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MINUTES OF THE 17TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology (IASST), Guwahati

Members present in the meeting:

1.	Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale Secretary, DST, New Delhi	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma DG, NECTAR	Member
3.	Prof. Pulok Kumar Mukherjee Director, IBSD, Imphal	Member
4.	Prof. P. J. Handique VC, Gauhati University	Member
5.	Prof. Tanushree Saha Dasgupta Director, S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata	Member
6.	Rohit Kumar, Nominee of Shri Vishvajit Sahay Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser DST, New Delhi	Member
7.	Shri P. L. N. Raju Special Secretary, Science, Technology And Climate Change Deptt., Govt. of Assam	Member
8.	Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty Head, A.I. Division, DST, New Delhi	Special Invitee
9.	Prof. Ashis Kumar Mukherjee Director, IASST, Guwahati	Member Secretary

Agenda Item No: G.C.17/2023/1/1.1: Welcome to members and opening remarks by the Chairman, G.C.

Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Chairman, Governing Council, IASST & Secretary, DST, New Delhi, welcomed the members. He requested the Director, IASST, to start and conduct the meeting.

Agenda Item No: GC.17/2023/1/1.2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the Governing Council held on October 14, 2022

Minutes of the 16th meeting of G.C. were circulated to all the members, and no comment was received from the members. The Chairman, GC, approved the minutes. The minutes are placed in Annexure I. Minutes are submitted for confirmation by the Governing Council.

Decision: The Minutes were confirmed by the Governing Council.

Agenda Item No: G.C.17/2023/1/1.3: Action Taken Report (A.T.R.) on the minutes of the 16th meeting of the Governing Council held on October 14, 2022.

The Action Taken Report (A.T.R.) of the 16th G.C. is as under:

Agenda Item No.	Item no./reference to para of the minutes of 14th meeting	Action taken/proposed to be taken	Remarks
GC.16/2022/1/1.1	Welcome to members and opening remarks by the Chairman, G.C.	Noted	Action taken is Report accepted
GC.16/2022/1/1.2	Confirmation of the Minutes of the 16th meeting of the Governing Council held on October 14, 2022.	Noted	Accepted
GC.16/2022/1/1.3	"Action taken report" on recommendations of the 16th meeting of G.C. held on October 14, 2022.	Noted	Accepted

GC.16/2022/1/1.4	Consideration of the recommendations/deliberations of the 16th meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST held on June 26 2023	Noted	Approved
GC.16/2022/1/2	Items for approval/ ratification in the 16th G.C. meeting		
	2.1. Staff quarters allotment rules: The Staff quarters allotment rules of IASST were placed before the G.C. for deliberation by the members and approval.	Decision: The Governing Council, after deliberations, approved the Staff quarters allotment rules of IASST.	Implemented
	2.2. Faculty entrepreneurship rules: The Faculty entrepreneurship rules of IASST were placed in the G.C. for deliberation by the members for approval/further decision.	Decision: The Committee highly appreciated the Faculty entrepreneurship guidelines prepared by the IASST, and in principle, the committee approved such an endeavor. A brainstorming discussion was held on this issue, and the committee opined that sharing profits from such ventures should be on a 60:40% basis (60% profit to the entrepreneur and 40% profit to IASST). The committee also suggested including "the unique situation in North East India vis-a-vis the other parts of India" and focusing on the sustainable use of abundant resources along with the Corporate Social Responsibility of the Institute. After modification, the Faculty Entrepreneurship Rules of IASST should be circulated to the Members of the Governing Council for remarks. The rules may be implemented without waiting for the next Governing Council meeting.	It was suggested that a small committee may be constituted to look into the above issue.
	2.3. Collection of student fees: In its meeting held on 26/04/2022, the Academic Committee proposed the following fee structure for the research scholars of the IASST, which was also ratified at the 15th meeting of the F.C. The matter is placed for ratification/approval	Decision/Remarks: The Committee approved the proposed fee structure.	Implemented
	2.4. Performance parameters of research achievements: The MoU with DST is placed	Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted and	Approved by GC

