



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

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) OF INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IASST), GUWAHATI HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY, 2020 IN THE TECHNOLOGY BHAWAN, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NEW DELHI

Members present:

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| 1. Prof. Abhay Karandikar
Director, IIT Kanpur | Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma
Secretary, DST, New Delhi | Member |
| 3. Prof. Pratap Jyoti Handique
Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University | Member |
| 4. Prof. Mohan Chandra Kalita
Gauhati University | Member |
| 5. Prof. Uday Bandopadhyay
Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata | Member |
| 6. Dr. Raj Kumar Joshi
Scientist E, AI division, DST, New Delhi | Special Invitee |
| 7. Mr. Manoj Kumar
Director, IFD, DST, New Delhi
(Representative of AS & FA) | Member |
| 8. Dr. N. C. Talukdar,
Director, IASST | Member Secretary |

Mr. Hemen Das, Secretary, Science and Technology Dept., Govt. of Assam and Prof. Kamal Lochan Panigrahi, IIT Kharagpur, 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 as special invitees with the permission of the Chairman.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Welcome to members and remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council

First of all, Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director IASST on behalf of all the staff of IASST welcomed Professor Abhay Karandikar, Chairman, GC and Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST and the other esteemed members to 13th meeting of the Governing council of IASST. He then requested the Hon'ble Chairman to start the proceedings of the meeting. The Chairman welcomed the members and took up the agenda for discussion.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 12th Meeting of the Governing Council held on 13th July, 2019

The minutes of the twelfth meeting of the Governing Council were circulated to the members earlier for comments, if any. No comments had been received on the minutes. The minutes were confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions/deliberations as per minutes of the 12th meeting of the Governing Council

The Director, IASST made a presentation on action taken on all the decisions of the last Governing Council meeting. The members noted the actions taken. Further, the Council made deliberations on few points and commented as below:

1. Expenditure incurred in setting up of SC/ST Training Facility Building at IASST: The Council advised that the expenditure made for this infrastructure facility can be booked under tribal sub-plan fund, as up to 17% of the TSP fund can be utilized for making infrastructure facility. IASST should approach SEED division of DST for this purpose.
2. Regularization of imbalance between expenditure under the revenue heads (salary & General) and Capital head: The council suggested that DST removes the imbalance by increasing allocation of fund under Capital head and decreasing allocation under General and Salary head from now onwards. The Council advised the institute to plan the expenditure in future carefully so that such imbalance does not occur.
3. The Council was informed that the process of recruitment for the post of Director, IASST was initiated. Altogether, 24 (twenty four) applications were received. The applications along with supporting documents and the duly filled-in examination sheets have been submitted to DST, New Delhi.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Progress of Research and Academic activities of IASST since last meeting (13th July, 2019) of the Governing Council.

Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director made a presentation before the members on the overall progress of the institute during 2009-19 periods, and the academic and administrative activities in IASST since the 12th GC meeting in two different heads as shown below:

[1] A summary of progress during 2009-14 and 2014-2019 under four (4) objectives of IASST and [2] for period between 12th GC meeting and now



The summary of achievements of IASST under different R & D Programme and academic activities for last one decade since its taking over by DST in March 2009 is shown below for perusal by the members of GC.

1. Achievements under Objective 1: Establishing a Centre of excellence in R&D with state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure facilities

Parameters	2009-2014	2014-2019	% change over first 5 year
Building Area (sqft)	60,966	1,52,597	+150
Road Network area (sqft)	19,368	67,923	+251
Green area (%)	84.2	62.8	-21.7
Core Grant (₹ in cr.)	103.9	183.1	+76.2
Achievements under Objective 2: Supplementation of core budget for research by generating fund through extramural grants			
Extramural grant (₹ in Cr.)	12.36	25.76	+108.4
Internal Revenue (₹ in Cr.)	0.81	3.69	+355.5
Achievements under Objective 3: Development of human resources to cater to need of scientific manpower of NE region and the country			
Core Faculty + National Programme faculty	16+0	21 +14	+118.7
Post Doctoral Fellow	3	30	+900
JRF/SRF	63	134	+112.7
Ph. Awarded	36	59	+63.9
NPS from IASST	1	3	+200
M. Sc. Dissertation	35	78	+122.8
No. of Publications	225	331	+47.1
Impact factor/paper	1.27	2.3	+81.1
Patent(filed/granted/incubated)	7/1/0	25/3/2	
Achievements under Objective 4: Societal intervention of science and technology			
Two ST community villages has been adopted in Rani Development Block, Assam and 146 beneficiaries have shown significant improvement in their livelihood and social status through scientific <i>eri</i> -rearing, year round production of mushroom, bio-inputs for organic farming and duck rearing.			
More than 10,000 school/college students have been given exposure to IASST laboratory infrastructure under regular students' visit programme round the year and during National Science Day or Open Day events organized inside the campus. IASST also initiated a laboratory experience-based science education programme during 2018-19 for ST community students from schools of Bodoland Territorial Council area.			
Last 5 years, there have been 6.62 lakhs visitors to IASST website			

