

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

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) OF INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IASST), GUWAHATI HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019 IN THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PASCHIM BORAGAON, GUWAHATI-781035, ASSAM.

#### Members present

 Prof. Abhay Karandikar Director, IIT Kanpur

Chairperson

 Dr. M. C. Kalita
 Sr. Professor, Deptt. of Biotechnology Gauhati University

Member

3. Dr. Mridul Hazarika
Vice-Chancellor, Gauhati University

Member

4. Prof. Kamal Lochan Panigrahi IIT Kharagpur

Member

5. Mr. Pradeep Kt. Singh
Deputy Secretary, DST New Delhi
Nominee of Secretary, DST

Member

Mr. Pulak Sengupta
 Under Secretary, DST New Delhi
 Nominee of Financial Adviser, DST

Member

 Prof. Sujoy Kr. Das Gupta Bose Institute, Kolkata Nominee of Director, Bose Institute

Member

Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director, IASST. Member Secretary

Mr. Hemen Das, Secretary, Science and Technology Deptt. Govt. of Assam could not attend the meeting due to his preoccupation. 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 note and opening remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council:

First of all Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director IASST on behalf of all the staff of IASST welcomed Professor Abhay Karandikar, Chairman and esteemed members of the reconstituted 12<sup>th</sup> Governing council of IASST. He mentioned that since 2009 the first Governing Council guided the institute for almost ten years in bringing the institute to the current state of growth in R & D and outreach activities of IASST. Dr. Talukdar expressed his gratitude to the chairman and other members for kindly accepting to be part of the GC. He expressed that with the guidance of new Governing Council, the institute will reach to a greater height.

Professor Abhay Karandikar, Chairman considered it as great privilege and welcomed all the members to the 12th Governing Council of IASST. In his welcome address, he mentioned that IASST has great potential to evolve into an advance institute in NE part of the country. He also mentioned that the institute has a long history and started with enthusiasm and support of scientists of the region who were devoted to the cause. Now that foundation has been in firm footing and R & D activities expanding, it is good time for the institute to consolidate further its R & D effort. He also said that the DST under the current Secretary is very proactive and keen in providing support to bring the institute to the next level and also to expand it in terms of manpower and research staff.

# Agenda Item No.2: Brief Introduction of IASST by the Director, IASST:

Through a video clip of four minutes duration, the history and recent research and development, administrative and outreach activities of IASST were briefly presented before the GC members. The Council noted and appreciated the institute activities.

# AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Eleventh Governing Council Meeting held on 15th September, 2018 in Technology Bhawan, DST, New Delhi:

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

# AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions/deliberations as per Minutes of the Eleventh meeting of the Governing Council.

The Director, IASST made a presentation of action taken on all the decisions of the last Governing Council meeting. The members noted the actions taken.

Regarding suggestion of the Chairman on formation of bigger research group, the Director informed that out of sanctioned strength of twenty six scientists, seventeen are in position, four joined last month and last phase of selection for remaining five positions will be completed by September, 2019 and by then all the twenty six scientist positions will be filled up.

Regarding engagement of one Senior Technical person for operating sophisticated instruments, provision has been made. The CIF facilities of IASST is in good operational structure and with handing over of the new CIF building by October 2019 this facility will cater to the need of both internal research and researchers of other institutes on service charge basis.

- One page description for each of the sophisticated instruments in the IASST website has been inserted.
- iv) A committee is now looking after the entire range of activities of plasma coating of bell metal with the financial grant from DSIR under a project "Techno-commercial feasibility study for plasma coating of bell- metal items".
- Regarding social venture and entrepreneurship initiation of IASST (ISVEC), which was started last year, the institute has already received a grant of Rs. 3 crores under BioNest Programme from M/s BIRAC. IASST will explore opening of a Section 8 Company within the framework of existing rules of Govt, of India. In the Board of Governors of the Company, few scientists will also be included. In this regard, GC recommended to take advice from members of IIT Mumbai, IIT Kanpur and IIT Madras with expertise on Section 8 company and business incubators in this venture of opening Section 8 Company in IASST.

