

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

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) OF INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IASST), GUWAHATI HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2018 IN THE TECHNOLOGY BHAVAN, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NEW MEHRAULI ROAD, NEW DELHI.

Members present

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| 1. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma,
Secretary, DST, Govt. of India,
New Delhi. | Chairman |
| 2. Prof. A. N. Rai
Former Vice Chancellor
NEHU, Shillong | Member |
| 3. Prof. Rabindranath Pal,
SINP, Kolkata | Member |
| 4. Prof. Jogen Kalita
Dept. of Zoology, Gauhati University
Guwahati | Member |
| 5. Ms. Kimnei Changsan,
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Science & Technology Deptt. Guwahati | Member |
| 6. Dr. R.K. Joshi,
Scientist E, DST,
New Delhi. | Invitee |
| 7. Mr. R.K. Mishra
Under Secretary to the Govt. Of India, DST
as representative of JSFA | Member |
| 8. Dr. N.C. Talukdar,
Director, IASST. | Member Secretary |

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Prof. Sibaji Raha, Former Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata could not attend the meeting due to their preoccupations. 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 address and opening remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council.

Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Chairman welcomed the members to the 11th GC meeting of IASST. In his welcome speech the Chairman mentioned that IASST is doing rather well not only in increasing strength in basic sciences but also making effort to make them socially relevant and trying to connect basic sciences with the society and DST is now considering scaling up incubation activities. He congratulated the Director and the Institute for these positive connections and also for carrying individual research and direction of research it is creating. He recalled fond memory of his last visit to IASST and mentioned about starting of an incubation Centre there. He also mentioned that consolidation of research of the institute is going on and advised to focus only in certain areas and develop strength on that so that the institute is known by the outside scientific world for these. He also emphasized in forming bigger groups which will bring synergy and more visibility to the institute. He expressed his pleasure seeing the IASST product of Plasma coated bell metal statue of Kamakhya temple and said it as perfect combination of spirituality and science.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Tenth Governing Council Meeting held on 23rd September, 2017 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 have been received on the minutes. The members discussed and approved the minutes of the tenth Governing Council meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions/deliberations as per Minutes of the Tenth 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 running of CIF facility by using services of research scholars the Council endorsed the idea. Professor A. N. Rai mentioned that operating of normal equipment may be given to research scholars but in case of sophisticated instrument it may be counter productive and suggested to engage one senior technical person for operating these equipment. The Chairman suggested to put one professor as In-charge for every sophisticated instrument. He also suggested to put cameras on every sophisticated instrument not only to monitor use of these instrument but also to see by outside expert in case of any breakdown of the instrument so that they can have access machine and the lab from outside and get ready before attending the problem of the

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instrument. The Council commented that a consortium among nearby institutes/universities can be formed for effective use of sophisticated instruments. He also suggested to put a page for each sophisticated instrument in the institute website.

Regarding engagement of science college teachers as research associates at IASST the council suggested to engage college teachers who completed Ph. D. in last five years.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Progress of Research and Academic Activity of IASST during 2017-18

The Director, IASST made a presentation before the members on progress of research and academic activity made during the year 2017-18. The Director in his presentation gave an account of research manpower, publications, receipt of extramural grants, revenue generation, patent filing Ph.D. awarded and overall progress of manpower development. On the civil construction works he presented progress of works of CIF building, Animal House and also development of Bio conservation hub.

Regarding leaving IASST by brilliant Ph.D. students, the Chairman suggested to create value in the institute so that students feel proud working at IASST.

The Chairman suggested to form a committee to study what local material should be selected for research. He also suggested to prepare a project for value addition of local artefacts.

The council noted the fast pace progress of the institute in different fronts.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Report on the recommendations/deliberations of the Tenth meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST held on 28th July 2018

The recommendation of the 10th meeting of the Finance Committee are as under.