2. Achievements between 12th GC (13 July, 2019) and 10 February, 2020

1. Extramural projects	6 (290 lakhs)
2. Ramalingaswami Fellowship	1
3. Women Scientists	2
4. Newton Bhaba fellowship	1
5. No. of PhD degree awarded	6
6. Papers published	41
7. No. of students those presented papers abroad	6
8. Total No. of PhD enrolled	15
9. Patent /filed/granted	4/3 (2 national, 1 international)/1 granted

The Governing council appreciated the achievements of the institute and suggested to write articles on the development history of IASST in National papers/magazines, making short film and consequently telecast through TV. Similarly, the GC also suggested to write a story of transformation of villages of scheduled tribe community by IASST through rural technology intervention.

The Council suggested to make vision and target for academic activities of IASST and to have an academic audit of the Institute. The Council also advised to constitute individual research groups to address specific problems and make provision of awards for best performer scientist/research group.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consideration of the recommendations/deliberations of the 12th meeting of the Finance Committee of IASST held at Technology Bhawan, New Delhi on 10th January, 2020, the major deliberations/recommendations of the committee are as follows:-

1. **Imbalance in grants in aid received under Capital and Revenue Head:-**

The AI division of DST may take necessary action for removal of this imbalance in phased manner. IASST has been advised to submit to DST the detail reason of occurrence of such imbalance and steps to be taken to avoid such imbalance.

2. **Visit of Head of AI Division to IASST to assess level of development of IASST including infrastructure facilities:-**

It was informed that such visit could not be materialised. However, the committee has appraised itself through a brief power point presentation on progress of construction and infrastructure development projects completed/nearing completion during the meeting. The committee noted the progress with satisfaction.

3. **Request for revision of budget sanctioned under capital cost for development of basic infrastructure related to Research & Development and allocation of additional fund under the head.**

The committee suggested IASST to submit separate proposal for revision of original budget estimate stating the changes those need to be accommodated as per requirement in addition to the original budget estimate submitted earlier. It was also suggested to bring only those items to the notice of the committee which have been already processed at administrative level.

It was informed to the committee that the GIA Capital of Rs. 12.77 crores sanctioned in 2015 did not include proposal for providing dedicated power supply to the institute, although the GC approved it as a priority item. The committee recommended for submission of a separate proposal and forward the same to the administrative ministry for allocation of fund separately to complete 33 KV dedicated power supply to the institute.

It was also suggested that recommendation of Finance committee should not be implemented till getting financial concurrence from the administrative ministry.



4. **Information regarding current financial fund status of the institute.**

The committee noted that grants-in-aid of Rs. 2777 lakhs has been received by the institute from the DST for the Financial Year 2019-20 so far against which expenditure made till 31.12.2019 was Rs. 2776 lakhs.

The committee also recommended proposal for allocation of Rs. 400 lakhs under GIA Capital head additional along with balance amount of GIA during the year 2019-20.

5. **Setting up of Extension Centre of IASST at Kokilabari farm land offered by Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) of Govt. of Assam.**

The committee recommended the sanction of Rs. 175 lakhs for the initiation phase of the project and suggested to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the extension centre and suggested that the detailed proposal should contain the proposed capital expenditure for minimum period of 10 years and outcome envisioned during the same period.

The committee also suggested IASST to explore other funding agencies like TSP etc. for establishment and development of the centre, considering category of tribal population of the area.

6. **Budget Estimate for the Financial Year 2020-2021 for approval**

The committee recommended B.E. of Rs. 40.60 crores (Rupees Forty Crores Sixty Lakhs only) and all of the construction activities proposed to be undertaken as per details submitted under GIA Capital Head.

The Governing Council after discussion approved all the recommendations of the 12th Finance committee.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Promotion and Recruitment of Academic staff

A. PROMOTION OF SCIENTISTS

Six nos. of Academic staff have been promoted under Modified Flexible Complementing Scheme (MFCS) as details given below:-

Sl.No.	Name	From	To	Pay Level	Date of Effect
1.	Dr. S. Kundu	Associate Professor I	Associate Professor II	Pay level 12 to 13	01.01.2020
2.	Dr. D. Thakur	Associate Professor I	Associate Professor II	Pay level 12 to 13	01.01.2020
3.	Dr. M.R. Khan	Associate Professor I	Associate Professor II	Pay level 12 to 13	01.01.2020
4.	Dr. M.B. Sahariah	Associate Professor I	Associate Professor II	Pay level 12 to 13	01.01.2020

AGENDA ITEM NO 7: Proposed Extension Centre of IASST at Kokilabari Farm, Bodoland, Assam.