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Progress of Research and Academic Activities of IASST during 2018-19:

Dr. N.C. Talukdar made a presentation before the members on the progress of research programmes, academic and administrative activities in IASST since the 11th GC meeting. Through this presentation, Dr. Talukdar appraised the council the ongoing research and academic programmes as well as research translational efforts and outreach activities of IASST. He also presented few performance indication of IASST in terms of building and road infrastructure (current 150444 sq.ft. building area and 64560 sq. ft. road and network area compared to those of 60996 aq.ft. and 19368 sq. ft., respectively of 2009-12 period) growth inside the campus. Similarly annual core fund of Rs. 13.61 crores/year ending 2009-12 rose to 32.90 crores in 2018-19. Extramural funding rose to Rs. 5.56 crores in 2018-19 from average of Rs. 3.62/ year during 2009-12. The institute has provided R & D platform to 25 post-doctoral fellows in 2008-19 and during 2009-12, there was only 3 PDF in IASST. The Impact Factor of IASST publication as per Thompson Reuter matrices is 2.8/ paper/scientist in 2018-19 which was 1.27 during 2009-12. Patent per year was 1.67 during 2009-12 and during 2018-19, 6 patents filed and one granted, one of IASST's patented technology is under Techno Commercial feasibility study and a nutraceutical candy (process patent filed) is being produced in IASST's ISVEC as a part of its incubation activity. The committee was also apprised on carbonization of tea waste for production of activated charcoal which has application in dye absorption and water purification. The programme on endemic muga and agarwood oil research was presented. Under SSR programme, IASST has adopted two ST (Boro and Rabha Community) villages through intervention of five rural technologies, round the year erisilk rearing, mushroom production, black rice production and conversion of waste generated from household production units. There has been a visible change in socio-economic fabric of the two village bought through IASST's SSR activity over two and half years. IASST conducted 2 days lecture and lab exposure programme for the ST students (class IX and X) of schools of Bodoland Territorial Council.

The Director also informed the Council that the authorities of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) agreed to give the institute about 100-200 acres of land for setting up a centre of IASST in Shingla, 90 km. away of main campus. The Council advised to prepare a roadmap/vision document indicating the present status of the institute, how this land will be used and the future roadmap of the institute within 10-20 years with these 100 acres of land. The Chairman suggested to make an internal committee to prepare short term and long term road map. The Council also suggested that in the road map, revenue generation should also be included. The Director informed that half of the allotted land will be used as Field Experimental plot and not involve much fund initially and a DPR will be prepared through a committee.

The council noted the growth momentum of IASST and complimented.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consideration of the recommendations/deliberations of the Eleventh meeting of the Finance Committee held at DST, New Delhi on 27.02.2019:

The recommendations of the 11th meeting of the Finance Committee are as under:

Budget proposal for approval for the financial year 2019-20 and information regarding current A. financial status.

The institute proposed BE 2019-20 as Rs. 5177 lakhs detailed below:

Salary Head Rs 1498.0 lakhs General Head -Rs. 966.0 lakhs

Rs. 2713.0 lakhs (Rs. 2100.0 lakhs for construction & Rs. 613.0 lakhs Capital Head -Rs. 5177.0 lakhs

Total:

for Equipment)

The Finance Committee recommended budget estimate of Rs. 1498 lakhs under salary head and Rs. 966 lakhs under General Head. As regards Capital head budget the committee recommended as under:-

The institute was asked to prepare a comprehensive list of capital works highlighting each 1. of the major construction activities undertaken on the basis of approval of the Governing Council and the cost escalation due to i) price index; ii) inclusion of new items which were essential in view of new R & D programmes introduced during the execution of original design and submit the same with the comprehensive master plan of the institute to the DST. The committee also suggested to take all future construction activities as per provision of work in Master plan and to take up construction project only after obtaining financial sanction from the administrative ministry.

The committee directed to take up cost escalation items of approved works separately and 2. new works separately, so that Al Division or IASST do not default on any liabilities. It was also suggested to do budgeting exercise based on this principle so that there is no anomaly between the decisions of the Finance Committee and Governing Council.

It was suggested to submit revised estimates with respect to ongoing construction 3. activities for fund allocation by AI Division separately so as to reduce gap between GIA Capital and GIA Revenue.

Recommended to explore other possible sources of fund like Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan 4. (TSP) in consultation with SEED Division.

