

**Annexure to Item No. 1 of Agenda of the  
Agenda of the 36th Meeting of the BoG  
to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

**Minutes of the Thirty Fifth meeting of the  
Board of Governors of IIT Hyderabad held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

The thirty fifth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad was held on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 through Video Conferencing.

The following members were present:

Dr. B.V.R. Mohan Reddy	Chairman
Shri. Rakesh Ranjan, IAS	Additional Secretary, MoE, Member (Official comments received vide F.No.11-9/2018-T.S.-1 dated 03.12.2020).
Prof Vinod Krishnan	Member
Dr Prema Ramachandran	Member
Prof M Lakshmi Kantam	Member
Prof BS Murty	Director, IITH, Member
Prof Ch Subrahmanyam	Member
Prof C Krishna Mohan	Member
Comde Manohar Nambiar (Retd.)	Registrar, IITH, Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to Smt Chitra Ramachandran, IAS, Special Secretary to Govt of Telangana

**Item No.1: To consider confirmation of minutes of the Thirty Fourth meeting of the Board of Governors held on 4th June 2020**

The Director stated that the Thirty Fourth Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting has already been circulated to the Members.

Prof Vinod Krishnan requested for an update on the affordable Ventilator ‘Jeevan Lite’ a product developed by the Centre for Healthcare and Entrepreneurship (CfHE) at IITH, which was mentioned by Prof Renu John during his presentation at the last BoG meeting. The Director informed that the Low-cost ventilator Jeevan Lite has been developed as part of the entrepreneurial activities of CfHE. The hand-holding from the Proof-of-Concept Prototype to an Alpha Version has been carried out at CfHE by the start-up company Aero-Biosys. The Company JCB Pvt Ltd has been involved in the development of the manufacturable ready design and the preliminary clinical validations were undertaken by the emergency medicine department at NIMS, Hyderabad. With this feedback and the industry feedback on manufacture-ready-design, Aerobiosys has started working on the Beta Prototype from July till Dec 2020. The Beta prototype is currently in the process of in-house testing and will be moving towards regulatory and compliance testing by end of Dec 2020.

***The Minutes of Thirty Fourth meeting of Board of Governors was Confirmed as circulated.***

**Item No.2: To consider the report on actions taken on the minutes of the Thirty Fourth meeting of the Board of Governors held on 4th June 2020**

A report relating to the actions taken on the various minutes was presented by the Director for information and consideration of the Board.

*The Board noted the action taken on the items of the previous meeting.*

**Item No.3: Report relating to the actions taken by the Chairman, Board of Governors, from time to time since the last meeting**

The Director stated that the Chairman of the Board has approved various actions which were necessary for carrying out the day-to-day activities of the Institute and these were presented to the Board for approval.

*The Board noted and ratified the actions taken by the Chairman.*

**Item No.4: List of external experts invited for faculty interview since the last meeting**

The Director presented an exhaustive list of the various external experts invited for faculty interview since the last meeting.

*The Board noted the item and appreciated the efforts put in to invite the external experts for the conduct of a large number of Faculty interviews in an online manner during the pandemic.*

**Item No.5: Presentation by two faculty members on their innovative research**

**Presentation by Dr Chandra Shekhar Sharma:** Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering made a brief presentation on his current research in the area of nanostructured electrode materials for energy storage devices and nanofibers for energy, environment and healthcare applications. He stated that, in one of his projects under the IMPRINT program with ARCI, Hyderabad, he is developing a prototype of Li-ion battery and supercapacitor for automotive applications. He has also presented his proposed work on Metal-CO<sub>2</sub> battery with CO<sub>2</sub> as an energy carrier under DST-Swarna Jayanti Fellowship. Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma also briefed the committee about two technologies from his CARBON lab which are at TRL-7 level and ready for transfer to an industry for commercialization. These are: Nanofibers based feminine hygiene products and Direct recycling of polystyrene waste.

Chairman, BOG and all other members congratulated Dr. Chandra Shekhar for this most coveted fellowship for any Indian Scientist below the age of 40 years.

Prof. Vinod Krishan, Member, BoG enquired about the tentative cost of nanofibers based feminine hygiene products to which Dr. Chandra Shekhar replied that due to initial high cost of machining, these products may end up in the premier category. In future, it is possible to bring it down to affordable costs, when nanofibers production is done at an industrial scale.

