

Minutes of the 37th meeting of the Board of Governors of IIT Hyderabad

Date and time: 05th October 2021 at 11:30 Hours

Venue: Board Room, IIT Hyderabad, Kandi 502 284, Sanga Reddy District.

Through Video Conferencing (WEBEX)

The 37th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad was held on 05th Oct 2021 through Video Conferencing.

The following members were present:

Dr. B.V.R. Mohan Reddy	Chairman
Prof Vinod Krishan	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
Cmdr Manohar Nambiar (Retd.)	Registrar, IITH, Secretary

Leave of absence was granted to Shri. Rakesh Ranjan, IAS Additional Secretary, MoE, Member (Official comments received vide F.No.11-8/2018-TS-1 dated 04.10.2021)

Smt Chitra Ramachandran, IAS, Member, representing the Govt of Telangana, did not attend the meeting.

At the outset, the Director, IITH welcomed the Chairman and Members of the BoG to its 37th Meeting.

Item No.1: To consider confirmation of minutes of the 36th meeting of the Board of Governors held on 16th April 2021.

The Director stated that the Thirty Sixth Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on 16th April 2021 and a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting has already been circulated to the Members.

Comments of AS (TE), MoE: May be confirmed.

The Minutes of Thirty Sixth meeting of Board of Governors was confirmed as circulated.

Item No.2: To consider the report on actions taken on the minutes of the 36th meeting of the Board of Governors held on 16th April 2021.

A report relating to the actions taken on the various minutes was presented by the Director for information and consideration of the Board. The Director stated that no actions are pending except in the case of Item 9, wherein detailed proposal sought by the MoE have been forwarded vide letter No. F. No. IITH/Dir/02/200 dated 24 Sep 21 and the decision is awaited from the Ministry.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

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.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered.

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

Item No.4: Presentation by two faculty members on their innovative research.

Presentation by Prof. Shiv Govind Singh, on his Research. Prof Shiv Govind Singh made a brief presentation about his research in the novel development of an AI-Powered Low-Cost, Point of Care COVID-19 RNA Electronic Testing Kit (COVIHOME). He explained that the present system of RT-PCR testing has certain inherent limitations such as the need for an Expert & BSL2 facility for RNA extraction. Apart from the use of bulky instruments for amplification and testing, it takes a very long time for giving the results.

The newly developed COVIHOME is based on Oligo based testing (Equivalent to RT-PCR testing) and involves simultaneous detection of 3 Portions of the COVID-19 genome. The COVIHOME Test Kit consists of a Sensor Unit, a Signal Capture Unit and a Data Processing Unit. In this method, no RNA-extraction is required and no RT-PCR is required for load amplification and testing (Electronic Test Kit). This method is suitable for home-based testing since it is Smartphone based and works with Oral / Nasopharyngeal Swabs and results can be made available within 30 minutes.

The Validation of the newly developed COVIHOME test kit was carried out at CCMB, Hyderabad and a total of 210 samples were tested. Out of these 210 samples, the number of samples in conformity with RT-PCR was 198, while 12 samples were observed to be not in conformity with RT-PCR. The efficiency of the kit was observed to be 94.2% with a sensitivity of 91.3% and specificity of 98.1%. The sample viral loads were observed to have a Cycle Threshold (CT) value of 15-36.

Prof. Shiv Govind stated that a total of five Patents have been filed and the same testing kit with different sensors can be used for testing other viruses such as Dengue. He further stated that in recent times, Nanomaterials such as nanowires, NPs, and CNT have generated significant research interest because of their wide range of applications such as electrical devices and nano-biosensors due to their inherent physical properties like electrical conductivity, mechanical strength, light absorption, and biocompatibility. Moving down from bulk materials to the nanoscale materials, aspects such as higher surface to volume ratio and Debye length come in to picture which makes these materials attractive choices for bio sensing applications.

He stated that many researchers have studied actively to develop bio sensing system, which could be applied for different disease diagnosis, using various nanomaterials. Apart from that, nano sensors have also found many interesting applications in optical, electrochemical and mechanical sensors. He further stated that they are looking to develop a generic nano-biosensor platform for achieving ultrasensitive detection of biomolecules.

The Chairman complimented Prof Shiv Govind Singh and queried about the status of commercialisation of the testing kit. Prof Shiv Govind Singh replied that discussions are in progress with some partners and efforts are on to sign MoU with certain labs such as Mylab. The Chairman suggested that IIT Hyderabad should appoint a suitable Commercial Officer to ensure that we develop strategies and ensure commercialisation of the products developed in-house.

Dr Prema Ramachandran lauded the efforts put in for development of this novel test kit and stated that the testing kit will be very useful in the endemic phase which is likely to continue after the epidemic. However, she sounded a note of caution stating that the correct collection of the sample holds the key to accuracy. She therefore recommended that the testing kit be used by labs rather than being used by individuals. Prof Vinod Krishan queried about the form of display and Prof Shiv Govind replied that presently the display is in the form of colour coding indicating Covid positive/negative. He further stated that efforts are in hand to enable the display of CT value in future testing kits.

