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Minutes of the third meeting of the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) of Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati-781035, held on 9th January, 2012 at 2.00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP), Kolkata

Members present

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| 1. | Prof. Milan K. Sanyal
Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics
Kolkata | Chairperson |
| 2. | Prof. Sibaji Raha
Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata | Member |
| 3. | Prof. Rahul Mukherjee
IIM, Kolkata | Member |
| 4. | Prof. Tapan Chakrabarti
NEERI, Nagpur. | Member |
| 5. | Prof. Joyanti Chutia
Director, IASST | Member |

Prof. Veena Tendon, NEHU, Shillong, Prof. A. N. Rai, Vice Chancellor NEHU, Sillong, Prof. Arun Chattopadhyay, Dept. of Chemistry, IIT, Guwahati and Dr. P.G. Rao, Director, NEIST, Jorhat could not attend the meeting due to their preoccupations.

Minutes of the Agenda

Item No. 1: Welcome address by the Chairman:

The Chairman welcomed the honourable members to the 3rd Scientific Advisory Council meeting of IASST, Guwahati and introduced Prof. Rahul Mukherjee, IIM, Kolkata who could not attend the previous SAC meetings.

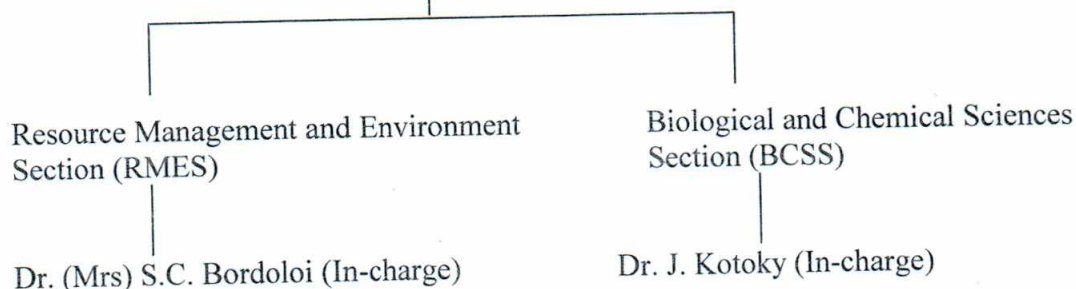
Minutes of the Agenda

Agenda item No. 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the second SAC meeting of IASST Guwahati held on February 11, 2011:

The honourable members discussed about the different items of the Minutes and asked the Director about follow-up actions of the matter under item number 2.3 of the minutes. The Director explained that the four divisions were amalgamated to two divisions namely, Physical Sciences and Life Sciences as suggested by the SAC in the previous meeting and two Central facilities namely:

- (i) Central Computational and Numerical Studies (Inclusive of Biomatrix, Climate Change and Bioinformatics)
- (ii) Central Instrumentation Facilities which are run by a Committee headed by a Chairman. In this regard, official notice was served to the academic staff. The two divisions are as follows:

- A. Physical Sciences Division - Dr. H. Bailung, Assoc. Professor II, Head
- B. Life Sciences Division - Dr. Joyanti Chutia, Director, Head



Four Academic members have been recruited following proper procedure, two in Life Sciences Division one in Physical Sciences Division and one in Central Computational and Numerical Studies. Dr. B.C. Tripathy, Assoc. Prof. II was selected as the Head of Central Computational and Numerical Studies and Dr. Jiban Kotoky, Assoc. Prof. was selected as the Chairman of Central instrumentation Facilities (CIF).

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Agenda item No. 3: Discussion on Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS) for promotion of the Academic Staff, IASST:

The members of the SAC scrutinised the selection of the qualifying candidates to be assessed by the referees in their respective discipline for promotion under FCS. The Scientific Advisory Council noted that due procedures had been followed in case of selection for promotion. However, the SAC recommended for arranging another meeting of the Screening Committee that was previously held on 26/7/2011 for making a summary page to lay down appropriate selection criteria followed in the promotion scheme. The summary page will be sent to Chairman, SAC and other members of SAC for approval.

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Agenda item No. 4: Discussion on 12th five year plan research activities, IASST:

The members discussed about the 12th Five year Plan proposal of the Institute presented by Dr. H. Bailung, Head, Physical Sciences Division and opined that the document containing the list of equipment forwarded to the Secretary, DST should be the same that has been produced before SAC. The meeting suggested that the purchase of equipments namely (i) HRTEM, (ii) LC-MS-MS and (iii) XPS should be deferred, and deleted from the current list of equipment since high resolution equipment needs expertise and trained manpower for constant engagement.

The members congratulated publication of papers by IASST scientists in PRL and commented that more papers of high impact factor will be appreciable. Dr. H. Bailung informed that Dr. Sumita Kumar Sharma, SRF has been selected for INSPIRE award by the DST, Govt. of India. The SAC congratulated both Dr. S.K. Sharma and Dr. M.R. Khan for receiving INSPIRE award and Ramalingaswami Fellow respectively. The SAC opined that for the Institute it is a matter of great pride.

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Agenda item No. 5: Presentation of the research works undertaken by the newly recruited Academic Staff at IASST:

The members of the SAC appreciated the research works undertaken by newly recruited academic staff. However the meeting suggested Dr. (Mrs.) Munima B. Sahariah and Dr. M. R. Khan to select their topic in more challenging and innovative areas and to see what other scientists are doing in their related fields. They are also advised to be more specific in their research fields.

The SAC recommended that provision should be made for travel grant to Scientists to visit national and International Conferences and workshops. The council also suggested that the Institute should formulate leave rules containing provisions so that the young Scientists could avail post doctorate fellowship and visiting assignments which will help in improving the research status of the Institute.

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Agenda item No. 6: Report on the Institutional Project and discussion on its funding:

Prof. Joyanti Chutia, Director presented the progress report of the Institutional project for the current year before the Council Members mainly focusing on Physicochemical and Biological properties of Muga Silk and functional Materials developed from Polymers and Silk. The members appreciated the work presented and publications of the Scientist of IASST with good impact factor.

The Chairman suggested that the web page of the institute should be upgraded including photographs of faculty members, their list of publications, projects in hand, honours awarded etc. The newly joined faculties should be engaged for upgradation of the web page.

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Agenda item No. 7: Discussion on the 18th International Conference on "Perspective and Challenges in Chemical and Biological Sciences: Innovation Cross Roads" to be held during 28th – 30th January, 2012 at IASST:

The Director informed the members about holding of 18th International Conference on "Perspective and Challenges in Chemical and Biological Sciences: Innovation Cross Roads" to be held during 28th – 30th January, 2012 at IASST and invited the members to the conference.

As there being no other items for discussion, the meeting ended with thanks to all the members from the Chair.


(Prof. Milan K. Sanyal)
Chairman, SAC


(Prof. Joyanti Chutia)
Director, IASST