

Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2001

The 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) was held on 13.2.2001 at the Vigyan Kendra (CSIR Science Centre) on Lodhi Road, New Delhi at 1400 Hours under the chairmanship of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and Chairman of the Council.

A list of Members who attended the meeting is given in the Annexure.

Council observed two minutes silence in the memory of Late Prof. N.C. Nigam, Chairman of AICTE, who was a member of the Council.

Initiating the discussion, the Chairman welcomed all the members. At the outset, he suggested that the meetings of the Council should take place more frequently to ensure regular interaction on the role of the IITs in context of the emerging scenario. He added that such periodic discussions would help assess the contribution made by the IIT system to the technical manpower and technological needs of the country and to provide direction in this regard. A holistic approach, he said, is required for the IIT system, in respect of their role in dissemination of knowledge and expertise to give boost to growth in certain new and emerging areas. He also emphasized the need for thorough discussion on the problems faced by the IITs particularly relating to the shortage of faculty and availability of funds.

After general remarks made by the members about various issues, the items on the Agenda were taken up for discussion.

**Item. 36.1: To confirm the Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1999**

The Minutes were confirmed.

**Item. 36.2: To Report changes in the Membership of the Council.**

While noting the changes in the Membership of the Council since its last meeting, the Council placed on record its appreciation for the services rendered by the outgoing Members and welcomed the new members.

**Item. 36.3: To report action taken on the Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of IITs held on 20<sup>th</sup> February, 1999**

The Council noted with satisfaction the actions taken by the Secretariat on all the decisions arrived at the 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council.

**Item. 36.4: Appointment of the Directors of IITs**

The Council ratified appointment of Prof. Ashok Misra as Director, IIT (Bombay), Prof. R. S. Sirohi as Director, IIT (Delhi) and re-appointment of Prof. D. N. Buragohain as Director, IIT (Guwahati).

**Item. 36.5: Review of IITs**

The Council having noted that the last review of the IITs was done by Nayudamma Committee during 1983-86 (more than 15 years ago), recommended setting up of a Review Committee. The Chairman of the

Council was authorized to finalize the terms of reference and the composition of the Review Committee.

**Item. 36.6: Common Entrance Test and Review of JEE:**

There was in-depth discussion on the proposal for establishing a common entrance test, and in this context, on the present system of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted by the IITs.

After taking all the aspects into consideration, the Council decided that the JEE shall be expanded to include other institutions having certain standards from the academic year 2002. The institutions that were decided to be included are IIT Allahabad, IITM Gwalior, Regional Engineering Colleges, Selected Deemed Universities having Undergraduate / Dual degree Programmes in Engineering, other centrally funded Technical Institutions and premier engineering institutions from the States / UTs that agree to participate. The Ministry will forward a list of such institutions to Joint Advisory Board (JAB) of JEE. For the purpose of giving a sense of participation and building capacities of other institutions joining the expanded entrance examination, JAB may co-opt three members by rotation from amongst such institutions.

The Council advised the Chairman of JAB to consider other related issues such as difficulty level of test and consequent proliferation of coaching institutions, timing of test and its undesirable effect on education at the +2 level and the college system during the next meeting of the Joint Advisory Board of the JEE and come out with suitable remedial measures.

**Item. 36.7: Review of Plan Funding of IITs and increase of Intake**

The Council was unanimously of the view that one of the most cost-effective option to expand access to quality technical education is to increase intake in these institutions (or in exceptional circumstances open new campuses) rather than establish new IITs.

The Council appreciated that IITs have been making consistent efforts in this direction. IITs have increased their intake by around 40% from 1994-95 onwards. It was noted that this was done with very little additional funding and by optimal use of existing resources. Council realized that due to such increase in strength, there is unreasonable pressure on some of the facilities. Further expansion in many of the IITs without strengthening their facilities could dilute their effectiveness. It was pointed out that the present system of providing same level of plan funds to all the IITs in spite of differences in capacities is not fair and does not promote competitiveness. It was noted that increase in strength would also result in increased operating expenses that cannot be covered under the Block Grant Scheme. The Council felt that the issue of increasing the intake and support for the same, performance-linked plan funding and gradual rationalization of unit cost across the IIT system would require in depth examination. The Chairman felt that a committee with Special Secretary could look into these issues. For this purpose, the Council authorized the Chairman to constitute an Expert Committee to look into these and related aspects.

Chairman desired that the balance funding for the current year be released to the IITs immediately without waiting for the report of the Expert Committee. He suggested that the recommendations of the Expert

Committee could be used for formulation of strategy during the 10<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan and if possible, for the next Financial Year.