Presentation by Prof. Deepak John Mathew on his Research. Prof. Deepak John Mathew, Professor in the Department of Design, made a brief presentation on Bio-Bricks – a sustainable building material, developed by a PhD scholar in his lab. He stated that agricultural waste burning is a significant source of pollution in India, especially after the harvesting season and Bio-brick was developed as an alternative and sustainable building material that acts as an alternative to stubble burning. This material has good thermal and sound insulation; it is breathable and helps maintain a comfortable living condition during harsh summer or cold winters. In addition, it can be a great enabler towards creation of new jobs at the grassroots level. A prototype of the guard cabin was designed and executed in the space allocated by the IIT Hyderabad as a part of the BUILD (Bold Unique Idea Lead Development) project to demonstrate the strength and versatility of the material.

Thereafter, Professor Deepak John Mathew made a brief presentation on his current research in the area of Cultural heritage preservation. He stated that, one of his ongoing projects under SHRI Programme is the ‘Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Telangana’ and that he is currently working on the documentation and digital preservation of the cultural heritage of the Raj Gonds of Telangana. As a part of the research project, a workshop was conducted in the recent past, with ten Ojha artisans belonging to Chitalburi and Rampur Belsari village from Adilabad region. The traditional artefacts along with new forms and designs were created by the artisans using the traditional metal casting methods used by the Ojha community. Traditionally, the artifacts were majorly created for the ritualistic purposes of the Raj Gonds, which is a part of the Intangible cultural heritage of the Raj Gonds of Telangana. The workshop aimed to retain and sustain the traditional crafts practice of the Ojhas and to provide them opportunities to generate livelihood from their ancestral occupation of Dhokra crafts.

Professor Mathew further stated that, another aspect of the workshop is to create a digital repository of all the artefacts created in the workshop by using Photogrammetry and 3D digital printing which will be useful for the researchers for further studies as well as for the visitors from all over the world to get insights in the Cultural heritage of the Raj Gonds and associated communities and their traditional practices. The digital museum is being created to preserve the traditional artifacts with the help of non-destructive methods where the original artifacts will remain with the community and 3D printed artifacts will be used to fulfil the knowledge sharing purpose on the Cultural heritage of Telangana on the global level, where the museum can be visited virtually from anywhere in the World. The Collector of the Adilabad district Ms. Sikta Patnaik, IAS inaugurated the Workshop.

To a query from Prof Lakshmi Kantam about whether Sugarcane molasses can be used for Bio Bricks, Prof Mathew replied that any fibrous material including the molasses can be used. Prof Ch Subrahmanyam sought greater details on the Fire resistance capability of Bio bricks and Prof Mathew stated that several tests were carried out wherein it was found that the material does not catch fire and can withstand heat up to 600 Degrees Celsius. Prof Vinod Krishan queried about the contradiction between heritage conservation and use of 3D printing and Prof Mathew replied that 3D printing is only being used for research and virtual museums for preservation of the heritage.

The Chairman queried about the cost and practical usage/sustainability of the Bio-Bricks. Prof Mathew replied that the Bio Bricks are less than 50% of the cost of the normal bricks and with plastering, the Bio bricks buildings can last for 30 to 40 years. It would also encourage them to work in the non-farming season and enables the farmers to generate income from waste.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: No Comments.

The Board appreciated the work of Prof. Shiv Govind Singh & Prof. Deepak John Mathew and their contribution in carrying out collaborative research of relevance to the community and bringing out useful products.

Item No.5: Academics at a glance at IITH

The Director stated that a new program in BTech Program in Interdisciplinary undergraduate program has been started to develop expertise in Numerical methods & algorithms, Simulation tools for core engineering problems, System and process design, Optimization & Data Analytics and for Strong foundation in Scientific Computing for In-depth coverage of a wide variety of numerical algorithms & techniques, applications of computational methods in real-world engineering problems. He stated that this program in Computational Engineering is an inter-disciplinary program and is very different from the B Tech in CSE. The Chairman queried about the nomenclature of the Program and advised that the essence of the inter-disciplinary nature of the program be communicated to the students. The Director also mentioned that two other BTech programs will be introduced this year, namely, BTech in Biotechnology & Bioinformatics and BTech in Industrial Chemistry.

The Director also briefed the members regarding Online Programs in M Tech which is specially designed for working professionals to help them master the essentials of the program as well as the Online M Des program that has been envisioned to fill the gap of the growing necessity of design representation as a key strategic pillar for many forward-looking organizations. He further stated that the primary reason for the conduct of online courses was to reach out to the industry, since many individuals, who are keen to pursue higher studies are unable to do so because of their regular jobs in the industry. These online courses are therefore scheduled on Saturdays/Sundays for the benefit of the working professionals. Such online courses also provide an opportunity for the Institute to raise some funds for the IRG. The Chairman stated that 100% online courses have never been successful, and we must provide opportunities for these students to visit the Campus and encourage them to have physical interaction with the faculty and the Laboratory staff.

The Director also stated that the institute has started a dual BTech + MTech Techno-Entrepreneurship Program to equip students with a combination of technology and entrepreneurial skills along the requisite criteria. In addition, IITH and Deakin University are offering a joint doctoral program for bright and motivated students to work on frontier areas of science and technology. The candidates admitted to this program with MTech/ME will get

their PhD degree from both Deakin and IITH. The Institute is offering Inter-disciplinary Doctoral programs (PhD) for enthusiastic aspirants exploring the interface of various Science and Engineering disciplines. The interdisciplinary PhD program is conducted by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Program (CIP) in conjunction with various other departments and Centres across the Institute. This program is being offered from the Academic Year 2021-22 and 31 Scholars have taken admission in various research areas.