Since 2011-2012, the funding agency started release of funds to IASST under three 5. different heads, namely i) Salary, ii) General, and iii) Capital. The respective releases against these heads had caused mismatch with the realistic expenses under these heads, in that, the funds under Salary and General Heads are considerably higher than requirement, whereas, fund released under Capital Head is consistently lower than requirement. This situation resulted into surplus funds under Salary and General Heads and deficiency in Capital Head. The Finance Committee expressed concern over imbalance in head wise allotment. It was suggested to report the current balancing position as per sanctioned head to the Al Division of DST so that necessary measures for one time regularization of the imbalance in expenditure can be requested to the concerned authority. The Finance Committee desired that the above deliberations of the committee on imbalance of GIA can be brought to the knowledge of the Governing council for information.

Finance Committee recommended the proposal for creation of the post of Hindi Assistant and B. directed IASST to submit the proposal to the Ministry of Finance through administrative

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- 2. The committee directed to take up cost escalation items of approved works separately and new works separately, so that AI Division or IASST do not default on any liabilities. It was also suggested to do budgeting exercise based on this principle so that there is no anomaly between the decisions of the Finance Committee and Governing Council.
- It was suggested to submit revised estimates with respect to ongoing construction
  activities for fund allocation by AI Division separately so as to reduce gap between GIA
  Capital and GIA Revenue.
- Recommended to explore other possible sources of fund like Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan (TSP) in consultation with SEED Division.
- 5. Since 2011-2012, the funding agency started release of funds to IASST under three different heads, namely i) Salary, ii) General, and iii) Capital. The respective releases against these heads had caused mismatch with the realistic expenses under these heads, in that, the funds under Salary and General Heads are considerably higher than requirement, whereas, fund released under Capital Head is consistently lower than requirement. This situation resulted into surplus funds under Salary and General Heads and deficiency in Capital Head. The Finance Committee expressed concern over imbalance in head wise allotment. It was suggested to report the current balancing position as per sanctioned head to the AI Division of DST so that necessary measures for one time regularization of the imbalance in expenditure can be requested to the concerned authority. The Finance Committee desired that the above deliberations of the committee on imbalance of GIA can be brought to the knowledge of the Governing council for information.
- B. Finance Committee recommended the proposal for creation of the post of Hindi Assistant and directed IASST to submit the proposal to the Ministry of Finance through administrative

ministry i.e. DST. The appropriate and accepted designation of the post is Junior Hindi Translator. The council was also informed about the actions taken by IASST on Finance committee recommendations. The Governing Council approved approaching the Ministry for regularisation of imbalance of grants-in-aids under Salary, General and Capital heads. The Council suggested to communicate to DST exact requirement under Salary, General and Capital head for the year 2019-20 onwards. The Governing Council after discussion approved all the recommendations of 11th Finance committee meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO 7: Discussion on the issue of creation of 12 nos. posts of supportive/administrative staff for IASST:

Institute's case for creation of 12 posts of supportive/administrative cadre is pending for sanction since 2017. In fact, prior to formulating the proposals, these were extensively examined by an Institutional Committee, and subsequently by the Finance Committee, who recommended the creation of the posts, except for the 5 (five) posts of Junior Assistants, for which the Finance Committee recommended to engage persons through manpower outsourcing agency. However, the Governing Council in its 11th meeting (last meeting held on 15th September, 2018) agreed that the institute needs permanent positions to perform some important activities and suggested to hire persons on consolidated pay or hire retired persons as consultants, till the posts are created.

Institute has engaged persons on contract basis including retired govt. officials against few of the 12 posts listed. Although during last 2/3 years few outsourcing agencies started operation in Guwahati, they are yet to develop a culture of quality service. In so far as Junior Assistant is concerned, our experience has been that outsourced contract employees are not suitable for critical administrative and financial jobs. Because of the uncertainty of outsourced agency engaged person's continuity, it will be counter-productive to invest in their training. The Governing Council is also requested to adopt a resolution to impress upon DST to expedite sanction of the 12 posts for which proposal has already been

The Governing Council after discussion gave in principle approval of creation of thirteen posts including the post of Jr. Hindi Translator and asked to prepare justification note how their profiles are distinct from the existing posts and to circulate the note to all the members. The Council further suggested to send the proposal of creation of all the posts in a comprehensive manner including posts of Junior Hindi Translator with the justification note.