**Item. 36.8: Block Grant Scheme - Revised Pattern of Non-Plan Funding in the IITs**

The Council expressed concern about the delay in finalizing of revised pattern of non-plan funding for the IITs. FA(HRD) read out the comments of the Ministry of Finance on the note circulated by the Department on this issue. The Council regretted that there appears to be a notion in the Government that by building up corpus under the Block Grant Scheme, the Government could be absolved of its responsibility towards funding the IITs. It was pointed out that the corpus and the interest earning from it could at best provide enough funds only to give IITs greater flexibility in planning some new activities and to cope with challenges such as non-availability of faculty and high cost of R & D in new and emerging areas. Interest income from corpus would be insignificant compared to operating expenses, which have to be met by the Government. The Council felt that there is need to continue with the provision for Force Majeure for meeting unforeseen expenditure beyond the control of institutions. However, Force Majeure is to be used only in exceptional circumstances. Some members were of the view that increases in DA, Interim Relief and incremental expenditure on pensionary liabilities should continue to be met by the Government. In that case, an increase of 5% every year would be sufficient to meet costs of inflation and minor unforeseen expenses. Further, the Council felt that increase in operating expenses due to increased student strength and expenses for 'Top Up' salary etc. cannot be met from this lump sum 5% increase and would have to be provided additionally. The Council favoured

fixing of the base level on the basis of actual expenditure for the year 1998-99 on 13 specified items as proposed. The Council approved other proposed changes like adjustment of tuition fees from the base level of grant and staggered reduction & review of matching grants. The Council suggested that the issue of arrears of matching grant be sorted out early.

Chairman desired that the revised Block Grant Scheme be finalized expeditiously. He proposed that if required, he could personally take it up with the Finance Minister. The Council appreciated this and hoped for an early decision on the non-plan-funding pattern for the IITs.

**Item. 36.9 : Guidelines for Receipts of Donations**

It was pointed out that guidelines for receipts of donations were issued by the Government in context of certain aberrations that were brought to its notice and that the guidelines were merely indicative of the intention of the Government and a final view is to be taken by the concerned Board of Governors after taking necessary issues into consideration. Members pointed out that it may not be desirable to restrict donations to cash only and sometimes donations in kind could be more meaningful for institutes.

With the above observations, the Council ratified the guidelines.

**Item 36.10: IIT-REC Networking**

The Council appreciated the Report of the High Powered Review Committee for RECs (Mashelkar Committee Report) and the Report of the Working Group on Networking. The Council endorsed the recommendations of the High Powered Review Committee and accepted the recommendations of the

Working Group on networking of RECs and IITs. The Members, however, wanted that this networking should be operated on 'equal-partnership' basis and there should not be any patronizing attitude on the part of the IITs. The Council also noted and supported the need for collaborative efforts in information resource sharing through the digitization of libraries, setting up of engineering information centres and promoting consortia-based subscription of expensive / electronic journals.

The Council hoped that networking shall now be operationalized and information resource sharing system put in place at the earliest.

**Item 36.11: Special Role of IITs in meeting the IT Manpower**

The Council noted that IITs would be required to play a greater role in the area of manpower development for the IT sector. The Council ratified the approach outlined in the Interim Report of the Task Force on HRD in IT set up by the Prime Minister of India under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development. The Council desired that IITs should take necessary steps for the early implementation of the recommendations of this Report.

Members suggested that the country need not be overwhelmed merely by the hype created for the IT sector. The Council felt that, in addition to the IT sector, IITs need to pay attention to new and emerging areas such as bio-Technology, nano-technology, new manufacturing technologies, and new materials. Greater thrust should be given to inter-disciplinary and holistic education with due emphasis on basic sciences. The IITs should also devote

themselves to issues of development and application of technological solutions to the broader canvas of societal development.

**Item 36.12: Role of IITs in Providing Contents for Gyan Darshan**

It was informed that the Government had launched an exclusive education channel - 'Gyan Darshan' on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2000. Three hours on this channel are devoted exclusively to Technical Education. The Council approved in-principle that the IITs should provide contents for Gyan Darshan by allowing recording of lectures by their faculty and its use by Gyan Darshan for wider reach.

It was decided that the Ministry, TTTIs, Gyan Darshan and the IITs would work out further details addressing related issues including that of quality and IPR.