The Director further stated that, overall, 710 students have graduated and 723 degrees were awarded during August 2021 out of which 287 were BTech, 74 MSc, 217 MTech, 13 M Des, 10 M.A, 03M.S and 119 PhD students. 09 Students were awarded BTech & MTech Degrees under the Dual Degree program and 04 Students were awarded MTech and PhD Degrees under the Direct BTech to PhD program. Programme wise as on 01.09.2021, a total of 3409 students are on rolls excluding BTech/B Des intake for the year 2021-22, which is expected to be about 480 students. With this, we should have a strength of nearly 3900 students by December 2021. The Chairman appreciated the efforts of the Institute and hoped that we reach the milestone of 5000 students soon. However, it was essential to keep a close eye on the quality of the faculty being recruited to the Institute.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

The Board appreciated the sustained efforts of the Institute in improving the quality of Academics.

Item No.6: Report on Research and Development at IITH.

The Director stated that, a sum of Rs. 29.7Cr has been received thus far by the Institute for sponsored/consultancy research for the period 2021-22. The total funds received in F.Y. 2020-21 is Rs. 82.92Cr and in the last three years (2018-21) an amount of Rs.236 Cr. has been received for R&D. On the Publications front, IITH is doing well with a total of ~6053 publications (Citations of ~71,096 and h-index of 86). Prof Lakshmi Kantam stated that the Institute must work towards getting more sponsored projects. The Director replied that efforts are in hand to get more sponsored projects and while we have received nearly 30 crores this year, we hope to receive another 70 to 80 Crores in the remaining period of the current FY.

The Director further stated that the DRDO cell is operational at IITH and a total of 13 Projects amounting to Rs 19 Cr. have been sanctioned with an amount of Rs.12.24 Cr. being released till date. In addition, a Centre of Excellence in Additive Manufacturing has been approved in principle. He further updated the members on the present status of the Patents filed/granted stating that a total of 195 patents have been filed. In the last two years, 53 patents have been filed and 03 patents granted till date.

The Director also stated that IITH has transferred three technologies to different industries and also elaborated upon the functioning of the I-TiC and TiHAN foundations at IITH for the information of the members.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

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.7: Report on Campus Development Project of IITH

As a part of the expansion program of IIT Hyderabad, the Board of Governors had approved the Campus Development Project divided into two packages viz., 3A and 3B in its 29th and 31st 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 delays caused by shortage of labour and material as a result of the pandemic were also elaborated upon. The Director stated that regular review meetings/site visits are being conducted both by the Director and Dean Planning with both the contractors, M/s L&T and M/s SPCL Pvt Ltd to ensure that work is being progressed in accordance with the revised timelines.

The Chairman suggested that once the majority of the buildings are completed, it is important to dedicate the IIT Hyderabad campus to the nation thereby recognizing the hard work put in by all the stakeholders and also increase the visibility of the institution.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

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

Item No.8: List of External Experts Invited for Faculty Interview since the Last Meeting

The Director updated the members on the list of external experts who were invited to act as recruitment panel member for the faculty interviews since the last meeting.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

The Board noted and ratified the item.

Item No.9: Report on Faculty Recruitment

The Director stated that, the faculty recruitment has been carried out in three rounds i.e., Oct 2019-Jan 2020, Aug 2020 to Oct 2020 and the third round started in Apr 2021. Currently IITH, has a total strength of 242 faculty members and 01 faculty member who has been offered the appointment will be joining in due course of time. Further, the tabulated details of the offers made, those who joined/regretted and those who accepted but are yet to join was presented to the members. Prof Vinod Krishan queried about the probation period for Faculty members and the Director replied that there is a probation period of one year at all the levels when Faculty members are promoted from Asst Professor to Associate Professor to Professor.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

The Board noted and ratified the item.

Item No.10: Reporting of inputs received from the Ministry regarding the Revised Recruitment and Promotion Rules of the Institute (IITH-RPR)

The Director stated that, in accordance with the in-principle approval and directions of the Board in its 35th meeting, the detailed proposal regarding adopting revised Recruitment and Promotion Rules (RPR) -2020 at IITH was sent to the Ministry mentioning particulars wherever financial implication is involved and in reply the Ministry has communicating their advice/approvals for the 3 out of 4 proposals as listed at Annexure-A (Annexure-6) and the same are incorporated in the RPR policy. A reminder has been sent to the Ministry seeking the advice/input in r/o the 4th proposal and the reply is awaited.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

The Board noted and ratified the item.

Item No.11: Reporting on Advertisement of Non-Teaching Vacancies (NF-9)

The Director stated that, the BoG in its 35th meeting had approved the proposal for recruitment of 30 Non- teaching (Staff) vacancies. However, on reviewing the requirement and to ensure availability of some vacancies for departmental promotions to improve the morale and motivation of the junior level employees, it was proposed to advertise for 24 vacancies excluding 8 approved positions and including 2 additional positions, which are within the sanctioned limit.

