



INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE UNDER DST, GOVT. OF INDIA)
PASCHIM BORAGAON, GARCHUK
GUWAHATI- 781035

MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) OF THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IASST), GUWAHATI HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER, 2017 IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY BHAVAN, NEW MEHRAULI ROAD, NEW DELHI.

Members present:

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| 1. Professor Ashutosh Sharma
Secretary, Department of Science & Technology,
Govt. of India, New Delhi | Chairman |
| 2. Professor Rabindranath Pal
Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata | Member |
| 3. Professor Mohan Chandra Kalita
Department of Biotechnology,
Gauhati University, Guwahati | Member |
| 4. Ms. Kimnei Changsan
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Department of Science & Technology, Guwahati | Member |
| 5. Dr. R. K. Joshi
Scientist - 'D',
Department of Science & Technology,
Govt. of India, New Delhi | Invitee |
| 6. Dr. N. C. Talukdar
Director,
Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology
Guwahati | Member Secretary |

Mr. J. B. Mohapatra, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor (JSFA), Govt. of India, DST, New Delhi, Professor Sibaji Raha, Former Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata and Professor A. N. Rai, Former Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong could not attend the meeting due to their preoccupations. Dr. Diganta Goswami, Registrar, IASST and Mr. Pradyut Borkataki, Finance and Accounts Officer, IASST also attended the meeting with the permission of the Chairman.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome address and opening remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council.

At the outset, Dr. N. C. Talukdar welcomed the Chairman, Governing Council (GC), Prof. Ashutosh Sharma and the members and thanked all for sparing their valuable time to attend the meeting. Dr. Talukdar then requested Professor Sharma to Chair the meeting and kindly conduct the proceeding.

Prof. Ashutosh Sharma extended a very hearty welcome and thanked the members for their support towards growth of R&D in IASST. There is a lot of potential for development of science and technology using the rich resources and the manpower strength of the region. The Chairman also mentioned that the research scholars of the institute are very enthusiastic and the institute has started an incubation centre recently.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ninth Governing Council Meeting held on 11th November, 2016 in the Technology Bhawan, DST, New Delhi.

The minutes of the Ninth meeting of the Governing Council were circulated to the members earlier for comments, if any. No comments were received on the minutes. The members discussed and approved the minutes of the Ninth Governing Council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions/deliberations as per Minutes of the Ninth meeting of the Governing Council.

The Director, IASST made a presentation on the action taken on all the decisions of the last Governing Council meeting. The members noted the actions taken. On the project "Carbonization of tea waste", the Chairman expressed his view that the whole process of standardization should not take more than 3-4 months and it should be expedited. He also stressed that some important issues such as buyer-market analysis, price and quality parameters to meet the market standard should be kept in mind from the day one during the execution of the project. The feasibility study will also be important and some professional dealing with activated charcoal should be approached for help.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Progress of Research and Academic Activities of IASST.

The Director, IASST made a presentation before the members on the progress of research and academic activities made during the year 2016-17. The Director in his presentation gave an account of research manpower, publications and purchase of major equipment such as Transmission Electron Microscope, Confocal Microscope, Flow Cytometer and XF-24. The civil construction works, i.e. Director's residential quarter, Central Instrumentation Facility building, Essential Service Staff Quarters, Installation of 33 KVA uninterrupted power supply station and 225 KV Solar Power Station, had witnessed speedy progress towards completion. The council noted the fast pace of progress of the institute in different fronts. The Chairman suggested to (1) Introduce another outreach activity/ scheme in which each research scholar will be encouraged to write at least one popular scientific article in newspaper or popular magazine either in mother tongue or English out of his/her individual thesis research through which the student will build a deeper context and social relevance of his/her work and develop skill of presentation and writing. There can be provision of incentive in form of prizes for such best articles; (2) Ensure that the other institute's individuals

