

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

**Minutes of the eighth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) of
IASST Guwahati-781035, held on November 18, 2015 at 11.00 a.m. in the
Bose Institute, 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. Arun Chattopadhyay
Department of Chemistry
IIT, Guwahati | Member |
| 4. | Dr. N. C. Talukdar
Director, IASST | Member |
| 5. | Prof. Veena Tandon
NEHU, Shillong | Member |
| 6. | Dr. D. Ramaiah
Director, NEIST
Jorhat | Member |
| 7. | Prof. B. C. Tripathy
Head, CCNS, IASST | Invitee |

Prof. S. K. Srivastava, Vice Chancellor NEHU, Shillong; Prof. Rahul Mukherjee, IIM, Kolkata, Prof. Tapan Chakrabarty Chair Professor, VNIT, Nagpur could not attend the meeting due to their preoccupations.

Agenda item No. 1: *Welcome address and opening remarks by the Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council*

Prof. Milan K. Sanyal, Chairman welcomed the Honourable members to the 8th Scientific Advisory Council meeting of IASST, Guwahati. In his welcome address he commented that it is nice to see that the institute has progressed over the 8th SAC meeting. He also commented that any equipment purchased by IASST should not be the personal property of any scientist; however the concerned scientist should get good share of it. The Chairman then invited comment from other members. Prof. Raha commented that that has been a pleasant experience to have associated with this institute. Prof. Veena Tandon mentioned that it was probably her last chance to attend IASST SAC meeting and it was her pleasure to get associated with the institute and also heartening to see that the institute has made good progress particularly during 4/5 years. Dr. D. Ramaiah commented that it was his first meeting and also stated that IASST has a beautiful campus and been progressing nicely particularly in terms of number of Ph. D. students compared to limited number of scientists. He congratulated IASST Director and other staff of the Institute for this accomplishment. Prof. A. Chattopadhyay mentioned his long association with the institute and commented that it was a great pleasure to be associated with IASST. Prof. B. C. Tripathy commented that IASST was progressing well particularly in terms of number and quality of publication.

Agenda item No. 2: *Confirmation of Minutes of the Seventh Scientific Advisory Council meeting held on October 10, 2014.*

The Honourable Chairman invited comments on the minutes of the 7th Scientific Advisory Council of IASST. No comments were received from the members and the Council confirmed the minutes.

Agenda item No. 3: *Action Taken Report on the decisions/deliberations as per minutes of the Seventh meeting of the Scientific Advisory Council.*

Director, IASST informed the house that actions were initiated on all the decisions/suggestions made in the last SAC meeting. The Chairman stressed that it is important to have involvement of scientists of IASST with school students. The Director informed the various activities of participation of school/ college students undertaken by

IASST. The Chairman commented that IASST is strategically located in one corner of the Country and suggested that it must propagate science. He also said that INSA has scheme for their fellows to visit other institutes and deliver lectures and IASST can make use of this scheme and this will also achieve exposure of the institute to visiting scientists.

Agenda item No. 4: *Presentation of overview of R&D and other developmental activities since the 7th SAC meeting held on October 10, 2014.*

The Director, IASST made a small presentation on overall R&D and other developmental activities of IASST since the last SAC meeting. He also mentioned about proposal for establishment of the Centre for Energy and Environment. The Chairman suggested that instead of naming the proposed centre as Centre for energy and environment make it Centre for advanced material for energy and environment so that this will be easy to achieve. The Director presented the research achievement of the institute particularly on publication, number of extramural projects, number of Ph. D. awarded and progress made over the years. The Council suggested to include year wise data on research achievements instead of five years cumulative data together from the next SAC meeting. In his presentation, the director informed the council about initiation of establishing an electrical substation at IASST campus for dedicated power supply to IASST. He also mentioned about development of bio-resource hub for protection of endangered flora and fauna of the area and protection of the land from encroachers. The Director also informed council about establishment of sophisticated Animal House Facility. The Council stressed on getting clearance from Animal Ethics committee in this regard.

A. The following reports were placed for kind perusal of the Chairman and members of the council.

- (i) List of workshops/conferences/symposiums organized at IASST since the 7th SAC meeting (Annexure VII).
- (ii) List of conferences/workshops/symposiums attended by academic staff, scientific staff and research fellows since 7th SAC meeting held on October 10, 2014 (Annexure VIII).

The Council appreciated the achievement of IASST in research as well as other activities.

Agenda item No. 5: *Brief Presentations of 5-10 minutes by programme heads on five research programmes of IASST.*

Group leaders of the five research programmes of IASST gave brief presentations of research activities and achievement of their respective programme as below:

1. Basic and Applied Plasma Physics- by Dr. (Mrs.) S. K. Sarma, INSPIRE Faculty, PSD on behalf of the programme head
2. Mathematical and Computational Science Programme- by Prof. B. C. Tripathy, programme head.
3. Advanced Material Science Programme- by Dr. N. Sensarma, programme head
4. Traditional knowledge based Drug development and discovery programme- by Dr.(Mrs.) R. Devi, programme head
5. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research programme- Dr. N. C. Talukdar, programme head

The council appreciated the activities and achievements made under different programme. The Council suggested to include image processing research for skin and tropical diseases. The Chairman also emphasized putting research activities of basic mathematics in the IASST website which will make the institute popular. The Council approved proposal of purchase of equipment namely-Lyophilizer, Cold Centrifuge, HPLC and Accessories of HPTLC related to drug discovery research and commented that for purchase of Schodringer software and Animal imaging system, discussion may be held later.

Agenda item No. 6 *Major equipment to be procured for the year 2015-16.*

A proposal for purchase of the following two major equipment has been placed before the council by the Director.

1. Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM)
Price- ₹4cr. (approx.)
2. Time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy or *Time Resolved Photo-Luminescence* (TRPL)
Price - ₹80 lacs (approx.)

The Chairman and the members asked to justify requirement of the equipment. The council also commented that, first technical person to run the equipment should be developed in the institute and only then the equipment purchase procedure should be initiated. Dr. N. Sen Sarma, Assoc. Prof.II and programme head, Advanced Material Science justified requirement of the above mentioned equipment. After hearing, the SAC suggested to form a committee with members from IIT, Guwahati and NEHU, Shillong for finalising specifications and to place the proposal and make a presentation in the next SAC meeting with justification, detailed specification and budgetary requirement supported by quotation.

Agenda item No. 7 Information Item: Vacancy of Natural Product Chemistry Professor. Preparation of Advertisement

One Professor of Natural Product Chemistry namely, Dr. Jibon Kotoky, retired on superannuation on 31.03.2015. To fill up the vacancy preparation for advertisement is going on. It was placed for kind information of the council. The Council noted it.

Agenda item No.8: Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair

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



Chairman



Director, IASST