The Hon’ble Governor, Shri Justice (Retd) P. Sathasivam has accepted the recommendation of the Selection Committee to confer the third Chancellor's Award (2016-17) on Cochin University of Science & Technology, which got a score of 499.51. The prestigious award carries an amount of Rs.5 crore.

The Hon’ble Governor has also accepted the committee's recommendation to confer the Chancellor's Award for the Best Emerging Young University (2016-17) on Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, which got a score of 374.74. This award, announced in 2016, carries a prize money of Rs.1 crore.

The selection was based on the marks, out of a total of 750, scored by the varsities for their performance in broad components such as Academics, Teaching & Pedagogy methods, Students’ Profile & Achievements, Academic Governance and other achievements. The same criteria of evaluation was followed for Emerging Young Universities, too. The period of assessment for both awards was from 1st July, 2016 to 30th June, 2017. Universities up to 12 years of existence were considered under the category of Emerging Young Universities.

Twelve out of thirteen Universities had submitted the applications on-line for the Award. Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University for Art & Culture did not participate. Of these, Five Universities Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean studies (KUFOS), Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences...
University (KVASU), Malayalam Varsity, Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS) and APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University were considered for the Emerging Young University Award.

The Five Member Selection Committee constituted with the approval of the Hon’ble Governor, had Smt. Usha Titus, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, as the Chairperson. Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Director, Kerala State Council of Science, Technology and Environment, Thiruvananthapuram, Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni, Director (i/c), Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, Prof. V. Ramakrishnan, Director, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Kerala, Prof. (Dr.) Rose Varghese, Vice Chancellor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi were members and Dr. Davendra Kumar Dhodawat, Secretary to Governor was Convener.

As approved by the Selection Committee, and the Hon’ble Governor, an Inspection Team visited all the twelve Universities to verify the claims made in the application form, in the presence of the University Officials.

The Selection Committee had its final meeting today (12th December, 2017) to evaluate the application form which contained 47 criteria and the 10 minute presentation by the Vice Chancellors so as to evaluate and recommend the Universities for the Chancellor’s Awards for the year 2016-17. Hon’ble Governor accepted the unanimous recommendation of the Selection Committee.

**Background**

It was the Vice Chancellors' Conference held on 27th October, 2014 at Cochin University of Science and Technology that had decided to institute “Chancellor’s Award” to nurture the spirit of healthy competition among the Universities in becoming vibrant centers of learning.

Subsequently, the Chancellor’s Council comprising the Chancellor, the Pro Chancellor (Minister for Education), the Vice Chairman, State Higher
Education Council and all Vice Chancellors of the Universities in Kerala headed by the Chancellor, the Secretary Higher Education and the Secretary to Governor as the Convenor, was formed. After the first meeting of the Chancellor's Council held on 29th April, 2015, the Hon’ble Chancellor instituted the Chancellor’s Award for the Best University in Kerala. The State Government provided Rs.5 Crore in the State Budget for 2015-16 for the award. In 2016, it was decided to institute another award for the “Emerging University” for the new Universities, so as to encourage them also to compete. Accordingly, the Hon’ble Governor had announced the institution of a separate award of Rs.1 Crore to the best Emerging young university. The funds for this award was allotted by the Government in this year's budget.

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