receiving IASST's CIF outreach benefits acknowledge IASST in their publications, for which IASST will prepare a format of acknowledgement and upload in the website. The Chairman also suggested to develop an effective system of running CIF facility by using service of research scholars who are given fellowships from either institute's core grants or national programmes. The fee structure for the equipment outsource service should be rationalized keeping in view the charges for such facilities levied by other institutes in the region; (3) Organize workshops of reasonable duration on training and skill enhancement on use, maintenance and troubleshooting of high-end equipment for Master and Ph.D. level students. In such workshops a comprehensive coverage of theory/principle involved behind working of the machine and description of electrical circuit diagram etc. should be given, and the service engineers of the machine should be involved in such workshops. The best timing for such workshops could be during the installation of such high-end equipment; (4) The present system of registration of IASST's research scholars and their joint supervision by the institute scientist and a university professor should be evolved into a standard system of carrying out research closely with higher degree of involvements. The institute may engage university professor as Adjunct scientist in IASST and IASST's scientist may also get engaged as Adjunct Professor in the university. An Apex Committee comprising of VC, Director and GC members may be constituted towards this goal; (5) Explore engagement of science college teachers of the region with good research idea as research associates for overall research excellence. In addressing research issues of regional relevance by IASST, such college teachers' contribution might enhance institute's research productivity.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Report on the recommendations/deliberations of the Ninth Meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST held on 21.07.2017.

The Ninth Meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST was held on 21.07.2017 at the institute campus, Guwahati. Following were the major recommendations made by the Committee:

1. The Committee noted the suggestion of the Finance Committee Meeting regarding inclusion of the entire grants-in-aid received under Salary and General Head in Income and Expenditure Account and Capital Grant in Balance Sheet from the Financial Year 2017-18 and also recommended total expenditure of ₹30.72 crores incurred against the total grants-in-aid of ₹28.56 crores received during the year 2016-17. Total unspent balance of the Institute as on 31.03.2017 was ₹0.47 crores.
2. The Committee recommended budget proposal for ₹33.02 crores for the Financial Year 2017-18.
3. The Committee agreed the view of the Finance Committee regarding minimisation of the number of Bank accounts to the barest minimum and recommended to merge all project related grant receipts and expenditure into one or two project bank account. For the extramural project of value up to ₹10.00 crores and above, a separate bank account may be maintained.
4. The Committee noted the total grants-in-aid of ₹25.78 crores receivable from DST, Govt. of India for the Financial Year 2017-18 in addition to the balance amount of Capital Cost as per the approval during 2016-17.
5. The Committee noted the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding resubmission of the proposal for construction of Auditorium/Conference Hall by incorporating underground parking facility, visiting scientist accommodation facility (guest house) etc. in the existing provision and by highlighting the important points to the DST, Govt. of India.
6. The Committee recommended the modification of the proposal for construction of Central Instrumentation Facility from Assam type to G+2 structure and noted the award of contract to Mr. Bhaskar Baruah at a work value of ₹6.09 crores.
7. The Council recommended the formation of a Committee for creation of additional posts commensurate with 5-10 years period vision of the institute in the line of S&T vision of the country.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: Discussion on 2016-17 Annual Report of IASST by the GC members and approval.

The IASST Annual Report 2016-17 was sent to the members of the GC for comments/suggestions and the members sent written suggestions for minor changes which have been incorporated before sending for final printing. The Governing Council approved the Annual Report 2016-17 for submission to DST for further necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Promotion of Faculty staff recommended by the concerned Assessment Committee.

The following Promotion Committees met on 20.06.2017 to consider the case of eligible faculty members.

a. Promotion Committee for Promotion to the post of Professor II

The Committee recommended promotion of Prof. H. Bailing, Professor I to that of Professor II.

b. Promotion Committee for Promotion to the post of Associate Professor II

The Committee recommended promotion of Dr. R. Devi, Associate Professor I to that of Associate Professor II.

The minutes of the meetings of the concerned Promotion Committees were placed before the GC. In so far as Promotion to the post of Associate Professor II is concerned, the appointing authority as per Institute's Bye-laws is the Director, IASST. This promotion has been approved by the Director. In so far as promotion to the post of Professor II is concerned, the appointing authority as per Institute's Byelaws is the Governing Council. The Promotion to the post of Professor II has been effected with the approval of the Chairman, Governing Council with the rider that the promotion will be ratified by the Governing Council. The Governing Council was requested to kindly ratify the promotion of Prof. H. Bailing as Professor II. The members noted and ratified the promotion of Prof. H. Bailing as Professor II and had also suggested that in future the promotion to Professor II may be done by circulation to GC members in case Governing Council meeting is not scheduled during that time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Tenure of Dr. N. C. Talukdar as Director of IASST, Guwahati.