	before the G.C. for perusal and ratification of the members.	appreciated the achievements.	
	2.5. Draft Annual Report 2021-22 with audited accounts statement of IASST: The Draft Annual Report 2021-22 with audited Accounts statement of IASST was placed before the G.C. for perusal, comments and approval.	Decision/Remarks: The GC noted and approved the Annual Report 2021-22	Approved by GC
	2.6. Restructuring and revival of lapsed faculty positions: The committee, in its meeting held on December 6 2021, noted the lack of applications received for the advertised vacancies (3 nos.) arising due to superannuation, technical resignation, and the resignation of faculties and suggested that the areas of specialization for the positions should be generalized to attract more applicants. Further, for the vacant positions for more than two years but less than five years (deemed abolished posts), approval of DST is requested. Regarding the abolished posts (6 nos.), the committee suggested that IASST may initiate the revival of the lapsed posts and diligently pursue the matter with DST and the Ministry of Finance for immediate revival. Accordingly, the process was initiated. On our request for the down-gradation of the posts, DST suggested that the matter be placed in the next meeting of the G.C., and its decision/recommendation be communicated to DST. Considering the need for more faculty positions, IASST requests the permission/ approval of the G.C. to downgrade the lapsed/abolished faculty positions (Professor-II: 2 positions; Professor-I: 2 positions) to Assistant Professor-II level to attract promising researchers.	Decision/Remarks: The Committee discussed the matter of downgrading the vacant/abolished faculty positions and found it to be appropriate. The committee approved that the posts be downgraded. Dr. M. Mohanty, Head A.I. Division, informed IASST to submit the proposal to DST for the down-gradation of posts with due approval of the G.C. The Director should distribute the vacant faculty positions into different subject areas per the Institute's requirements. Moreover, scientists on a contractual basis can be engaged in the interim while the posts are advertised, and the recruitment process is on.	The requirement was discussed in the meeting of faculty members, and input was obtained from them. The request to revive positions was submitted to the Head of the A.I. division. Out of the six (6) requested positions, the DST has approved two positions of Associated Professor-II. A step has been taken to advertise these two positions. <u>Ratified by the G.C.</u>
GC.16/2022/1/3	Reporting items with the permission of the Chair		
	3.1. Discussion on achievements of targets set for the year 2021-2022	Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted and appreciated the achievements	Approved by GC
	3.2. Recent achievements (December 2021 – August 2022): 3.2.1 Output Indicators & 3.2.2 Awards/Recognitions/Achievements	Decision/Remarks: The Committee appreciated the achievements	Approved by GC
	3.3. Promotion of faculty members: Two Academic Staff have been promoted after following proper procedure (1st level Internal and 2nd level external screening) under Modified Flexible Complementing Scheme	Decision/Remarks: The Committee ratified the promotions.	Ratified by GC
	3.4. Renewal of registration of IASST under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860: The validity of registration of IASST under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 expires on 21.01.2023. The change in the Governing Council members vide reconstitution in January 2022 also needs to be communicated to the Registrar of Societies	Decision/Remarks: The Committee approved the renewal of registration of IASST under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.	Ratified by GC