Further, the Director stated that, the above said vacancies were notified through NF-9 advertisement published in Employment News edition dated 11 Sep 2021 on approval of the proposal by the Chairman, BoG. He further stated that the reservation for all categories is being followed in accordance with the GoI norms.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: Institute to ensure that reservation is followed as per Gol norms.

The Board noted and ratified the item.

Item No.12: Report on New Joining/Resignation/Deputation

The Director updated the members regarding the list of staff members who have newly joined/ repatriated to parent organization/ resigned and those who have been relieved on deputation.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be noted.

The Board noted and ratified the item.

Item No.13: Annual Accounts-Financial Year 2020-21

The Annual Accounts of the Institute has been prepared in the format prescribed by the Government of India. The Annual Accounts have been submitted to CAG Office for certification audit with the approval of the Chairman of the Committee. The AS(TE), MoE in his advice to the Institute had commented that the Annual accounts may be considered as per advice of the IFD representative of the Ministry. The Director stated that the comments received from the MoE were discussed at length by the Finance committee and the responses to individual queries raised by the IFD representative are placed at Annexure I.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC agenda item separately.

The Board ratified the annual account of the institute submitted to the CAG office.

Item No.14: Special recruitment drive for reserved category positions to increase their representation in faculty positions

The Director stated that, till very recently, IITs have been giving reservation at entry level wherever suitable candidates were available as per MHRD letter dated 09.06.2008. However, it is no more valid as per MOE letter (F.No.32-20/2019-TS-1 Pt. (1)) dated 13.08.2021. Further, as per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019 in Central Funded Technical Institutions, reservation is to be given at every level in

direct appointments i.e., AP, ASP & Prof. and also, as per the instructions of MOE vide its letter (F. No. 15-412020-TC) dated 16.07.2021 all CFTIs have been asked to maintain rosters for faculty positions based on pay level.

The Director also stated that, maintaining a roster in IITs is difficult as the total number of faculty positions are fixed based on the number of students and the number of positions at each pay level for each department is never fixed. However, considering the suggestion by the MoE, it is proposed to conduct a special drive for the recruitment of reserved category positions at the Assistant Professor level and an advertisement is expected to be released in October 2021 and interviews are expected to happen in December 2021.

The Chairman appreciated the efforts in conducting the special drive for the reserved category positions and cautioned against any compromise in the quality of the candidates.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered.

The Board approved the proposal.

Item No.15: To consider proposal of the institute to change the designation of two posts

The Director stated that, the designation of the isolated posts i.e., Network / System admin and Bio-Safety officer may be re-designated to Technical Officer and Senior technical officer thus making the provision for career progression at par with other analogous posts. He further stated that, Department / Section and Pay Level attached to the posts will remain unchanged and there are no financial implications involved due to the proposed change of designations.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered.

The Board approved the proposal.

Item No.16: Approval for merger of stenographer post to the admin cadre

The Director stated that the Institute had sanctioned posts of two Stenographer. Consequent to the resignation of one Stenographer after his selection as Executive Assistant through Direct recruitment, currently, only one Stenographer is available in the institute and it is intended not to recruit any further position of Stenographers.

Since it is not viable for the institute to maintain a separate cadre for the single Stenographer, it is proposed to merge the Steno position into Admin Cadre by providing one-time consideration for the existing Stenographer Mr. GSL Vanamaraju by offering Executive Assistant position.

The Director also stated that the existing stenographer fulfils all the criteria for Executive Assistant position and briefed the members that the additional financial implication with the above merger would amount to only Rs 100/-.

In response to the same agenda item in the FC meeting, the AS(TE), MoE has commented that the proposal may be sent to the Ministry for examination.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC Agenda item separately.

The Board directed that a detailed proposal may be sent to the MoE.

Item No.17: To consider proposal of the institute to earmark one of the two available unfilled vacancies of Assistant Registrar position to be filled through promotion channel

The Director stated that, the Institute has a total of 14 sanctioned vacancies under Assistant Registrar position, out of which, 12 vacancies were filled up through Direct Recruitment as per the RRs in force at that time and non-availability of candidates in the Feeder chain. However, as per the RPR-2021, the prescribed ratio for filling up of vacancies of Assistant Registrar position through Direct Recruitment and Promotional channels is 50% and 50%, respectively. The institute presently has three candidates in the feeder chain in the post of Section Officer, who fulfil the criteria for Departmental Promotion. Hence, it is proposed that one of the two available unfilled vacancies be earmarked for selection through Promotion channel.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered.

The Board approved the proposal.

Item No.18: Approval for payment of retirement/termination gratuity to all employees of IIT Hyderabad

The Director stated that, in accordance with DoPPW's OM No. 7/5/2012-P&PW(F)/B dated 26.08.2016, all Government Employees covered by NPS shall be eligible for benefit of 'Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity' on the same terms and conditions, as are applicable to employees covered by Central Civil Service (Pension) Rule, 1972 who joined Government services on or after 1.1.2004. Additional Secretary (T.E), DHE, MoE, had also clarified vide email dated 01.03.2017 that gratuity is admissible under NPS. Whereas the Schedule (D) of IITH Statutes approved by MHRD dated 31-07-2017 stated that if, Central Government decides to introduce any other scheme of retirement or death benefits that provides for pension, family pension, retirement or death gratuity, and other benefits, they may be extended to the employees of the Institute.

