



Minutes of the first Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting of the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati - 35, An Autonomous Institute under Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Date: 27th December, 2010
Time: 11.00 Hrs.

The following members attended the meeting:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Prof. Milan K. Sanyal
Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics
Kolkata. | Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. Sibaji Raha
Director, Bose Institute,
Kolkata. | Member |
| 3. Prof. P G Rao
Director, NEIST,
Jorhat, Assam. | Member |
| 4. Prof. Tapan Chakrabarti
NEERI, Nagpur. | Member |
| 5. Prof. Arun Chattopadhyay
Department of Chemistry,
IIT Guwahati. | Member |
| 6. Prof. Joyanti Chutia
Director, IASST | Member |
| 7. Dr. T Ramasami
Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
Govt. of India. | Special invitee. |
| 8. Prof. N N Dass
Former Director, IASST. | Special invitee |

Prof. A N Rai, Vice Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Prof. Veena Tendon, NEHU, Shillong and Prof. Rahul Mukherjee, IIM Kolkata could not attend the meeting due to their preoccupation.

Agenda Item No. 1:

Prof. M K Sanyal, Chairman SAC welcomed the members and initiated the proceedings of the meeting. In his opening remark, the Chairman expressed his happiness to be involved with the growth and development of the IASST and hoped that IASST will surely occupy a prominent place as a research Institute of national level from North Eastern part of the Country. He stated that SAC will try its best to advance knowledge, interest and ideas in research activities and will provide the support and patronage that will drive the Institute toward the path of excellence. The chairman emphasized the need to upgrade the advanced research facilities in the Institute for quality research.

Prof. Joyanti Chutia, Director, IASST welcomed the Hon'ble Members of the Scientific Advisory Council and made a brief account of the Institute before the members highlighting the research activities as well as the problems faced in pursuing these activities. The Director stated that the objective of the Institute is to carry out basic research in Physical Sciences and Life Sciences. IASST has been continuing research in different fields e.g. Basic Plasma Science, Plasma Processing, Polymer Chemistry, Pure Mathematics and Statistics, Medicinal Plants, Seribiotechnology and Environmental Sciences for the last two decades. As such, it is expected that research work will be now focused on few major fields where scientists from all different divisions can take part actively. The Scientific Advisory Council is requested to set guidelines in this respect.

Agenda Item No. 2:

All members of the academic staff made presentation of their research works before the Scientific Advisory Council. The Members of the SAC were impressed by their research work and progress, however, they opined that an Institute like IASST comprising only 14 academic staff should not be engaged on large number of diverse fields. A united approach may be made to focus on certain important areas of research for in depth study.

Prof. P G Rao pointed out that the scientists should avoid such research activities which are redundant in character and already being explored in other institutes of the region.

Agenda Item No. 3:

Dr. T Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India suggested that the goal of research should be clear, specific and filled with detail. The Institute should focus on a few areas with the aim of achieving the critical mass for its growth. The research should be both need-based and knowledge-based. The combined force of all the divisions will create and produce quality research which is important for a small institute like IASST. Dr. Ramasami suggested that during 12th plan period IASST should take up one or two major research program and develop research infrastructure.

The Chairman advised that infrastructure facility of the Institute should be upgraded with advanced research equipment to facilitate the research work. The Chairman pointed out that workshops/ brain storming sessions on important areas of research should be held by inviting expertise on particular subject. He also suggested that in addition to the course introduced by the University as per UGC norms, internal pre Ph. D course of 6 months duration for the students should be introduced so that the basic foundation course for all concerned subjects are taught and the students will not have much difficulties in taking up cross disciplinary research work. It has been decided that 10 students per year are to be inducted for next five years. The Chairman also insisted/ instructed to take up an "Invitation Program" to invite senior Scientist/ Experts of National and International repute for weeks/months to get new ideas and expert advice. It was decided that competent persons to lead the

research in the fields where major impact is required should be appointed on contract basis. The SAC decided that one or two projects shall be submitted by the Director with necessary equipments and detailed justification indicating the utilization, number of users etc. The members suggested to initiate a project where most of the academic staff can work together. The Director, IASST will present the project proposal on 11/02/2011 in the 2nd SAC meeting to be held at Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata.

Agenda Item No. 4:

The SAC discussed about the new recruitment and advised that new staff may be recruited on the areas of research specialization related to the activities of IASST and after approval of the project. The SAC approved recruitment of 10 JRF/SRF every year in the next plan period.

Agenda Item No. 5:

After threadbare discussion regarding flexible promotion scheme the following criteria have been suggested:

- (1) The incumbent should complete the minimum residency period in the existing post.
- (2) The self appraisal report should be sent to 6 experts including 2 from foreign countries. Recommendations from at least four experts are required for the promotion.
- (3) The review shall be done by the Assessment Committee where one member from the Governing Council/Scientific Advisory Council should be present.

Agenda Item No. 6:

In the visiting programme, eminent and reputed scientists should be invited for short term or long term period depending on the convenience of the concerned scientists. A Professor may be recruited in the Life Sciences Division on three years contract basis/deputation to provide leadership in advanced molecular biology research. A scientist in computational mathematics may also be recruited in near future.

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled on 11th February, 2011 at SINP, Kolkata.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

As per modification in the SAC meeting
held on 11/02/2011 at SINP, Kolkata


17/2/2011