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

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (IASST),  
GUWAHATI HELD ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE  
HALL OF IASST, GUWAHATI**

**Members present**

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Dr. T. Ramasami<br>Secretary,<br>DST, Government of India  | Chairperson      |
| 2. Prof. Sibaji Raha<br>Director, Bose Institute<br>Kolkata   | Member           |
| 3. Mr. Rajesh Kumar<br>Deputy Secretary (Finance)<br>Representative of JS & FA, DST, New Delhi                | Member           |
| 4. Mr. Paban Kr. Borthakur<br>Commissioner & Secretary<br>Science and Technology Department<br>Govt. of Assam | Member           |
| 5. Prof. Rabindranath Pal<br>Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics<br>Kolkata                                     | Member           |
| 6. Prof. Okhil Kumar Medhi<br>Former Vice Chancellor<br>Gauhati University, Guwahati                          | Member           |
| 7. Dr. N. C. Talukdar<br>Director, IASST  | Member Secretary |

Prof. A.N. Rai, Director, NAAC, Bangalore could not attend the meeting due to his preoccupations.

*R. S.*  
Director  
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**Agenda item No. 1: Welcome address and opening remarks by the Chairman, Governing Council**

At the outset, the Chairman, Dr.T. Ramasami welcomed all the members and then on behalf of the Council he welcomed Dr.N.C. Talukdar, the New Director who attended his first meeting of GC of IASST, Dr. Ramasami said that the IASST is new Director's own institute which is situated in his own home state and it is very special to welcome one in his own home. The Chairman also said that it is an opportunity for someone like him to really contribute to the development of the Institute and to his own region where he comes from.

He also drew attention of the members that sometime it is said that R and D institutions are international type and people from any region can come and make the institution strong. Although this contention is true, he feels that it is one thing to increase the competence of the institution and it is another thing to build the character of the institution and building character of an institution requires more than the competence. If a director is from the same place, if the person is neutral and has the desire and vision, can contribute much more than somebody who is foreign to the place, because language, food habit and cultural settings of the place play an important part for action stimulation in different context. Therefore, he said that he expect and look forward to the contribution of the new Director.

The Chairman also noticed that the Council meeting has not taken place for a long period of time and advised to correct this habit of infrequent meetings. He also pointed out that he had consented to be the Chairman of the GC because IASST is in its formative stage and his association as the head of the family is advantageous for the institute. He requested to hold GC meetings more frequently in the future and to decide the date of the next meeting in the ongoing meeting itself.

The Chairman also gave several positive comments about the Institute. Basically, the institute from its limited resources flow as part of the state govt. funded institute migrated to central sector and that has ensured smooth resource flow. Under such Circumstances, he advised the institute to pretend that the resource crunch is continuing, otherwise complacency may creep in. He expressed that the institute now looks good, cleaner and impressive and infrastructure is developing. He also hoped that matching investment inside the laboratory takes place.

The Chairman also expressed that IASST has been a very unique organization as it had more than 25 years of existence under a situation of very sub-critical funding and hardship and as if it is now borne at the age of 25. This is a very serious situation but yet he asserted that IASST deserves compliments. Despite of all challenges and turbulence, some good research output emanated not only now but even before DST came into picture. He informed the members that accomplishments in the Plasma Physics and polymer Science programme have been well recognized. He also noted that the IASST has a unique structure with 18 Scientists and about 35 projects in operation and each scientist is having 2/3 projects and trying to become a separate division by himself. This used to be a problem of spreading human resources too thin. He said that extramural research grant for individual scientist of an organization is important but as a R&D institute, it is more important to ask whether the efforts of scientist can be consolidated and a programme can be formulated which is of longer duration and can give substantial credit to IASST as an organization rather than a small recognition to an individual scientist. He stressed that IASST being a national institute, now it should focus in some substantial change and research programme of relevance. The Chairman noted that this will require for the new director considerable amount of time and effort and he also said that it is not expected to happen overnight