Recently, some of the Ad-hoc project employees, whose services were terminated last year, have filed a petition for payment of gratuity in the Labour Commissioner's Office at Hyderabad. The Labour commissioner has expressed the view that every employee of any establishment with more than ten employees, who has completed more than five years of service, is entitled to termination/retirement gratuity in accordance with the provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. He further stated that Section 14 of this act has the provision to override any other rule/enactments. It is also understood that many autonomous institutes such as NIPHM, CCMB, etc., have also extended the benefit of gratuity to their employees.

In response to the same agenda item in the FC meeting, the AS(TE), MoE has commented that this is yet to be extended to statutory/ autonomous bodies and the matter is under consideration of MoE/ MoF.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC Agenda item separately.

The Board directed that the issue may be taken up later since the matter is under consideration at MoE/MoF.

Item No.19: Discharging gratuity liability received from previous employer - Dr. Anitha Reddy, ex. employee of the institute

The Director stated that, Dr. Anitha Reddy, Psychological Counsellor resigned from this Institute on personal grounds on 01 Jul 2020 and as per clause 26(1) of CCS Pension rules, she was not entitled for any gratuity from this Institute on account of her resignation on personal grounds. However, at the time of her joining this Institute, her previous employer had transferred an amount of Rs.2,07,895/- to this Institute towards gratuity payable to her services rendered with them.

The matter was taken up with the Ministry for an advice on whether the payment of gratuity received from her previous employer which is under the possession of this institute could be paid to her or not and the Ministry in its reply advised the Institute to take up the matter with FC and BoG of the Institute.

The Institute proposes to discharge the gratuity liability in favour of Dr. Anitha Reddy, received from National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual disabilities (her previous employer) under intimation to her previous employer.

Further, the Director stated that, the Institute has been accepting the requests of Employees joining from other Govt./Semi Govt. organizations w.r.t transfer of their Gratuity amount on pro-rata basis from their previous organization to the Institute. The Institute proposes to discharge such gratuity liability in respect of all such employees in the same manner as stated in the above case.

In response to the same agenda item in the FC meeting, the AS(TE), MoE has commented that this proposal may be considered.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC Agenda item separately.

The Board approved the proposal of the institute.

Item No.20: Adoption & Implementation of NPS Rules

The Director stated that, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Pensions and Pensioner's Welfare) has notified the rules for Regulating the methods of implementation of National Pension System called the Central Civil Services (Implementation of National Pension System) Rules, 2021 vide notification dated March 30, 2021 and as IIT Hyderabad is following the NPS system since its inception and all the rules and regulations issued periodically by PFRDA, it is proposed to adopt the implementation of NPS rules as notified by MoPPG&P.

In response to the same agenda item in the FC meeting, the AS(TE), MoE has commented that this is yet to be extended to statutory/ autonomous bodies and the matter is under consideration of MoE/ MoF.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC Agenda item separately.

The Board directed that the issue may be taken up later since the matter is under consideration at MoE/MoF.

Item No.21: Choice of pension funds and investment pattern in Tier-1 of NPS for the employees of IIT Hyderabad

The Director stated that, earlier NPS subscribers had no choice to select the Pension fund and Investment choices in respect of their subscription in Tier-1 of the NPS account as the same were allocated by PFRDA among the three PSU fund managers. However, vide notification dated 31-01-2019 and the PFRDA Circulars no. PFRDA/17/08/11/0031/2017-SUP-SG) dated June 1, 2020 and Circular no. PFRDA/17/07/0001/2017-SUP-CG dated February 15, 2021, it has been clarified that Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs) are free to adopt the provisions of Gazette Notification (F.No. 1/3/2016-PR dated Jan 31, 2019) on their own volition, based on their own internal approvals and notifications, without seeking PFRDA approval.

Further, the Director also stated that the institute has received requests from some of the faculty and staff members for enabling the option to choose the Pension fund as well as the Investment pattern as allowed by the Government. It is therefore proposed to make provision for the employees to exercise their choice of preference of investing pattern w.r.t to their NPS contribution.

The Chairman stated that the risks inherent in Equity investments vis-a-vis the safety provided in Government securities/bonds may be informed to the employees when they exercise their choice of investment pattern.

In response to the same agenda item in the FC meeting, the AS(TE), MoE has commented that this proposal may be considered.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC Agenda item separately.

The Board approved the proposal of the institute.

Item No.22: Delegation of financial powers to various functionaries of the Institute

The Director stated that, BoG in its meeting held on May 15, 2014, had approved the Delegation of Financial Powers for Construction and Maintenance Activities. However, there has been no delegation of financial powers in respect of other institute activities. The Director also stated that, in view of the increasing number of departments and sections and size of the Institute, it has become imperative to delegate various responsibilities to Deans, Registrar and HODs in order to make the processes efficient and faster. Further, the Director elaborated on the details of delegation of Financial Powers to various functionaries of the Institute for favourable consideration of the Board. The comments received from the IFD, MoE are placed in the Minutes of the 13th FC meeting.

In response to the same agenda item in the FC meeting, the IFD representative has advised certain amendments, which will be suitably implemented. In the comments from AS(TE) it has been stated that the proposal may be considered as per advice of IFD representative of the Ministry.