Consequent upon selection for the post of Director, IASST and with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and Chairman, Governing Council of IASST, Dr. N. C. Talukdar was appointed as Director for a period of five years w.e.f. 24-06-2013. His present tenure is coming to an end on 23-06-2018. Dr. Talukdar will attain 60 years on 29-02-2020. There will be a period of about 20 months, he has to serve after completion of his tenure as Director before attaining age of superannuation. He has no lien on his earlier post held at IBSD, Imphal There is provision of extension of service in the "IASST Recruitment Rules 2011 for the Post of Director". During last four years Dr. Talukdar has rendered valuable service to the institute.

The committee thoroughly discussed the agenda and made favourable comments for extension of his service. The Chairman suggested that the performance report of Dr. Talukdar will be communicated to the GC members with a request to send their written comments based on which the resolution will be taken.

AGENDEA ITEM NO. 9: Relaxation in Guidelines for implementing Government's decision on bringing Autonomous Bodies (ABs) under Treasury Single Account (TSA) System.

Recently the Govt. of India has issued guidelines for bringing Autonomous Bodies (ABs) under the Treasury Single Account (TSA) system. As per this guidelines Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) of an Autonomous Body as accepted by the administrative Ministry and the pace of implementation of the scheme in AB for the said scheme shall form the basis of 'just-in-time' releases to ABs. Under this scheme an Autonomous Body will open separate bank accounts for receiving (i) general grants, (ii) grants for creation of Capital Assets and (iii) grants-in-aid for salaries. Balance remaining unutilized in these accounts at the close of the year will lapse to the Government and hence return back in Govt. Accounts. The Ministry administering the concerned Autonomous Body will have to explain the saving in the related Appropriation Account. The above system has obviously the implicit objective of timely utilization of the grants released so that there is no balance unutilized at the close of the year. There appears to be little or no hindrance in so far as utilizing grants for general purposes and salaries are concerned. Grants for creation of Capital Assets are often utilized and a major chunk of it is related to construction activities like buildings, infrastructures, services etc. More often, hindrances occur in these activities which are attributed to geographical location of the IASST. The policy makers appear to have treated all ABs on the same footing irrespective of their geographical location. The progress of construction activities depend on the availability of dry weather for construction work. In case of North Eastern areas, particularly Guwahati the period from May to October is predominantly wet due to extended monsoon season, and this is a potential hindrance in achieving progress of the construction activities. CPWD allows hindrances due to monsoon in most construction activities to give extension for completion of the projects. Therefore, the utilization of capital grants is miniscule in this period. However, the construction activity gathers pace after monsoon and with extended daily hours of construction, efforts are made to compensate for the activity time lost in the monsoon. Obviously the utilization of capital grants grows during the period before and after monsoon. However, it cannot always be ensured that grants utilization is uniform and therefore it is difficult to void 'rush payment' para from audit. Therefore, this appears to be a genuine case for granting relaxation to an Autonomous Body in NE State viz IASST to allow it to carry forward unspent capital grant to the next financial year up to a specific period of time which is to be decided by the DST in consultation with IASST.

Governing Council considered this genuine request of IASST and suggested that it is made a consolidated case by drawing attention of other Institute/University of Assam. It was suggested that a draft note should be written with clarity and sent to DST for forwarding to the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India by DST with its comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair.

It was suggested by a member that IASST takes up research activity for enhancement of productivity of wetlands of Assam and development of organic inputs for strengthening organic farming in the state. It was also suggested that the institute maintains the blend of science and technology in its research approach. There being no other item for discussion, the meeting ended with vote of thanks from the chair.



Professor Ashutosh Sharma
Chairman,
Governing Council, IASST



Dr. N. C. Talukdar
Member Secretary
Governing Council, IASST