- A. Points which arose out of Action Taken report on deliberations of the 9th meeting of the Finance Committee held on 28th July, 2018.
 1. The Institute's proposal for creation of 12 posts of various categories of staff is pending with the Government for quite some time. The need for recruitment of Assistants was emphasized. The committee recommended for recruiting Assistants through manpower outsourced agency followed by advertisement for filling up the required number of posts which are Institute's urgent needs.
 2. The Committee suggested to deal with interest the amount earned as of against Grants-in-aid receipt of IASST as per provisions of Rule 230 (18) of GFR 2017, and with due approval of the administrative Ministry i.e. DST.
- B. The Audited accounts for the financial year 2017-18 and Auditor's report thereon were approved. The said Audit report duly took into account the recommendations of the 9th Finance Committee on Annual accounts.
- C. Budget Estimate (BE) for 2018-19 and information regarding current financial status.

The total budgetary allotment for 2018-19 approved by the Finance Committee is for Rs. 4126 lakhs. It was informed that DST has tentatively allocated Rs. 3000 lakhs for the time being. In addition to this, the Institute shall receive balance amount of capital cost as per sanctions of 2016-17. The committee also noted that the capital grant approved in 2016-17 need to be augmented due to cost escalation of works under execution and for meeting costs of some approved works.

- D. **Need based staff requirement: Keeping parity with scientific staff strength**
In order to meet manpower requirement of the Institute's perspective plan activities, the committee suggests that a broad based committee comprising representatives from SAC and management cadre professionals should deliberate. This committee should judge the requirement based on future scientific and other activities proposed to be undertaken by the Institute during a perspective time schedule.
- E. **Ongoing and proposed major construction activities of the Institute, and need for Additional Capital Budget.**

The committee noted the ongoing construction/infrastructure development works taken up with due deliberation and approval of the Institute Building Works Committee (BWC) and by following codal requirements of construction as per CPWD guidelines/norms. These works are funded from the capital cost budget of Rs. 12.77 crores sanctioned and released separately for construction projects. The Finance Committee noted that the above listed works will therefore need additional budgetary support during 2018-19, beyond the tentative core grant of Rs.30 crores for IASST.

In addition to above listed ongoing works, the institute reported that the DST had agreed in principle for the construction of Auditorium-cum-Guest House & parking facilities/ and has instructed IASST to submit to DST preliminary cost estimates along with preliminary plans vide 9th FC meeting. This has been done vide IASST letter No. IASST/771 (p-1)/17-18/13093 Dated 21.12.2017. Therefore, additional capital works budget will be needed during 2018-19 & 2019-20.

According to the directions of IFD, Department of Science and Technology, all proposals involving capital cost recommended/being recommended by the FC/GC should be forwarded by the IASST to the AI division seeking their recommendations and for obtaining further administrative approval and financial sanction of Secretary, DST with concurrence from IFD, and only thereafter IASST should undertake execution of the works.

The IASST submits that execution of ongoing works have been taken up with existing capital cost budget sanctions. Expenditure beyond this already sanctioned budget which will involve completion of some of the ongoing works and also future expenditure for future planned works will be sought from DST separately as per above direction of IFD. The proposal for additional capital budget for 2018-19 & 2019-2020 are being sent to AI division of DST shortly.

The council after discussion approved the recommendations of 10th FC meeting and also commented as below:

- (i) Regarding manpower requirement, the Council agreed that the institute needs permanent positions to perform some important activities and suggested to hire



persons on consolidated pay till proposed posts are created and also suggested to engage retired person as consultant.

- (ii) Regarding the capital grant, the chairman commented that he will look whether capital grant of the institute can be increased and assured to give at least two crore extra capital grant in RE. If more savings occur under SC/ST budget grant, some more amount will be provided to IASST.
- (iii) The Chairman suggested to build a building with local material as a model building and take it as a project.
- (iv) The Council suggested to make provision for leave salary in the budget.

AGENDA ITEM NO.6: Discussion on 2017-18 Annual Report of IASST and approval.

The IASST Annual Report 2017-18 was sent to the Honourable members of the GC for comments/suggestions and members sent written suggestions for minor changes which have been incorporated before sending for final printing. The Governing Council approved the Annual Report 2017-18 for submission to DST for placing in the Parliament.

AGENDA ITEM No.7: Discussion on IASST social venture and Entrepreneurship Initiation.