	3.5. Scientific Advisory Council meeting: The 12th Scientific Advisory Council was held at IASST on 18th and 19th August 2022	Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the holding of the S.A.C. meeting.	Ratified by GC
	3.6. Annual Report 2021-22 The draft Annual Report for the year 2021-22 was circulated to the members of the Governing Council, and their comments were noted. The Report was placed before the Chairman, GC, for approval, and approval was received. The Report has been sent to press for printing for onward submission to DST.	Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the information.	Ratified by GC
	3.7. Induction of non-academic workforce in vacancies arising due to superannuation After following proper procedures, four posts were filled up in vacancies arising due to superannuation.	Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the appointments.	Ratified by GC
	3.8. Proposed additional requirement of human resources included in the D.P.R. for National Science and Technology Research University (NSTRU) As per the Cadre Committee report, the following posts were proposed for IASST. The Report was submitted to DST on November 12, 2021	Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the information.	The G.C. noted the information.
	3.9. Promotion of Administrative and Technical Staff under MACP: Eight employees were promoted under MACP after following the proper procedure	Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the information.	G.C. noted the information.
	3.10. Bye-laws and staff rules of IASST: As per the letter No. AI/1-26/Admn/IASST/2009 Dated 20/09/2012 received from DST, it was suggested to submit the Bye-laws, Rules and Regulations and Staff Rules of IASST to the Office of the Registrar, Co-Operative Societies, Guwahati. After that, the adoption of these papers was to be placed in the Governing Council for ratification. Action Taken: The Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Staff Rules of IASST were submitted to the Registrar of Firms and Societies, Guwahati, Assam, dated 22/12/2012. However, the matter was not ratified in G.C. due to some inadvertent mistake. The matter is now placed for ratification	Decision/Remarks: The matter is ratified.	Ratified by GC
	3.11. Regarding the Recruitment and Promotion Rules of IASST The framing of Recruitment Rules for the different posts of IASST has been discussed in the 3rd meeting of the Governing Council held in February 2012 vide resolution No. 10. The Chairman of the G.C. assured that the Recruitment Rules of IASST will be examined and approved by DST. He further entrusted the task of scrutinizing the Recruitment Rules of IASST for finalization to the J.S. & F.A., DST. The revised draft Recruitment Rules were placed before the 8th Governing Council meeting held on December 2015. The Governing Council resolved that the draft rules must be sent to the Administrative Ministry,	Decision/Remarks: The members discussed the matter, and Dr. M. Mohanty, Head (A.I. Division), clarified that the Recruitment Rules for all staff, other than the Director, should follow the DoPT guidelines. IASST may prepare the R.R. Rules for all the staff/scientists and submit them to DST for approval.	The draft rule is under preparation and the same will be submitted to DST for approval.



	i.e., DST, for processing and approval. In pursuance of that, the draft Recruitment and Promotion Rules of IASST was sent to the then Head of A.I. Division, DST, Dr. Praveer Asthana vide letter no. IASST/771/16-17/4460 dated 18/07/2016. DST vide letter No. A.I./18/3/IASST/2016 dated 20/03/2017 raised a few queries, which were replied to vide letter no. IASST/771/17-18/8459 dated 14/09/2017. However, we have not received any communication from DST, and the Recruitment and Promotion Rules of IASST are not approved to date. The Governing Council is requested to give us further direction regarding this matter.		
	3.12. Prof. A. K. Mukherjee, Director of IASST, participated in an International Conference organized by the International Society on Toxinology in Abu Dhabi. Prof. Ashis K Mukherjee, Director, IASST is scheduled to attend an International Seminar to participate as an invited speaker in the 21st World Congress of the International Society on Toxicology in Abu Dhabi from 16 to October 20 2022. Necessary approval from the Chairman, G.C. has been obtained for a visit abroad	Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the matter	
GC.16/2022/1/4	A.o.B:		
	Matters relating to grievances of staff regarding promotion, scale of pay etc.: The members discussed the matter, and Dr. M. Mohanty requested to forward such grievances to DST for advice	No such matter is pending, except for a few old court cases.	G.C. noted the matter.

Agenda Item No: G.C.17/2023/1/1.4: Consideration of the recommendations/deliberations of the 16th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 26 June 2023

Director IASST informed the Council about the recommendations of the Finance committee in respect of following items :

- *Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2022-23 for approval.*
- *Submission of Budget Estimate for the Financial Year 2023-24 and present financial status of the Institute.*
- *Proposal for procurement of Major Scientific Equipment during the financial year 2023-2024.*
- *Current status of construction of a Women's Hostel at IASST.*
- *Outstanding Audit Paras.*
- *participation in events organized by Govt. Dept./P.S.E.s/A.B.s from time to time on a payment basis.*
- *Enhancement of fellowship to Research Scholar/RA, etc.*
- *payment of the Institute's share for the extramural project.*

The Council approved the recommendations of FC.

Agenda Item No:GC.17/2023/1/2: Items for consideration and approval in the 17th GC meeting

2.1. Performance parameters of research achievements

The MoU with DST is placed in Annexure III for the perusal of the members. Request for ratification.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted and appreciated the performance of IASST and ratified the MoU.

2.2. Draft Annual Report 2022-23 with audited accounts statement of IASST

The Draft Annual Report 2022-23 with the audited Accounts statement of IASST is was circulated for comments and approval.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. approved the Annual Report 2022-2023.