The Director stated that the comments received from the MoE were discussed at length by the Finance committee and the advice of the MoE about suitable amendments in the Delegation of financial powers to various functionaries will be fully implemented. In addition, the BOG approved norms about sanction of TA to employees for journeys abroad is placed at Annexure II and the BOG approved norms for research students to travel abroad is placed at Annexure III.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC Agenda item separately.

The Board approved the proposal of the institute with suitable amendments as advised by the MoE.

Item No.23: Revision of advance payments for purchase of Goods and Services

The Director stated that, as per the provisions of General Financial Rules, 2017 Rule 172(1) payments for services rendered or supplies made should be released only after the services have been rendered or supplies made and, in some cases, there is a need to adhere to limits/ceilings laid down to make advance payments.

Further, Ministries or Departments of the Central Government may relax the ceilings in consultation with their Financial Advisers concerned and adequate safeguards in the form of bank guarantee, etc. should be obtained from the firm while making any advance payment.

The Director further stated that, in order to overcome the difficulties being faced by the faculty members at the Institute in procuring the goods and services from the Projects funds since many suppliers are insisting for partial / 100% advance payments, the following proposals have been placed before the board members for approval in respect of Grant-in Aid & Sponsored Projects (Govt. agencies) and in respect of Funds sponsored by private agencies.

Grant-in- Aid and Sponsored Projects (Govt Agencies):

- (a) Advance Payments may be granted up to Rs. 5 lakhs without a Bank Guarantee based on the recommendation of the three-member committee and approval from the Dean (R&D) / Director, as the case may be.
- (b) The advance payments beyond Rs. 5 Lakhs may be allowed to any Supplier only on submission of recommendations of the Purchase Committee with equivalent Bank Guarantee etc.

Funds Sponsored by Private Agencies:

- (a) The advance payments may be granted to any Supplier up to 10 Lakhs without a Bank Guarantee subject to the recommendation of the three-member committee and approval from the Dean (R&D) / Director.
- (b) The advance payments beyond Rs. 10 Lakhs may be allowed to any Supplier only on submission of recommendations of the Purchase Committee and approval from the Dean (R&D) / Director on submission of equivalent Bank Guarantee etc.

The Director stated that it is extremely difficult to seek advances from Private agencies especially start-ups who may be willing to fund projects but do not have the capital to deposit bank guarantee. The Chairman stated that in respect of Govt Funds, all rules and procedures should be followed as per GFR 2017. In the case of funds received from private agencies, bank guarantees may not be insisted upon, if the private agency does not have adequate capital and the proposal of the Institute may be suitably considered. However, it is important to ensure that processes are put in place and adequate checks and balances are established to ensure that no default takes place.

As part of the comments received for the same agenda point in the FC meeting, AS(TE), MoE has commented that the proposal may be considered as per advice of IFD representative of the Ministry. The IFD representative advised that the Institute may follow the provisions of Rule 172 (1) of GFR which states that that while making any advance payment, adequate safe guards in the form of bank guarantee etc. should be obtained from the firm.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC agenda item separately

The Board approved the proposal of the institute with regard to Funds sponsored by Private Agencies. In respect of Grant in aid and Sponsored projects funded by Govt agencies, provisions as laid down in Rule 172(1) of GFR 2017 is to be strictly adhered to.

Item No.24: Revision of distribution of overheads for testing/evaluation

The Director stated that, the Institute has many advanced equipment which are utilized by external agencies / institutions / individuals on a payment basis. The proceeds of such payments rendered were earlier approved in 33rd BoG meeting (**Annexure-21**) held on 25.11.2019. The approved distribution of overheads for Testing / Evaluation is given below:

Existing	Distribution of Overhead			
Testing/Evaluation (Percentage of Overhead: 50%)	Sponsored Research & Consultancy Centre (SRC): 20%	Department Development Fund (DDF): 10%	Research Development Fund (RDF): 20%	Research Equipment Maintenance Fund (REMF): 50%

However, the testing / evaluation payments are generated from the services availed from the institute equipment, which are common facilities procured from a variety of sources such as Institute budget, Project funds, JICA etc., Therefore, the overheads under testing / evaluation cannot be distributed to Research Development Fund of the individual faculty members. It is therefore proposed to merge the 20% distribution for RDF with the existing 50% distribution for REMF. Once the proposal is approved, the revised distribution of Overheads under Testing/ Evaluation would be as given below:

Proposed	Distribution of Overhead		
Testing/Evaluation (Percentage of Overhead: 50%)	Sponsored Research & Consultancy Centre (SRC): 20%	Department Development Fund (DDF): 10%	Research Equipment Maintenance Fund (REMF): 70%

The AS(TE), MoE in his comments to the same agenda point in the FC meeting has stated that the proposal may be considered as per the advice of the IFD representative of the Ministry. The IFD representative has commented that the proposal may be considered as appropriate.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC agenda item separately.

The Board approved the proposal of the institute.

Item No.25: Disbursement of funds for events under CCE

The Director stated that, the existing norms for distribution of overheads for Conference/workshop/symposia/CE programs (outreach), as approved by BoG in its 33rd meeting held on 25th Nov. 2019 is given in Sl. No. 3 of the Table below.