The growing societal expectation from IASST is but natural given the strength and potential of IASST. The Governing Council of the Institute has observed that there is lot of potential for development of science and technology using rich resources and manpower strength of the region. The research scholars of the Institute are very enthusiastic. The institute has recently started a technology incubation centre.

It has been realized that innovative work being done at the institute should not only remain within the bound of the laboratories in form of high quality publications and patents. The research results should also address societal demands.

Several research initiatives at the institute have potential for commercial exploitation of technologies developed like Plasma Coating of Bell Metal, herbal nutraceutical candy, rice beer, Hybrid Cotton Patch, Cancer detection through image processing, carbonization of tea waste to develop activated charcoal etc. The Chairman Governing Council had rightly observed that important issues such as buyer-market analysis, price and quality parameter to meet market standards should be kept in mind from day one during execution of the projects.

To achieve these objectives, the institute has started a Social Venture and Entrepreneurship Consortium (ISVEC) at the Institute which was inaugurated by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Chairman, Governing Council, IASST on 21st July 2017. Several actions to address the objectives and activities of the consortium have been taken. Nevertheless, the consortium is at a nascent stage of its concept. Several issues like structure of the consortium, its initial funding till it can be a self-sustaining entity and other relevant aspects need to be deliberated and decided.



The Council appreciated the activities carried out under ISVEC. The Chairman suggested to send proposal to DST if grant under Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) is not provided by the DBT. The Chairman also suggested not to have both ISVEC and Atal Incubation Centre and instead stick to one only.

The Council appreciated the taste of Garcinia candy made by ISVEC, IASST and suggested make it more attractive by mentioning different ingredients of this product also mentioning that it is a scientific product of traditional fruits.

AGENDA ITEM No. 8: Promotion of Dr. S. Deka as Professor II

The institute had considered the case of Dr. Suresh Deka Professor I (Scientist F) for promotion to Professor II (Scientist 'G') in terms of the provisions under Modified Flexible Complementary Scheme (MFCS). In terms of norms of MFCS two levels screenings were done as follows:-

Screening (Internal)

Screening (External)

Based on the recommendation of 10th Governing Council (Agenda Item No. 7) held on September 23, 2017 the case of promotion was circulated among all the members of GC for information and approval. Consent of 5 members were received and the Chairman, Governing Council approved the promotion. In terms of approval of the chairman, GC, the institute issued Office Order effecting promotion vide Memo No. IASST/PF/18-19/5095-5101 dated 20.07.2018, (Annexure VIII).

The Council after discussion ratified the promotion of Prof. S. Deka

AGENDA ITEM No. 9 : Recruitment of Scientist position(3 nos.)

The Institute's sanctioned scientific staff strength is 26. The present filled up post are 15 and there was advertisement (advt. no. 82 date 11.08.2017) for 8 vacant positions based on approval of the 9th Meeting of the Governing Council held on November 11, 2016 in DST, New Delhi. The interview are being held and it is expected within next 2 months 23 scientists will be position. In the meantime, one Professor II, Dr. Suresh Deka will be superannuating on 30th September, 2018 and thus 4 vacancies will be existing.

The Institute proposes to make following recruitments.

- One Scientist D level for Medicinal Chemistry.
- One Scientist 'C' for Advanced Material Science
- One Scientist 'C' for Plant Taxonomy.



In addition to above anticipating approval is sought for initiating the process of recruitment against of post getting vacated due to forthcoming superannuation of Dr. Deka, after the date of his actual superannuation. The Recruitment will be made by following the Recruitment Rules of IASST in respect of Qualifications and job requirements, reservations.

Governing Council after discussion approved the proposal.

AGENDA ITEM No. 10 : Signing of MoU between department of Science and Technology and IASST


As per deliberation and discussion in the meeting held on 11.08.2018 between Secretary DST and Chairman of Governing Council and Directors of all the DST Autonomous Bodies (ABs) regarding MoU to be signed between DST and ABs in pursuance of the Rule 229 (xi) of the GFR, 2017, the kind approval of Governing Council is sought for signing the MoU.

The Council after discussion approved signing of MOU.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11 : Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair.

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


Chairman
Governing Council, IASST


Director, IASST.
Member Secretary