Agenda Item No: G.C.17/2023/1/3: Reporting items with the permission of the Chair

3.1. Discussion on achievements of targets set for the year 2022-2023

The achievements w.r.t. the MoU are shown below:

Parameters	Target for 2022-23	Achieved
Paper/scientist/year	5	4.526
Impact factor/paper	2.5	4.8
EMR funding obtained	400	277.7
Patent granted/scientist/year	0.05	0.42
Consultancy/Scientist/year	0.02	0.0
Database created	2.2	12
Major research facilities run	1	4
Research facility established	2	2
Patent filed	5	8

Decision/Remarks: The committee noted and appreciated the achievements.

3.2. Recent achievements (April 2022 – March 2023):

3.2.1 Output Indicators:

Publications (Peer-reviewed journals)	86 (Impact Factor Total: 411.944; 4.8 per paper)
Patents filed	8
Patents granted	3
Book chapters	6
Book	1
PhD produced	13

3.2.2 Awards/recognitions/Achievements:

Director, IASST briefed the Council about the various recognitions /achievements made by IASST since the last GC Meeting

Decision/Remarks: The Committee appreciated the achievements and advised to continue the same.

3.3. NABL accreditation to the Q.C. & Q.A. Laboratory

The Quality Control and Quality Assessment laboratory of IASST, set up with financial assistance from D.B.T., has received NABL accreditation. This facility will ensure quality testing of phytopharmaceutical products from the region and earn revenue for the Institute.

Decision/Remarks: The Committee appreciated and congratulated IASST on this achievement.

3.4. Joining of Ramalingaswamy re-entry fellow and Ramanujan fellow

Two researchers, one Ramalingaswamy re-entry fellow and one Ramanujan Fellow, have joined IASST, augmenting the research workforce of the Institute.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the joining and appreciated the endeavor of IASST to encourage the young scientists.

3.5. Empanelment of lawyers

Apart from the Panel advocates engaged in court cases against the Institute, IASST has impaneled four advocates to represent IASST in various court cases. They will be in addition to the government-impaneled lawyers.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. ratified the above empanelment.

3.6. Outcome of the S.A.C. meeting

The minutes of the 13th meeting of the S.A.C. held on 13-14 February 2023 are placed in Annexure V.

Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the minutes of the S.A.C. meeting and appreciated the progress.

3.7. Renovation of an area to set up Seven Sisters Eco Park at IASST Campus

A small eco-park, named the Seven sisters eco-park, was established on the campus of IASST, representing the geographical landmarks of the seven northeastern states of India. This area has an artificial stream, undulating greenery, and a pond with colourful fishes. The area is renovated.

Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the effort.

3.8. Grocery store and small canteen on IASST campus

Considering campus dwellers' difficulties, a small grocery store and canteen facility have been established. These facilities were created by renovating an old security barrack that was lying vacant and unused.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the matter.

3.9. Use of Hindi in official communication

IASST has successfully implemented Hindi in official work, and almost 60% of notes are done in Hindi. IASST has published a Hindi scientific book entitled "Bishadhar Bhujang Katha..." written by Prof. Ashis Kumar Mukherjee, Director, IASST, which was inaugurated by a panel in the recently concluded DST AI conclave. The Hindi Pakwada is also organized every September, and staff have taken training on Hindi noting. A quarterly workshop and meeting on Hindi implementation were done, and the Hindi audit report was satisfactory. Moreover, remarkable progress has been made in using Hindi in official communication by all the officers of the IASST, including the Director.

Decision/Remarks: The Committee noted the above effort.

3.10. Social Responsibility of IASST for the upliftment of the Weaker section of Society and Outreach activities

As part of corporate social responsibility, IASST has been carrying out various outreach activities to empower the rural and weaker sections of society, mainly focusing on the tribal population of the state. As a part of this programme, SC/ST students from the BTC areas of Assam were sensitized and encouraged to take up science as a career in their studies. A team of teachers from these areas were trained and given hands-on training in various scientific methods to strengthen their science teaching abilities. Initiatives have been taken to facilitate G.I. tag to four fermented foods of the region.

Recently, a collective decision was taken in a faculty meeting to set up a 'Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Centre for Societal Development by Scientific Intervention' at IASST. One of the faculty members will be entrusted with the Head of the Center without remuneration.