The Chairman stressed that the New Director needs to engage in interaction with the staff and slowly make them realize that they have huge task ahead. He said that the scientific

advisory committee is supportive and DST will extend all possible support to the institute in terms of resource requirement, procurement of equipment and student hostel facility as well as other physical infrastructure. He assured on behalf of DST to strengthen the hand of Director in these matters. The Chairman recognized the need of larger resource outlay but seriously requested the new director and the staff not to focus on money but to focus on ideas. He cited example of situation in India where a scientist is interested in an equipment and to obtain the equipment, the scientist prepare a project proposal and for the purpose it so happens that the project period gets over by the time the equipment is procured. This is a situation where the idea becomes subset of the motivation to buy an equipment. Instead of that model, he appealed IASST to focus on idea and create facilities around pursuing the idea and consequently the institute will have its own signature on it. This will also provide uniqueness to the institute. Referring to a question earlier from a research scholar on the duration that will require for IASST to become a centre of excellence, he said that centre of excellence is about being unique in terms of research pursuit of the institute. He reiterated his appeal to the new Director and the staff to raise the question "Is there a single problem for the region that can be addressed together collecting inputs from individual scientists and develop an extremely fine poetry or mural collectively with each individual contributing to the beauty of that poetry". He stressed that this has to happen in due course of time.

**Agenda item No. 2: Confirmation of the Minutes of the Governing Council meeting held on February 23, 2012**

The copy of the minutes was circulated among the members. No comments were received from the members and the minutes of the last Governing Council meeting were approved.

**Agenda item No. 3: Action Taken Report on the remarks/suggestions and recommendations of the fourth meeting of the Governing Council**

The Governing Council noted the action taken on the agenda items of the previous meeting.

**Agenda item No.4: Statement of Audited Accounts for the financial year 2012-13**

As per direction of the Director, the Finance and Accounts Officer, IASST made a small presentation of statement of audited accounts for the year 2012-13 and proposed budget for the year 2014-15. The council after discussion approved the statement of audited accounts and proposed budget.

**Agenda item No. 5: Progress report on construction of new "Students & Scientists' Home" at IASST campus**

The Director apprised the members about the progress of the construction of new 'Students & Scientists' Home and the Council noted the progress but urged that it should further expedite so that by February 2014, some Ph.D.- JRF can occupy the first floor. The Committee was also apprised that by March 31, 2014, the building will be handed over to IASST. The Chairman suggested to hold 10% of cost for sometime after handing it over to IASST by following relevant GFR clauses.

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**Agenda item No.6: Approval of Bye laws, Rules and Regulations of IASST**

The council discussed and ratified the byelaws, Rules and Regulations. Regarding Recruitment rules, Chairman asked the administration of IASST to go through the recruitment rules of other DST supported institutes and add provisions that suite the institute. Prof. Raha pointed out a mistake in the byelaws i.e. the word 'International' to be replaced by 'Institute'. The Council approved his suggestion. The members were informed that correction was made in the copy sent to IASST Society Office.

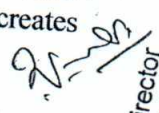
**Agenda item No.7: Discussion on Annual Report of IASST for the year 2012-13 and its approval**

Prof. Sibaji Raha pointed out that Prof. B.C. Tripathy's name as Director-in-charge should figure in the Annual report. The Chairman suggested to put the names of both Prof. Tripathy and Prof. Chutia for the actual periods of directorship during 2012-13 in the Annual Report. The chairman and the committee members felt that the Annual Report was more of an activity report of research and contribution made during the year, but does not highlight contribution of the institute for common public. The council suggested that IASST consult Annual Reports of 2/3 institutes of DST before the start of preparation of the Annual Report 2013-14. The Chairman also suggested that Annual report should clearly bring out the contribution made by the institute rather than only R&D activities. He further commented that present annual report didn't adequately capture this. The Council after detail discussion approved the Annual Report.

The Director, IASST also presented the salient research activities performed by the institute along with salient achievements of the institute including welfare measure for employees and the physical infrastructure developed during the year. The Council appreciated the activity and the chairman suggested to take initiative for more collaborative study with Gauhati University, Tezpur University and IIT Guwahati. The Chairman also appreciated inter-divisional collaborative research on biofuel cell and pigment sensitized solar cell and made few technical suggestions. He also suggested taking five year block with one year shift in assessing the actual research performance of the institute. Regarding the proposal on possible impact of EMF radiation from cell/ mobile tower he suggested to restrict the study to determine the effect to EMF on coconut and arecanut productivity or may be on bird. He felt that such project may be an opportunity for the institute to spread its work and name for the benefit of the local people. Mr. Paban Kr. Borthakur suggested to develop technology to utilise water hyacinth which are abundantly available in aquatic surface of the valley and creates environmental hazard.