### AGENDA ITEM No. 8: Recruitment of Scientists- 6 posts:

The institute's sanctioned scientific staff strength is 26, filled up posts till the last meeting of the Governing Council held on 15th September, 2018 were 15. Subsequently, posts were advertised for selection of balance 11 positions. Two advertisements were issued. As on date, selection has been made for 6 positions out of which 4 selected scientists have joined their posts and 2 have confirmed joining date within few weeks. Interview for 5 more positions are already scheduled. The following persons were selected:-

- 1. Dr. Jagat Ch. Borah, Associate Professor-II, Natural Product Chemistry
- 2. Dr. Mrinal Kr. Das, Assistant Professor-II, Molecular Biology

3. Dr. Subir Biswas, Assistant Professor II, Plasma Physics

included Property Professor-II Applied Mathematics in cation note how their profiles are in the professor-II, Seri-biotechnology

6. Dr. Prasenjit Manna, Assistant Professor-II, Medicinal chemistry.

Governing Council noted and ratified all the appointments.

#### AGENDA ITEM No. 9: (i) Incubator and start up-initiative at IASST:

BioNEST Program from M/s BIRAC & its implementation:

Subsequent to the 11th Meeting of the Governing Council, M/s BIRAC selected the upcoming incubation center at IASST for support under its BioNEST scheme. The project layout is of Rs 409 lakhs over a period of 5 years, out of which Rs 300 lakhs (PI: Dr. N. C. Talukdar) have been sanctioned by M/s BIRAC while IASST had agreed to contribute Rs 109 lakhs along with 10,000 sq. ft of constructed space.

Subsequent to the sanction of the extramural funding for the incubation center, as per the resolution taken in the 11th meeting of the Governing Council of IASST, a section 8 company is being formed, for the incubation center, with the objectives as per (Annexure VIII (Page No: 54) It is proposed that:

- [a] When the formation of Section 8 Company is complete, the Director, IASST may be empowered to transfer the BioNEST program from IASST to the Section 8 Company, and conduct the necessary official works for the purpose, in consultation with M/s BIRAC.
- [b] Council may approve IASST's share of 109 lakhs as its contribution towards implementation of BioNEST program as per its commitment, over period of 5 years, and for that purpose, adequate provisions in the budget of IASST may be made for at least next 5 years. It is also to apprise the Council Members that a major part of the IASST's share of Rs. 109 lakhs is IASST's sophisticated equipment which are already available in the Institute and will be accessible to people in BioNEST Centre.
- [c] IASST may be a collaboration partner with the Section 8 Company for taking up any other extramural grants related with the incubation center.

The Governing Council after a detailed discussion on this made the following recommendations:

- (1) Since it was informed that a Section8 company is being formed, it is advised to write to M/s BIRAC to give the grant-in-aid to BioNEST directly to the section 8 company, and therefore the matter of transfer of the grant-in-aid from BIRAC does not fall under the ambit of the Governing council.
- (2) The MoA and the AoA of the said section 8 company is to be circulated to the governing council members for its approval before collaboration with the company for implementation of the technology commercialisation and incubation program of IASST.
- (3) The incubation space may be provided on lease to the incubator company. As an interim measure IASST may provide its committed share over 5 years as grant-in-aid for operation of the BioNEST program, but in the long run the incubator must try to generate its own revenue from other sources. It must be ensured that in case the section 8 company is wound-up, the assets held by Section 8 Company come back to IASST.
- (ii) QC/QA laboratory facility for Phytopharmaceutical of NE India:

Recently IASST has received sanction of Rs.1, 90, 588, 60/- as extramural grants (PI: Dr. N. C. Talukdar) from the Department of Biotechnology, GoI for setting up of a QC/QA laboratory for testing herbal/AYUSH mode products under phytopharmaceutical mission of NE India. IASST will provide 5000 sq ft area in the newly constructed CIF building for setting up of the QC/QA laboratory facility for phytopharmaceutical mission of NE India.

The Council after discussion approved the proposal.