Sl.	Type of Project	Percentage of Overhead	Distribution of Overhead				
			SRC	DDF	RDF (PI/Co-PI)	Staff/ Admin	REMF#
1	Grant-in-Aid (GIA)	20% or Sponsor agency norms.	52 [60-8]	08	20	-	20 [12+ 8]
2	Sponsored (SPP)	20% on the total grant received plus additional 10% on the honorarium.	52 [60-8]	08	20 [15+5]	- [5-5]	20 [12+8]
3	Conference/Workshop/Symposia/CE Programs (Outreach)	15% or Sponsor agency norms.	55 [35+20]	20 [15+5]	25	- [10-10]	- [15-15]
4	Testing*	50%.	20 [60-40]	10	20 [0+20]	- [10-10]	50 [20+30]

Recently, the institute has established a Centre for Continuing Education (CCE), to conduct conferences, workshops, certificate courses and all other continuing education activities. In view of this, it is proposed to bring in changes in the distribution of overheads as suggested below, so that CCE will have some funds to conduct various activities.

Sl. No.	Type of Project	Percentage of Overhead	Distribution of Overhead (%)			
			CCE	SRC	DDF	Institute
3	Conference/Workshop/Symposium/ CE Programs (Outreach)	15% or Sponsor agency norms.	25	25	20	30

Further, the Director stated that, as a part of the outreach program (one of the facets of NEP), the institute plans to conduct several certificate courses under CCE during weekends and during vacation time of the faculty members and proposed that the accruals from the certificate courses are distributed as below:

Faculty & Support Staff Honorarium	DDF	Institute fund*	CCE	Director's discretionary fund
30%	20%	40%	7%	3%

*For any TDS deductions that are involved, it would be considered as part of the institute fund, which would come back to IITH at a later point of time.

The AS(TE), MoE in his comments to the same agenda point in the FC meeting has stated that the proposal may be considered as per the advice of the IFD representative of the Ministry. The IFD representative has commented that the proposal may be considered as appropriate.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered in line with the comments sent as FC agenda item separately.

The Board approved the proposal of the institute.

Item No.26: Minutes of the 14th Meeting of Buildings & Works Committee

The Director stated that the 14th meeting of Buildings and Works Committee was held on 26th February 2021 and the minutes were confirmed by the Committee in its 15th meeting held on 30.08.2021.

Comments of AS(TE), MoE: May be considered.

The Board ratified the minutes of the 14th BWC meeting

Item No.27: Any other item with the approval of the Chair

There being no other points, the meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

(Annexure to the Agenda Item No. 13 of 37th BoG Minutes)**Replies to Comments of MoE**

Item no.	Agenda Item	Comment	Reply
13	Annual Accounts – FY 2020-21	Grants are being released on a monthly basis and most of the time at the end of the month. As soon as the grants are released, they are being spent with no possibility for investment and accrual of interest. As such, there is no interest accrued from the grants received. The Institute has implemented the TSA system and w.e.f 01-08-2021 onwards, the releases are through assignment in the RBI account and release of funds by way of transfer to IITH bank account has been discontinued.	

The head-wise expenditure during 2020-21, and during the previous year 2019-20, the percentage change and the reasons are given below:

<u>Schedule -17</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	Remarks
Laboratory Expenses	1,51,33,028	2,48,17,295	(-) 96,84,267	39.02	There is 39% reduction in Laboratory expenses compared to previous year. The institute continued to function for Final Year PhD Students, and the essential expenditure like AMCs and regular consumables for continuing ongoing research by the Faculty and Staff who are residing within the campus continued. The Faculty of the Institute also continued their research in several areas, particularly in areas relating to Covid-19.
Field work / participation	5,37,610	3,31,336	2,06,274		The expenditure is relating to Faculty's participation in various conferences. Due to the pandemic, the online participation in conferences has increased and as a result, there is a significant reduction in travel expenditure and increase in participation in online conferences.

Seminar / Workshop	-	-	-		
Stipend/means-cum-merit scholarship	20,93,64,752	17,49,18,230	3,44,46,522		The increase is due to increase in number of PhD students from 285 to 356 (25%) student. There is no increase in Scholarship amount.
Schedule -18					
Travelling & Conveyance Expenses	8,15,223	1,26,36,566	- 1,18,21,343	93.55	There is 93.55% reduction in the Travelling Expenditure compared to previous year and the expenditure incurred is nominal. The Institute has avoided travel completely and has conducted all Faculty/ Staff recruitment interview in online mode only.
Others (Consumables, Contingency, etc.,)	7,02,16,643	6,74,34,359	27,82,284		The major expenditure included in this head is Manpower Services of Rs 5.04 crore. Subscription charges incurred for online services is Rs 23.80 lakh. Further, the additional cost of food for students staying in hostels (during the pandemic period) has to be absorbed by the Institute like for serving food in student isolation rooms etc.
Schedule -19					
Vehicle (Taxi)Hiring Expenses	37,89,546	1,42,12,761	- 1,04,23,215	73.34	There is 73.34% reduction on spending in Vehicle Hiring. Further, an amount of Rs 10,03,443/- paid for hiring vehicles was used only for provision of internal transport. The balance of Rs 27,86,103/- relates to shifting of heavy equipment (NMR spectrometer etc.) from ODF to Kandi campus in 2019-20 and for which balance 50% payment was made in 2020-21.
Schedule-20					
Plant & Machinery	59,99,395	15,04,279	44,95,116		This expenditure is related to O&M of Sewage Treatment plant.