**Agenda item No.8: Approval of promotion of Academic Staff members under FCS**

The Director informed that Scientific Advisory committee verified the promotion papers with respect to five academic staff and approved it. The Chairman instructed that the promotion paper shouldn't go to SAC but to the Governing Council because promotion is an executive as well as administrative activity. Prof. Sibaji Raha also commented that the assessment shouldn't be made as per UGC guidelines but as per Modified Flexible Complementary Scheme (MFCS) guidelines as this provision is consistent with the 6<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission's Report and require implementation along with implementation of the pay structure. The Council instructed that procedure of MFCS should be followed in the institute in future promotion. The council also suggested to develop a format reflective of the parameters

  
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consistent with the character of the institute for use in assessment of scientific staff of the institute.

The Council after discussion decided that promotion of the academic staff will be effective from 01-07-2013 and approved it for immediate implementation. The Council also recommended that the process of promotion of eligible staff will be followed twice in a year. For the staff whose promotion is due in January, the process should begin in July of previous year and for those who are eligible for promotion in July, the process should start in January of that year.

**Agenda Item No.9: Constitution of new SAC and the Finance Committee, IASST due to completion of tenure of the present SAC and Finance Committee, IASST**

The Director informed that the tenure of the Scientific Advisory committee was over and required to be newly constituted. The Council after discussion decided to extend the tenure of Scientific Advisory committee for one more year upto 19/9/2014. During this extended year, the next committee will be constituted by the Chairman, Governing Council in consultation with the Director and the constitution of the new committee should be informed to the present committee six months in advance. The Council suggested to hold SAC meeting (in future) at IASST only. Similarly, the council approved reconstitution of the Finance Committee as proposed. The council decided to hold two more meetings of the present Governing Council so that the governance structure of the institute is firmly footed. After that the Governing Council will be reconstituted by the Secretary, DST, GOI.

**Agenda Item No.10: Issues arising out of conversions of the IASST from an Institute funded by the Govt. of Assam to that funded by the Govt. of India from 09-03-2009**

The Director informed the Council on the problems arising out of conversion of pay scales of employees of IASST from state Government to Central Government. The Chairman constituted a committee to examine the state centre conversion process and fitment of cadre of IASST employees and the pay scales of central government. The committee will be comprised of Mr. Paban Kr. Borthkur, Commissioner and Secretary, DST, Govt. of Assam, Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary and a nominee from the Institute. The Committee will be chaired by Mr. P.K. Borthakur. The committee also authorises the Director to hire a consultant preferably retired govt. officer to assist the committee in the exercise. The committee will mainly look into fitment and cadre reorganisation anomalies. The Council suggested to place the recommendations of the committee in the next meeting of the council for approval.

**Agenda Item No.11: Adoption of Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme (MACP) of the Govt. of India by the IASST**

The committee discussed on MACP scheme and after discussion approved adoption of MACP scheme by IASST by following the guidelines stipulated in the Bye-laws.

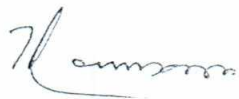
Agenda Item No.12: Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

The Honourable Chairman put on record the contribution made by Prof. Joyanti Chutia to the institute and also for heading and leading the institute during the critical period of its conversion to the central sector. All the other council members also joined the chairman in putting on record the contribution of Prof. Joyanti Chutia.

The Director expressed his gratitude to the chairman, Governing Council, IASST and the Secretary, DST for his critical role in converting IASST to a Govt. of India R & D institute and his continuous support and guidance so that it emerges as a unique national institute in NE Region of the country.

The Chairman suggested to hold next Governing Council meeting on 1st or 2nd January, 2014 in Guwahati and the next meeting in Delhi in the 1st week of April, 2014.

There being no other item for discussion, the meeting ended with thanks from the Chair.



Chairman,  
Governing Council, IASST



Director, IASST  
Member Secretary