**Item 36.13: Enhancement of Rate of Scholarship for M. Tech. Students**

Keeping in view the present wage structure and the fellowship amounts enhanced for research fellows under the Junior Research Fellowship by UGC/CSIR recently, the Council approved enhancement in the rate of M.Tech scholarship from the present level to Rs.5,000/-p.m. effective from the Session 2001-2002 (from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2001).

**Item 36.14: Perks For Faculty**

The Council considered and recommended following perks for the faculty:

1. Raising of contingency grant for books, stationery, local travel etc. from the present level to Rs. 4000/- per year.



2. Full funding to attend one international conference once in three years with financial assistance up to Rs. 1.00 lakh per slot subject to faculty presenting a paper or chairing a session in the International Conference.
3. Reimbursement of telephone bills to Professors up to a ceiling of Rs.750/- p.m.
4. Facility of loan (on such interest rate and conditions as applicable in Government) for purchase of computer / accessories for the faculty.

In addition, the council approved that the following perks could be continued as per the existing arrangements.

1. Reimbursement of 75% of membership fee of one international professional society.
2. Full funding for attending one national conference per year by each faculty on condition that the concerned faculty is either presenting a paper or is invited to chair a session.

#### Item 36.15: Scheme of Professor of Eminence

The Council noted the views that have emerged so far relating to the Scheme of Professor of Eminence. It was felt that the system for selection of Professor of Eminence for the IIT system could be separate from that of other engineering institutions. Having noted that giving status of Professor of Eminence shall be by invitation and only truly outstanding persons be given such offer, it was felt that national level selection would be desirable. Directors suggested that keeping condition of 28 years of service would not be desirable. Further they added that it should also be possible to relax

condition of 15 years as Professor in exceptional circumstances. Directors also suggested that their numbers should not be restricted to 5 % of the professorial position but to 5 % of the total faculty positions.

The Council felt that there is need for further deliberations with the IITs on the issue before finalization of the scheme by the Government.

**Item 36.16: Fee-Waiver to Foreign Nationals of SAARC Countries.**

Based on the recommendation of the Joint Advisory Board (JAB), the Council approved that the foreign nationals from SAARC countries seeking admission through Direct Admission of Students Abroad (DASA) channel be allowed 50% fee waiver. This shall however be provided to foreign nationals of SAARC countries studying in SAARC countries only.

**Item 36.17: Matter relating to Modified R & CD Scheme**

The Council noted that, in pursuance to the directions issued by the Government, the IITs have discontinued the RCDS Scheme. It was also noted that the Government has notified the Assured Career Progression (ACP) scheme.

The members of the Council pointed out that there are difficulties in implementation of the ACP Scheme because of the peculiar system of cadre management in B,C and D staff in the IIT system and special circumstances where almost no fresh recruitment are taking place in the IIT system. It was felt that there was merit in the arguments placed by the IITs. Chairman of the Council pointed out that there are serious difficulties in continuance of multiple promotion schemes in the education system in the country.

In view of the special circumstances and arguments put forward by the members, Chairman agreed to take up this issue afresh with the Finance Minister. In the meantime, the IITs were advised not to allow continuance of RCDS Scheme. They could however implement the ACP scheme that has already been notified.

**Item 36.18: Matters Relating To Conditions of Service of Employees**

The Council of IITs noted the fact that having accepted the recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission on Pay structure for staff in the IITs, there is absolutely no scope for any changes in the conditions of service of staff by individual Board of Governors. In the instant case brought before the Council relating to one special increment to staff members completing 25 years of service in IIT (Delhi), the Council, while appreciating the need for having performance linked reward system, was of the view that such a system has to be evolved within the framework of the approved pay structure.

**Item 36.19: Reservation for SCs / STs And OBCs in Faculty Positions**

The position taken by the IITs on the issue of reservation of SCs/STs and OBCs in faculty positions in the IIT system was noted. The Council decided that the issue be referred to the Review Committee for an in-depth examination and advice.

**Item 36.20: Nomination of Persons from SC / ST Communities On the Council of IITs & the BoGs**

The recommendation of the Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs regarding nomination of persons from SCs / STs communities from the

Council of IITs and the BoGs were noted. The Council decided to refer this matter also to the Review Committee for an in-depth examination and advice.

*The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.*

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D.O.13-1/2002-TS.1

Dated the July, 2002

Dear Prof. Dube,

I am enclosing herewith a copy to the approved Minutes of the 37<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of IITs held on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2002 at the Science Centre (Vigyan Kendra), Lodhi Garden, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Minister of Human Resource Development and Chairman of the Council of IITs.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(V.S. Pandey)

Prof. S K Dube,  
Director,  
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Seen.

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01.08.02

IIT Council file

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