IASST Ph.D. students undertake Societal Projects under the AcSIR Ph.D. program to create and nurture a sense of social consciousness and responsibility by participation in Science and technology activities relevant to the societal problems of the nation for inclusive growth and improved quality of lives of rural/underprivileged communities through S&T interventions that are socially and economically relevant.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the activity and appreciated the initiative to uplift the society's S.C., S.T., and other backward classes.

3.10. Women's empowerment and construction of Women's hostel at IASST

The Institute has taken several steps to enhance the safety and welfare issues of the women research staff of the Institute. It has identified areas/issues that need strengthening/rectification to create ambient working conditions for female students and staff of IASST. The I.C.C. of IASST holds regular meetings with the female staff and research scholars of the Institute.

Further, the construction of a women's hostel, as approved by DST, has been initiated by the CPWD. The work is in progress, and construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the progress made.

3.11. Collaborations with other Academic Institutions

IASST has drawn up MoU with other Academic Institutions working in similar domains to strengthen its academic and R&D activities through collaborative work and exchange of students.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. appreciated the effort and advised that IASST can take a leadership role for research in specific areas, e.g., fermented food, phytopharmaceutical, etc. with the other national institutes of N.E. region, forming a cluster in advancing research in targeted domains.

3.12. Organizing DST Autonomous Institutes Conclave

IASST had successfully organized a two-day DST Autonomous Institute's conclave during 9-10 May 2023. The conclave was attended by the respective Directors or Head of the institution of all the autonomous institutes of DST along with officials of DST. The conclave had a very fruitful outcome, with the members preparing a roadmap to strengthen the S&T ecosystem for the coming years.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. appreciated the efforts of IASST in organising the conclave.

3.13 Appointment of Head, Life Science Division & SAIC

After the headship tenure of Dr. R. Devi, Dr. Jagat C. Borah has been appointed as Head of the Division of Life Sciences, IASST, from February 26, 2023, for two years or until further order, whichever is earlier. After the headship tenure of Dr. A. R. Pal, Dr. Sarathi Kundu was appointed as Head SAIC from July 12, 2023, for two years or until further order, whichever is earlier.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. ratified the appointments.

3.14 Visit of Director, IASST to University of Porto, Portugal

With due approval from the Secretary, DST, and Chairman of G.C., IASST, Prof. A. K. Mukherjee, Director, IASST, visited the University of Porto, Portugal, from 27 to August 31, 2023. The visit was explicitly meant to explore the possibility of scientific and cultural collaboration for pursuing joint research, exchanging scientific ideas and knowledge between participating groups, and joint guidance of Ph.D. students. Furthermore, another aim of this visit was to discuss submitting joint project proposals on drug discovery from natural resources, one of the thrust research areas at IASST, Guwahati, and the University of Porto, Portugal. This visit is significant for both the Portuguese and Indian P.I.s. Besides, this visit has broadened the network into scientific research and encouraged further funding opportunities between India and Portugal.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the effort of the Director for international collaboration of IASST.

3.15 Six months visit of Dr. Santu Das to the University of Newcastle, Australia



Jr. Santu, Assistant Professor in the Physical Sciences division, has been granted six months EoL to conduct advanced-level research on the simulation of tsunami wave propagation at the University of Newcastle, Australia, under the SERB International Research Experience (SIRE) program of DST. The Chairman, G.C., and Secretary, DST, have approved his visit.

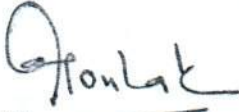
Decision/Remarks: The G.C. noted the visit.

Agenda Item No:GC.17/2023/1/4: AoB

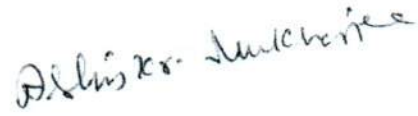
4.0 Director IASST proposed to start a "Center for Research on Traditional Fermented Food & Beverages of NE India." He explained traditional fermented foods and beverages (F.F.B.s) are integral cultural heritage to more than 300 ethnic communities of northeast India. There is scope for these F.F.B.s to be promoted as functional food in the local and global markets that will generate rural entrepreneurship in the region.

Decision/Remarks: The G.C. recommended the proposal and suggested to submit the same to an appropriate funding agency.

The meeting ended with thanks from the Chair.



Chairman
Governing Council



Director, IASST
Member Secretary

निदेशक/Director
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