In the 12th Governing Council meeting it was reported that the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) has agreed to allot to the institute about 100-200 acres of land free of cost for setting up extension centre of IASST. The Governing Council advised to prepare a road map/vision document indicating present status of this Institute, how this land will be used and future road map of the Institute within 10-20 years. The Chairman, GC suggested to make an internal committee to prepare short term and long term road map. The council also suggested that in the road map for revenue generation should also be included.

The above mentioned Road map document was submitted to DST Vide letter No. IASST/D-3/2019-20/235; dated: 24.09.2019 with details of phase I works costing 175 lakhs for 2 years duration of the Phase I. A small presentation was made on the Phase I activities and the proposed total cost of Rs. 175 lakhs for the first phase activities.

The proposal of Phase I activities and funding of Rs. 175 lakhs for 2 years was essentially to achieve to:

- i) Convey acceptance of the land (500 bighas) offered free of cost by the BTC. The requisition of land by Govt. of India to Assam Govt. was from the higher level, namely Secretary DST & Hon'ble Ministers for Science & Technology.
- ii) Incurring minimum start-up expenditure for the centre in terms of infrastructure development (capital cost) and no revenue cost on salary of field research/exploration.

The Finance Committee of IASST in its 12th meeting held on 10th January, 2020 has recommended the sanction of the amount of Rs. 1.75 Crores and suggested to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The Governing Council discussed in detail the proposal of IASST and commented that proposal has not adequately linked the current R&D activities of its main campus at Boragao and the R&D component in the proposed extension centre. The council suggested to deliberate more and prepare the detail roadmap and vision document and long term goal and first present it to the Scientific Advisory Council. Subsequently, it should be submitted to the Governing Council for further consideration. However, the GC advised to take over the land but sanction of the fund will be made only after receipt of allotment of land and detailed plan from IASST. The Director, IASST informed that the land allotment letter will be sent to DST immediately after the same is received.

AGENDA ITEM NO 8: Recruitment & Promotion Rules- Technical and Scientific Cadre adoption by IASST

The Governing Council suggested to prepare the recruitment and promotion rule for Scientific and Technical cadre of IASST in congruence with other DST autonomous institutions (e.g JNCSAR) and CSIR MANAS. The same may be placed in the Finance Committee (FC) first for approval and subsequently in the Governing Council for ratification. The final proposal will be submitted to DST for approval.



AGENDA ITEM NO 9: Creation of posts for Administrative/Supportive Staff

In principle approval for creation of 12 posts of administrative and technical cadre and one post junior Hindi translator was recommended by Governing Council in its 11th meeting. The Council noted that the process of post creation is under way and also noted the objection raised by the CAG on the interim arrangement made by IASST against the proposed post of PS to the Director.

The GC suggested that process of creation of post may be expedited by the AI division, DST.

AGENDA ITEM No. 10: Revision of MoA, Rules & Regulations and Byelaws of IASST as per Model MoA's, Rules & Regulations and Byelaws circulated by DST, New Delhi

The DST vide its letter D.O.No. AI/18/2/2017 dated 28th August, 2019 forwarded to all its AIs including IASST with the direction to recast the above mentioned two documents on the basis of Model Byelaws and MoAs & Rules, Regulations & Byelaws sent by DST. The Byelaws 2019 & Memorandum of Association & Rules of IASST have accordingly been modified on the guidelines of DST models. DST has also directed that these documents, duly modified on the lines of the model MOAs, Rules, Regulations & Byelaws to be sent to DST after taking necessary approval of the Governing Council. IASST went through these model Byelaws and MoAs and found it suitable for IASST and appropriately filled the vacant places incorporating institute's specific details.

The above mentioned documents were presented before the GC. The Governing Council after discussion approved the same and suggested to send it to DST for further necessary action.

AGENDA ITEM No. 11: Amendment to Educational and other qualifications for the post of Director in Recruitment Rules for Director, IASST approved by the Govt.

The Govt. approved Recruitment Rule for recruitment of Director, IASST provides the following "Educational and other qualification" requirement.

Present Provision

"Essential- Doctorate in Plasma and Polymer Science/ Pure Mathematics/ Scientists/ Life Sciences/Molecular Biology/ Biodiversity and Environmental Sciences".