Chairman, BoG appreciated the translational aspect with societal impact of the overall research of Dr. Chandra Shekhar Sharma and suggested that he may also consider the vital aspects of

low cost and affordability, while developing the technologies for wider acceptability and greater market reach.

**Presentation by Dr Mudrika Khandelwal:** Dr Mudrika Khandelwal from Department of Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering presented a brief summary of her research. The research pursued by her group is highly aligned with the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. During the board meeting, she covered two of the several areas of social relevance where her group is trying to make a difference by materials intervention. She presented her work on the development of herbal antimicrobials formulations comprising of herbal essential oils. These were embedded into nanofibrous matrix of bacterial cellulose (a greener and cleaner nano dimensional alternative to plant-based cellulose) and thereafter, they obtained a sustained activity from the patches thus developed. These patches can be used for pantyliners, wound management, or in the footwear soles to prevent fungal infections. She also presented a techno-economic analysis for the targeted product, i.e., antifungal pantyliners. It was found that the product has a good potential market and can be economically viable. The other work presented was on active antimicrobial food packaging which was able to extend the shelf life of tomatoes as a model fruit to over 3 weeks at room temperature. The packaging was compared to regular packaging materials and was found to be a more effective biodegradable alternative. The antimicrobial agent used was silver nanoparticles which was used in less than 2 wt.% for the composite.

Dr Prema Ramachandran, Member BoG stated that we need to look at alternate technologies towards increasing the shelf life of fibre rich vegetables such as Pumpkin, Tomato etc as well as green leafy vegetables such as spinach. The Chairman BoG suggested that there is a need to examine the scalability and market acceptability of processes involved and that he would facilitate the process by enabling connectivity to the appropriate forums/people. The members congratulated her for having been selected for the INAE Young Engineer Award.

***The Board appreciated the work of Dr Chandra Shekhar Sharma & Dr Mudrika Khandelwal and their contribution in bringing out useful products.***

#### **Item No.6: Academics at a glance at IIT Hyderabad (March-November 2020)**

The Director stated that in spite of the difficulties posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, IITH has done well in its academics in the past six months. Faculty have been reaching out to every single student of the class to the best of their abilities and continuous evaluation with short quizzes and assignments have replaced the earlier norm of long duration exams. He also brought out various other highlights such as ensuring that Interest free loans were arranged for the students for the purchase of laptops, the increased number of foreign students and that the first PhD student under the IITH- Swinburne University Joint PhD programme has successfully defended the thesis.

Prof Vinod Krishnan suggested that some members of the various academic committees should be external Faculty members. The Chairman stated that the Institute must focus on internationalization of the courses being conducted at IITH, particularly since the online mode of teaching has become increasingly popular in the recent past.

***The Board appreciated the sustained efforts of the Institute in improving the quality of Academics and overcoming the various constraints imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.***

**Item No.7: Report on Research and Development at IIT Hyderabad**

The Director stated that there are a total of 310 ongoing projects and a sum of Rs 69 Cr. have been received during the year 2019-20. A few innovative projects along with the key results achieved such as the 'Reusable face mask', R&D undertaken for the development of a 5G cellular IOT chip, research publications in the field of AI/ML, R&D related to waste water management and the development of a novel fluorescent PEG based polymer were also presented to the committee.

*The Board appreciated the work being done by the Institute in Research & Development and the contribution of the researchers in bringing out products useful to the Larger community.*

**Item No.8: Report on Campus Development Project of IIT Hyderabad**

The Director stated that as a part of the expansion program of IITH, the Board of Governors had approved the Campus Development Project divided in to two packages viz., 3A and 3B in its 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> meetings. This project is majorly funded by JICA loan and partly through HEFA. A brief report on Campus Development Project of the Institute, highlighting the scope of work under this agreement and the timelines was also presented. The Director further stated that the pace of work had picked up post COVID 19 lockdown and adequate manpower has been available for carrying out the works by both the contractors L&T and SPCL. However, since there are restrictions in deployment of work force due to social distancing norms and expecting that the normalcy will return in all operations slowly over a period, a delay of about 6 to 9 months in project completion is anticipated at this juncture. Accordingly, the revised completion dates considering the delays were presented to the Committee.

