 1982 and registered in the name of IVA, Kerala and KVSSA, in the year 1985. The foundation stone of the Veterinarian's building was laid

on 28th September 1993 and the first phase of construction work was completed and the building was formally inaugurated on 28th February 1994. In 1998 our Associations were able to purchase another building at Thrissur named Veterinarians Square.

Dr. Ahamed Kunju our state President during 1992 was elected as the South Zone Secretary of national IVA and he held the office from 1992-93 to 1994-95.

Yielding to the pressure of IVA, a committee was constituted to identify the location of the proposed new Veterinary College. It was in 1995 that this committee visited Wayanad and decided to establish the college at Pookode. As on years by the battle of IVA the demand for a Veterinary University got a positive response from the government in 1995. As per G.O. MS 322/95/AD dated 30/9/1995, Agri (A.H.) Dept., a committee was constituted with Shri.M.S. Joseph APC, Dr.M. Krishnan Nair, former Dean COVAS, Mannuthy and Dr. Gnana Prakash former Vice Chancellor TANUVAS, as member was constituted to examine the issue.

The continuing Veterinary Education Programme by IVA, Kerala was formally inaugurated on 26th July 1995 at Trivandrum by the then Honourable Minister of Animal Husbandry Shri. P.P. Thankachan.

IVA, Kerala started printing and publishing the magazine, 'Mriga Sampath' for distribution among its members in the year 1989. Later this publication was renamed as "Animal Wealth" and then recasted as JIVA - Journal of Indian Veterinary Association. The Ist issue of JIVA was formally released in the AGB, 1996 at Thrissur by the then Honourable Minister for Animal Husbandry Shri.E.ChandraSekharan Nair.

IVA Kerala started commemoration of World Zoonoses Day from the year 1996.

The Association instituted the IVA Journalism Award from the year 1999 onwards.

From January 2000 onwards, the association started printing and publishing IVA newsletter for distribution to its members. The electronic version of this newsletter in PDF format was made available to its members through e-mail from January 2000 onwards.

On 8th March, 2000 the Lady Vets forum was formed and formally inaugurated at Kozhikode by Smt.P.Valsala.

The official website of IVA, Kerala www.jivaonline.com was launched on 5th October 2000 at Ernakulam by Dr. Babu Joseph, the then Vice-Chancellor of Cochin University. Adding new features the site was designed in line with international standards as per W 3C norms in the year 2003.





The first Dr.G. Nirmalan Memorial inter-collegiate Science Quiz Competition organised by the association was held on 28th October, 2000 at CMS College, Kottayam.

The IVth Pay commission headed by Sir.Gopalan Nambiar in 1983 awarded pay parity for veterinarians. But the subsequent pay commissions diluted our status leading to a disparity. The timely interventions, honest representations and open agitations by our three associations during the years did not bear fruit. The government and bureaucratic negative attitude forced us to fight for justice in the court of law. Veterinarians legal assistance cell was formed in the year 2000 to fight for justice against the disparity in pay scale enforced by the State government. A case was filed in the same year, posted and a notice sent to government in the year 2003. On 16th December 2003 we have filed a counter to the affidavit submitted by the government. The case is expected to come up for hearing during early 2004. We firmly believe that our cause would be upheld by the Honourable court of Law.

The move by the State government to post a non-veterinarian as the chief executive officer of the KLD Board was strongly opposed by the association and on 22nd December, 2000 the association succeeded in blocking the move. Consequent to this victory the association was able to make the government post Veterinarians as heads of various organisations in AH Sector.

The AGB, held at Wayand in December 2000 passed the resolution making it mandatory that the accounts of the annual Veterinarians convention be opened and operated by the General Secretary of the Association and the General Convenor of the Convention for proper accounting and accountability.

The AGB 2001 decided to introduce life subscription for JIVA from the year 2004.

For the first time, in 27th April 2002 the Veterinarians working in various organisations in AHD and the heads of these organisations along with bureaucrats who govern then and planning boards members were brought under a single umbrella to sit together face to face and evaluate and analyse the strength, weakness, opportunities and threats of the individual organisations as well as the A.H. sector in general. This paved the way for a better co-operation and understanding among the various organisations in A.H. sector.

From 2002 onwards, the Association started organising CVE Programmes in collaboration with Kerala State Veterinary Council, which strengthened the

ties between the professional organisation and the professional body.

In unison with our service organisation namely KVSSA and AHOAK, IVA strongly revolted against the unilateral decision of the government to change the working hours of Veterinary hospitals and dispensaries. In the year 2002, the struggle yielded fruit. We were able to make the government agree to an amicable settlement through a working time acceptable to us.

In 2002, IVA started organising short-term hands-on training programmes for its members at COVAS, Mannuthy and the first training programme conducted was in the field of "Advances in meat Inspection and Abattoir Management".

A room for computer and reference library was built at the Veterinarian's Building at Trivandrum in 2002.

Commencing from the year 2002 auditing of IVA, Kerala accounts by a Chartered Accountant was introduced and the AGB 2002 passed the resolution making this audit mandatory.

In 2003 the 1st Overseas unit of IVA, Kerala was formed. Based on the request of IVA, Kerala members working in UAE this 1st overseas unit was formed and named as IVA, Kerala, Silver Jubilee Unit, UAE.

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the association held a year long festivity in the year 2003.

In association with Dr.G. Nirmalan trust the tenth death anniversary of Dr.G. Nirmalan was commemorated on 22.2.2003.

As part of the CVE programme in the year 2003 the association started short term of campus hands on training for Vets. The trainings conducted were in the topics 'Management & tranquilization of Captive Elephants' and 'Management and Treatment of Zoo and wild animals'.

As part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations our association organised the first Indian Veterinary Science Congress on the 26th & 27th December 2003 at COVAS, Mannuthy.

To mark the Silver Jubilee Year a complete Professional guide for Veterinarians has been brought out in the year 2003.

Our official publication JIVA was registered under the Newspaper Act in 2003 to achieve various benefits under the Act.

A Bye Law Amendment General Body meeting of IVA, Kerala has been summoned on 27.12.2003 at Thrissur Towers, Thrissur to receive the official mandate for the bye law amendments based on the resolutions passed in the AGB 2002.