The above provision needs clarity in terms of requirements relevant to the various fields of Institute's domain of activities which will help selection from wider range of subject experts. It is therefore, proposed to amend the provisions as indicated below:

Proposed Provisions

Essential- Doctorate in Physical Sciences (Plasma Physics, Advanced Material Sciences, Mathematical and Computational Sciences); Life Sciences (Bio-diversity and Eco system research, Molecular Biology, Environmental Sciences); and Chemical Sciences (Natural Product Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Chemistry).

Governing Council after deliberation approved the proposal and advised to send it to DST, New Delhi for approval.

AGENDA ITEM No. 12: Consideration of the Request of Dr. Mojibur Rahman Khan Associate Professor II (Scientist 'D') for removal of Anomaly in his initial appointment at IASST

Dr. Mojibur Rahman Khan, Associate Professor I (Scientist-D) has given an application dated 2nd December, 2019 requesting the Director, IASST to consider his promotion under MFCS to Professor-I (Scientist F) thereby removing the consequences of his anomalous initial appointment. The background and justification of the request was presented in the GC meeting.

The Governing Council discussed in details the case of Dr. M. R. Khan and commented that the proposal is not tenable and did not recommend the same.

AGENDA ITEM No. 13: Incubator & start up initiative at IASST

In 12th meeting of the Governing Council, the matter of receiving extramural grant-in-aid from M/s BIRAC under the BioNEST program was discussed. Subsequent to the last meeting, IASST has already received Rs 1.87 crores of funds out of a total sanctioned amount of Rs 3.00 crores, in its name as the first installment under the BioNEST program.

Regarding the governance model of the incubation center (BioNEST), two alternative models can be contemplated, as mentioned below – a) The first alternative is that the incubation activities are run as projects under IASST, which shall have their starting and closing dates as per the respective funding schemes. The recruitments may be made for the specific projects under IASST.

b) The second alternative is to run the incubation center as an independent entity, through a separate Section 8 company, formed by the interested entrepreneurial persons of IASST as its promoters. IASST can sign MoU on mutually agreeable terms and recognize the company as the implementing agency for the incubation program of IASST. Since this company is to be formed by the personnel in their individual capacity, the question of obtaining any cabinet approval by IASST does not arise in this case.

Both of these alternatives have their own advantages and disadvantages. **The Governing Council deliberated in details and recommended to follow proposal no.1. i.e. to run the incubation centre "BioNEST" in project mode.**

AGENDA ITEM No. 14: Entrepreneurship Development programme at IASST

The Governing Council had suggested to frame a policy for commercialization of technologies and to give some incentives to the innovators, and advised to form a committee for this and convey the recommendations of committee to the Governing Council for approval.

Subsequent to the meeting of the Governing Council, on 13th July 2019, on 11th September 2019, the "**National INNOVATION and STARTUP Policy 2019**" was released as a Guiding Framework for Higher Education Institutions. The policy, has been prepared by 15 members 'National Innovation and Startup Policy 2019 Committee' (NISPC) under chairmanship of Prof. Ashok Jhunjunwala, and released

by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This is a comprehensive policy being adopted by many other S&T institutions in the country.

It is proposed that this policy may be adopted by IASST, with necessary adaptations. **The Governing Council after discussion approved adoption of the policy.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Any other item(s) with the permission of the Chair.

A. Application of Dr. N. C. Talukdar for serving as Honorary Professor at IASST and request to provide a small accommodation inside IASST campus after his retirement

Dr. N. C. Talukdar, Director, IASST submitted an application to the Governing Council on the subject mentioned above. The Council deliberated on the application and commented that there is no provision in the Byelaw of IASST for obtaining service of retired person. However, the council resolved that Dr. Talukdar can continue to carry out research work of his externally funded projects (EFP) at IASST as Co-PI. Dr. Talukdar will transfer all the projects to the respective Co-PIs who will become PI after his retirement. Similarly, the infrastructure facilities created under these projects will also be transferred in the name of the respective Co-PI turned PIs. The Council considered the request of Dr. Talukdar for accommodation inside the campus as per rule. The Council commented that Dr. Talukdar can submit research project under Professor of Eminence/Science Chair Professor scheme as per the provision in the draft byelaws of IASST after approval of the same by the DST, Govt. of India which will be subjected to expert review for decision.

The Council also noted that immediately after retirement of Dr. Talukdar, the senior most scientist of IASST, Prof. H. Bailung shall take additional charge of Director, IASST.

B. The Governing Council has congratulated and put on record exceptional services rendered by Dr. N. C. Talukdar and his immense contribution in the growth and development of the IASST during his tenure as Director of IASST.

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



Chairman
Governing Council, IASST



Member Secretary
Governing Council, IASST