The Chairman acknowledged the efforts put in by the Director, Dean Planning as well as the entire CMD team.

*The Board noted the report on campus development project of IITH.*

**Item No.9: To consider the Institute Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the year 2019-20**

The Director presented the Institute Annual Report for the year 2019-20. He also stated that the Annual accounts have been prepared and submitted to the CAG Office for certification audit with the approval of the Chairman of the Committee. As soon as the audit is completed, the Annual Accounts will be sent to the Ministry of Education.

*The Board ratified the Annual Report and Annual accounts for the Year 2019-20.*

**Item No.10: Approval under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961**

The Director stated that IITH has obtained the approval under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. With this approval, any donation made by any donor to IITH is allowed as a deduction from the income of the Donor. The approval will enable IITH to raise more donations

from donors including Alumni. Detailed modalities for the utilization of funds received will be worked out in due course.

The Chairman stated that there may be some hesitation on the part of the bigger donors to donate money directly to Govt. institutions, unless we create a Section 8 company on the lines of older IITs. This would enable receiving donations from Multinationals and other bigger companies. He also suggested creation of an Alumni trust to attract funds from willing alumni donors.

*The Board noted the report on receipt of 80(G) exemption by the Institute.*

**Item No.11: Report on Faculty Recruitment**

The Director stated that currently, we have 228 faculty members (227 on roll and 1 Faculty on Lien). 18 New Faculty will be joining in due course who have been issued offer letters. The details of Faculty recruitment were also presented.

*The Board noted the report on Faculty recruitment.*

**Item No.12: Report on NF-8 Recruitment Notification**

The Director stated that as part of NF-8 recruitment, 152 posts were advertised and a total of 40 Staff members have been recruited so far through online interviews. The recruitment process was delayed substantially as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Currently, we have 168 staff members (166 on roll and 2 staff on Lien). 26 new staff will be joining in due course who have been issued appointment offers in the recent past. He further stated that written exams for all posts advertised for Pay Level 6 and below will be held from December 14, 2020 to December 18, 2020.

*The Board noted the report on NF-8 staff recruitment.*

**Item No.13: Proposal for Compassionate Appointment of Next of Kin**

The Director stated that, in order to provide suitable employment to the family of those employees, who expire while on duty, a proposal to create provision for **compassionate appointment** as per current Government of India provisions i.e., maximum of 5% of vacancies at the entry-level post of Group-C category, in general, and technical category if qualified suitably, based on the requirement and availability of positions is proposed for favourable consideration of the Board.

*The Board approved the proposal for compassionate appointment of Next of Kin.*

**Item No.14: Seeking Approval of BoG to operate sanctioned posts of Multi Skill Assistants within the cadre**

As per the approved RPR -2017 policy of the Institute, promotions at MSA-2, Sr. MSA-1, Sr. MSA-2 and Sr. MSA-3 are defined after 3 yr, 3 yr, 4 yr and 5 Yr of service respectively. However, since there are no sanctioned posts available at the levels of Sr. MSA-1, Sr. MSA-2

and Sr. MSA-3, It is proposed to allow the Institute to operate the sanctioned strength of MSA-1 ((Pay Level-1) - 27 Positions) and MSA-2 ((Pay Level-2) - 11 positions) at Sr. MSA-1 (Pay Level-3), Sr. MSA-2 (Pay Level-4) and Sr. MSA-3 (Pay Level-5) levels. The Financial implication per post/per year on financial upgradation to the next level was explained to the committee. The total financial implication per post/per year for the proposed financial upgradation from pay level 2 to 5 works out to Rs 38,400.

***The Board directed that a detailed proposal may be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.***

**Item No.15: Revision of Recruitment and Promotion Rules and Administrative Structure**

The Director stated that, in view of introduction of Pay Levels in 7th CPC, to maintain uniformity and to provide equal opportunity for growth path across all cadres, a revised 'Recruitment and Promotion Rules-2020 (RPR-2020) for Non-Teaching positions-2020' are prepared and placed before the Board in its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting held on June 4, 2020. As instructed by the Board, the revisions that have financial implications were grouped and presented to the Finance Committee. In addition, a few other revisions which do not have any financial implications were also proposed below for kind approval of the Board.