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## AGENDA ITEM No. 10: Entrepreneurship Development Programme of IASST:

For the upcoming Incubation Center at IASST, high quality of incubates shall be required. Like any cultural shift, the shift from being job-seeker to entrepreneur also is a gradual process. It requires years of human resource development via training, grooming, development of skills and aptitude through off hand and hands on learning of entrepreneurship. IASST has sufficiently large human resource of technically skilled manpower, working in various positions. Additionally IASST runs PhD program for continuously developing scientifically and technologically skilled human resources for the society.

As IASST has a vision of building human capacity in frontier areas of Science and Technology and an objective of social interventions for spreading awareness for growth of Science and Technology in the region, keeping in perspective the factors mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the Entrepreneurship Development Program of IASST has been formulated, as a programme of Human Resource Development in science & technology oriented entrepreneurship in fulfilment of its declared objectives.

With the expected outcome of developing IASST as a powerful launch-pad of NER for the scientific entrepreneurship, it is proposed that the Entrepreneurship Development Program of IASST also may be enlisted by the Governing Council as one of the defined programmes of IASST.

The Governing Council discussed the matter and suggested that a policy should be formulated for commercialization of technology and to give some incentives to the innovators. The Council further suggested to form a committee for this and the policy should be circulated to the members of the Council for approval of the programme.

Agenda item No.11: North East Academy of Science-Allotment of space for its office in IASST premises:

In order to contribute towards growth of science and play effective role in formulation of policies for science education, technology for the benefit of lawmakers and administrators of NE India, efforts of the members of the National Academy of Science from NE India, other academicians, Vice Chancellors and Directors of Universities/Institution over last two years have resulted in the formation of the NEAS as a registered society with Prof. D. J. Saikia, former Scientist, TIFR and Former Vice Chancellor, Cotton University as President and Dr. N. C. Talukdar as Member Secretary. To initiate activity of the NEAS, a small space of about 150 sq ft is requested on a rent free basis inside the IASST premises until the own premises of the NEAS is developed. IASST has available space in the CIF to spare for the NEAS office temporarily.

The Council is requested to take a decision on this. The Council after discussion approved allotment of space to NEAS temporarily in IASST's premises until the own premise of NEAS is developed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair:

(A) Resolution of the Governing Council of IASST on Extension of tenure of Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director for another term beyond the age of superannuation

The governing council has been informed that Dr. N.C.Talukdar will attain the age of superannuation on 29.02.2020. The recruitment rules of IASST approved by the Government has provision for extension beyond the age of superannuation by the Government on the recommendation of the Governing Council (GC). The Governing Council had an in-depth and detailed deliberation on the issue based on the presentation of IASST's overall growth and development in its 12th meeting held on 13th July, 2019.

Building Infrastructure growth and utilization:

The Governing Council noted the outstanding contribution made by Dr. N.C.Talukdar towards all-round growth and achievement of the Institute in different fronts. At the time of his assuming office, IASST had only one main building of 26,900 sq.ft. and about 19368 sq.ft. road network as infrastructure within 13 acres of its campus land. The institute was taken over in 2009 by the Dept. of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India and during the initial years, prior to joining of current Director, the institute gradually moved out of support from the state to stabilise itself and build environment of work culture typical of a national R&D laboratory of India. Governing Council noted that building infrastructure & road network gradually rose to current level of 1,50,444 sq.ft. and 64,560 sq.ft., respectively inclusive of a 65,000 sq.ft. G+2 Central Instrumentation Facility (CIF) building and 6,768 sq.ft. area state of the art Animal House Facility (AHF) building and a 25,371 sq.ft. area apartment building for academic staff to be completed within 4/5 months. Similarly, the piece of abandoned swampy area measuring 7 acres (which was allocated to the institute by the Govt. of Assam) has been gradually converted to a "Bioresource Conservation Hub (BCH)"which houses large diversity of indigenous medicinal plants, high value wood trees, wild edible fruits, seri insect host plants. Meticulous planning and execution for putting - (1) CIF building facilities in use by transferring the sophisticated equipment from vibration prone current building, (2) GLP compliant Animal House Facility for use by both IASST and NE regions' other researchers for pre-clinical trials for herbal medicines, (3) Allotment of academic staff quarter to the recently recruited and already existing senior staff and (4) On use the Bioresource Conservation Hub (BCH) for biodiversity education of students and common public will get facilitated smoothly if the current leadership gets some more time beyond Feb. 2020.