Laboratory & Scientific equipment	33,17,691	13,90,775	19,26,916	The expenditure under this head has increased as many of the Departments have taken initiative to utilise the time available to get many equipment repaired during the pandemic time.
Gardening	27,30,302	10,67,884	16,62,418	The special efforts to increase the Greenery and Planation within the campus has led to an increase in the expenditure. However, the greenery of the campus has increased within the last two years resulting in huge non-monetary benefits.

MoE funded (within tenure) student strength					
Strength as on date	M.Tech	M.Des	M.Phil	Ph.D	Total
31-Mar-19	306	26	11	290	633
31-Mar-20	324	26	5	285	640
31-Mar-21	295	23	0	356	674

Please find below the details of MCM / Institute Scholarship expenditure.

S.No.	Year	Academic Period	Amount	No. of Students benefited
1	2019-20	July - Dec 2019	82,10,927	207
2		Jan - Mar 2020	76,45,980	190
3	2020-21	Aug 2020 - July 2021	14,16,000	121
Total			1,72,72,907	518

(Annexure to the Agenda Item No. 22 of 37th BoG Minutes)

**Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
YEDDUMAILARAM 502 205.**

No.IITH/Admin/2013/01
January 17, 2013

Office Memorandum

Sub: Revision of Per-diem for visit abroad.

The Board of Governors in its 10th Meeting held on October 04, 2012 (Agenda Item No.4) has approved revision of per-diem as stated below:

Europe, Japan, US and Australia	US \$100 per diem. If hotel accommodation is availed then a maximum of US \$300 per-diem on production of hotel vouchers.
Other Asian and African countries	US \$75 per diem. If hotel accommodation is availed then a maximum of US \$250 per-diem on production of hotel vouchers.
In case the Faculty member has been provided full hospitality in cash by the Organisers/any other Agency, no DA will be paid. However, if the hospitality is paid in kind (i.e. Travel, Boarding and lodging provided free by the Organisers), US \$50 per day will be paid as out of pocket allowance	

The following guidelines may be followed while availing per-diem:

- a. **Per-diem:** US \$100 or US \$75 is the maximum amount reimbursable where hotel accommodation is not availed and includes expenses pertaining to food and beverages.

US\$300 or US\$250 stated above is the maximum amount reimbursable if hotel accommodation is availed and vouchers are produced. If the actual expenditure for accommodation in a hotel is less than US\$200 or US\$175, the actual expenditure incurred will be reimbursed.

- b. **Per-diem for travel from India to the country of visit and return:** 50% of US\$100 or US\$75, as the case may be. This is subject to the condition that total per-diem for a calendar day will not exceed US\$100 or US\$75.

- c. **Production of vouchers:** Production of vouchers is compulsory for Registration; accommodation charges if hotel charge for stay is claimed; and travel within the countries visited – from airport to place of stay; from one airport to another airport/railway station/bus station for travel to another location; from place of stay to venue of Conference/Meeting/Seminar, etc internet charges, etc

Production of vouchers is not necessary for claiming US\$100 or US\$75.

The revision of per-diem and the guidelines will take effect from 01.01.2013.

N Jayaram
(N Jayaram)
Registrar

To

All the Deans/Heads of the Departments.
All the Faculties.
Director's Secretariat.

(Annexure to the Agenda Item No. 22 of 37th BoG Minutes)

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad
YEDDUMAILARAM 502205.

No. IITH/03/Admin
February 6, 2014

Office Memorandum

Sub: Per-diem/Daily allowance to students for participation in international events abroad.

The Director, IIT Hyderabad has been pleased to approve the following norms of TA/DA to students deputed to attend international conference, symposium, workshop, etc. as under.

Countries	Description	Proposed revised rates
Europe, Japan, USA, Australia, and Singapore.	If stayed in hotel.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximum of \$125 towards accommodation subject to production of hotel receipts. No reimbursement will be allowed if hotel receipts are not produced. 2. Food: \$50 (no cash receipts to be produced). 3. Local travel: Maximum of \$50 per day subject to production of receipt. No reimbursement will be allowed if receipts are not produced.
	If not stayed in hotel.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food: \$50 (no cash receipts to be produced). 2. Local travel: Maximum of \$50 per day subject to production of receipts. No reimbursement will be allowed if receipts are not produced.
Other countries.	If stayed in hotel.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximum of \$100 towards accommodation subject to production of hotel receipts. No reimbursement will be allowed if hotel receipts are not produced. 2. Food: \$35 (no cash to receipts to be produced). 3. Local travel: Maximum of \$35 per day subject to production of receipts. No reimbursement will be allowed if receipts are not produced.
	If not stayed in hotel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food: \$35 (no cash receipts to be produced). 2. Local travel: Maximum of \$35 per day subject to production of receipts. No reimbursement will be allowed if receipts are not produced.

If full hospitality is provided by the organisers and/or others, an out of pocket allowance of \$20 per day will only be admissible.

(N Jayaram)
Registrar