***The Board approved the revised RPR in principle, however, directed that a detailed proposal for the revision of Recruitment & Promotion Rules may be forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the inputs.***

**Item No.16: To consider nominating Dean (Planning) and Dean(R&D) of the Institute as members of the Finance Committee**

The Director stated that the Finance Committee of the Institute is constituted under Clause 7 of Statutes of IITH and that clause 7(1)(c) prescribes that two persons nominated by the Board as members. The Dean (Planning) and Dean (R&D) of the Institute are the main authorities dealing with the financial matters of the Institute. Appointing these two positions by post, rather than by individual names, as members of the Finance Committee would help Finance Committee to advice and guide the Board in taking suitable decision with respect to financial and resource mobilization matters. It is therefore proposed to appoint the Dean (Planning) and Dean (R&D) of the Institute as members of the Finance Committee.

***The Board approved the proposal to nominate Dean (Planning) and Dean (R&D) as members of the Finance Committee.***

**Item No.17: Grant of Incentive for acquiring Fresh Higher Qualification directly relevant to the functional requirement**

The Director stated that the grant of incentive for acquiring higher qualification relevant to the functional requirement of the institute motivates employees to push and challenge themselves to achieve higher degrees of productivity. In order to encourage the employees of the institute, an incentive in the form of one-time increment in the salary was proposed, in place of one-time lump-sum amount as laid down in the Govt. of India DoPT OM No.1/5/2017-Estt (Pay-I) dated 15th March 2019.

*The Board directed that the guidelines laid down by the GOI be adhered to.*

**Item No.18: Any other item with the approval of the Chair**

**Item No.18.1: Creation of Department of Entrepreneurship and Management**

The Director stated that with a vision for nurturing socially conscious management teaching and research, IITH has established a Department of Entrepreneurship and Management studies (EM) on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The aim of the Department is to develop socially responsible practitioners and researchers with expertise in the niche areas of management who can add social and economic value to all the stakeholders. The Department will offer various kinds of programmes like Minor in Entrepreneurship, PhD Program and MBA Programs. The broad focus of research would be to understand the interconnectedness of business, society and the ecological systems. The Department will also offer Management Development Programmes for early and mid-career professionals in sectors like infrastructure, waste management, NGOs etc. In addition, the department would also offer Certificate and part time courses for young graduates in the areas related to entrepreneurship and management.

*The Board ratified and appreciated the initiatives taken by the institute for its growth.*

**Item No.18.2: Establishment of Rural Development Centre (RDC)**

The Director stated that with a vision to support rural development initiatives of the Government through innovative technologies being developed at IITH, a Rural Development Centre (RDC) has been established at IITH on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The RDC will focus its operations on the villages adopted by IITH under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and in future, adopt more villages to extend its services. The Director further presented the salient features, scope and activities of the Centre to the Board.

*The Board ratified this item and appreciated the initiatives taken by the institute in the area of rural development.*

**Item No.18.3: 12<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Celebrations at IIT Hyderabad**

The Director reported to the Board that the institute had celebrated its 12th Foundation Day on 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020 @11:00 AM in virtual mode and telecasted it live on YouTube. Dr. G. Sathesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO was invited as Chief Guest and had delivered a talk on “Atma Nirbhar Bharat”. Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy (recipient of Padma Bhushan), Chief of Gastroenterology & Therapeutic Endoscopy, Chairman, Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and Shri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments, Government of Telangana were invited as Guests of Honor.

The Director also reported to the Board that the institute has announced various Faculty Academic & Research Excellence Awards, Student Academic Excellence Awards & Staff Excellence Awards during the Foundation Day. He further stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IITH had postponed the Convocation for the 2020 Graduating Batch, the announcements of various meritorious awards were made on the Foundation Day itself. It is planned to give away the actual awards on the Convocation day to be held sometime later.

***The Board noted and appreciated efforts of the institute.***

In Conclusion, the Chairman stated that we need to work towards creating a Section 8 Company in order to attract donations from bigger donors. There is also a need to put in sustained efforts towards improving the present NIRF ranking and the Way Forward to achieve higher NIRF ranking may be presented in the next BoG meeting. The Chairman further exhorted the Institute to focus on Research & Development activities, apart from the Academic pursuits by the Faculty members. He also stated that there is a need to obtain a feedback from the students, particularly the freshers with regard to the efficacy of conduct of online classes, the availability of adequate bandwidth, hardware/software etc.

The Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

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