### Recent recruitment of scientist and their orientation:

IASST's visibility four years ago was not that great to attract talented scientist and fill up the vacant positions but with collective efforts, the scenario changed. The visitors' number to IASST Website increased to 4.5 lakhs in 2018. The advertisement at that time for scientist position saw excellent response from prospective candidates and recently highly talented scientists including those of Indian origin in leading laboratories from abroad recruited. The long standing requirement of building up of a critical mass of talented scientists for the institute is now met, but orientation of the new scientists towards the research progress at least for a year or two by current leadership is expected to yield better result.

#### New initiatives and their nurturing:

New initiatives such as Entrepreneurship development programmes, Quality Control & Quality Assurance laboratories for testing herbal medicine under phytopharmaceuticals mission of NE India, and Social venture initiative of setting up an incubation centre named ISVEC have been taken up in IASST during last two years and the initiative has bagged two competitive grants with Dr. Talukdar as PI from (1) M/s BIRAC of DBT, and (2) Phytopharmaceuticals mission of DBT for NE India. There is tremendous potential of these initiatives to generate revenue for the Institute and produce scientist, entrepreneurs in the NE region which will result into a cultural shift from being job seeker to entrepreneur, a policy which the Govt. of India seeks to promote vigorously. In the 12<sup>th</sup> GC meeting, IASST has been given the task of formulating policy for commercialization of technology of institute and developing a structure through an expert committee for the proposed 6<sup>th</sup> programme i.e. Entrepreneurship development program of IASST. Continuation of the current leadership for some time beyond Feb, 2020 is expected to result in nurturing and consolidation of the activities under these new initiatives for benefit of the NE region.

#### > Expansion of IASST:

The current campus of IASST is only 20 acres land and fully utilised for civil structure and other facilities. The current Director was keen to initiate activity for its expansion first through programmes such as medicinal plant/phytopharmaceutical research which require large quantity of material for bioactive molecule products for pilot scale testing. The Honourable minister of Science and Technology, GOI and the Secretary, DST wrote to Chief Minister and Chief Secretary of Assam, respectively for allotting additional land to IASST during the year 2016-17 in the vicinity of the current campus. State Govt. could not find any additional land for IASST and the Chief of Boroland Territorial Council was approached who agreed to allot at least 100 acres of land to IASST. The GC in its 12th meeting held on 13th July, 2019 suggested to make short term and long-term roadmap for utilisation of the new land in which issue of revenue generation should be included. Extension of service of the current Director will facilitate greatly speedy preparation of the roadmap and taking possession of the land and ensuring expansion of IASST.

At this point of time, the momentum of growth of IASST need to be sustained to place the institute to earn a higher plank and the GC in the light of above analysis weighed the two options. The process of selection of a new Director or the recommendation for extension of the service of the current Director. The GC feels that a new leader will need a gestation period of 1/2 year to catch up and within about 2 years, the new initiatives of IASST will fully mature as regular activities for a new leader to take forward. The Governing Council is more than convinced and realises that two years leadership of the Institute by Dr. N.C. Talukdar will be in the larger interest of the institute in particular, and growth of R&D strength of the North Eastern region in general, in fulfilment of the Central Government's mission for development of NE India. The Governing Council has, therefore, unanimously resolved to strongly recommend to Govt. for granting a two year tenure extension on 1+1 basis to Dr. N.C. Talukdar as Director of IASST, Guwahati. The Council also recommended that in case the extension is not approved, process of recruitment of new Director should be started.

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B. Forwarding of application of Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director IASST for the post of Vice Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat:

Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director IASST has applied for the post of Vice Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University on the basis of advertisement. An application was sent to the Secretary, DST for sending his application through proper channel. The Governing Council may kindly approve forwarding his application.

The Governing Council after discussion recommended forwarding his application.

- C. The Governing council suggested updating of IASST website inserting the names of the Chairman and members of the Governing Council in the website.
- D. The Governing Council suggested to make a detailed Master plan of the Institute campus and also for the new campus if comes up.

There being no other item for discussions, the meeting ended with thanks from the chair.

Chairman,

Governing Council, IASST

Director, IASST. Member Secretary