

National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources

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No. ACC/FM/2010/9

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Minutes of the 9th ACC meeting held on 09.07.2010

The 9th meeting of the Apex Coordination Committee (ACC) started with a new agenda, performance indicators of the NISCAIR in-house journals, introduced by the Chairman on priority, as it was a matter of immediate concern. He said we can have two criteria viz. Journal's impact factor and paid subscription. The committee agreed on his views that journals which have impact factor <0.5 and/or number of paid subscription <1000 will have to review their strategy and work to improve on both the fronts. The Chairman said only 4 journals, in the current scenario, cope up with this performance criteria of both the factors i.e. the impact factor >0.5 and paid subscription 1000+, including IJC-B whose IF is 0.466. When paid subscription is taken 7 journals qualify.

ACC recommended revival of outreach programme and encouraged participation of editorial staff in workshops/conferences organized by scientific institutions, and plan strategies to improve the impact factor. While the sales and marketing will work towards the outreach activity, editorial staff may concentrate on content improvement and explore other possible 'ways and means' to enhance the impact factor of their respective journals.

CSIR initiative on science communication through multimedia

The Chairman announced that NISCAIR has been entrusted with the responsibility of taking science to people through electronic media using about 4 hr slot in Rajya Sabha channel and a Course on Science Communication through Multimedia. DG CSIR has allocated (in principle) financial grant of 15 Cr to NISCAIR for this purpose. While Shri. Gauhar Raza, Scientist F will be the nodal scientist for structure and content development for multimedia shows, Dr Sukanya Dutta, Scientist EII will coordinate the academic initiative on the science communication course for AcSIR. Shri. Gauhar Raza said that the budget is being prepared for the given assignment with provision of 11 crore for hardware and other associated facilities viz., Studio, Quality camera, etc. He said the plan may spill over next two years and also added that we need to experiment with structures. F&AO told that the plan proposal (budget) needs to go in SFC format and put up before GB with FA's approval. Financial planning/requirement during the current Five Year term has to be indicated item-wise, and has to be properly projected and shown under proper heads. Shri Gauhar Raza told that a lot of work is involved and requested support and cooperation of NISCAIR staff.

For Science communication course, the committee felt that there could be short-term as well as long-term courses planned under the activity.

In-house projects for grant from LRF

The format of application for in-house grant presented by Shri. Rajiv Mathur, Head, PME was approved by the committee with few corrections, particularly the duration. While the research proposals should have a period of one year tenure, which may extend for further six months depending on the requirement, the grant cannot be asked afresh for the successive year. PME will invite research proposals immediately. Proposals received will

be analyzed by a core committee [Dr K Y Kavathekar, Adviser, Knowledge Management (Chairman); Dr Sunita Garg, Adviser, Bioresources and Head, PME] and will place before Director with specific recommendation/rejection for approval. Approved ones will be placed in Research Council for information. Monitoring will be done by PME. For the current year (2010-11), 9.2 lakhs are available as of now out of the total allocated grant of 21.2 lakhs after granting 6 lakhs each to the already approved two proposals.

Status of prioritization of purchase indents

Prioritization committee Chairperson, Smt Kamlesh Arora briefed the developments on prioritization. Total budget requirement without prioritizing is put at 339.98 lakhs (Apparatus & equipments 233.40 lakhs; Computers/accessories & software 84.17 lakhs; office equipments 22.41 lakhs). The ACC advised that with the limited available budget grant, prioritization committee needs to assess the indents critically adopting stringent criteria (in the order of preference of New facility—replacement—additional facility) and suggest a justifiable budget requirement. Dr G K Mishra, F&AO will be co-opted by the committee. Computers and related purchase may be done on priority. Orders are to be placed by the time DGS&D rates are available adopting a suitable, economic method of procurement keeping in view the benefit of the Institute.

Any other matter

Revision of service charge

The service charges for various services provided by NISCAIR fixed earlier few years ago needs to be revised. A committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Deeksha Bisht, Adviser, PPD comprising the following members Dr. VV Agadi Sci-F, Shri. AK Chawla Sci-F, Shri. SR Kundu Sci-F, Shri. Pankaj Gupta PTO (convenor), Kaushal Kishore PTO, Neeru Sharma PTO and Dr. G K Mishra F&AO will review and submit appropriate recommendations.

Dr. Mishra's (F&AO) efforts in regularizing various work procedures in Accounts section viz. expenditure booking heads, providing copy of all related papers to retiring person(s) on the day of retirement, etc., as informed by him was appreciated by ACC.

Chairman ACC said that DG CSIR wanted some space in the NISCAIR (Pusa campus) for starting AcSIR activity. He also added that following Mr Gauhar Raza, three more staff (Dr PVS Kumar, Mr Surjith Singh and Mr Ajay Sheopuri) will be joining NISCAIR shortly.

This is issued with the approval of the Director.

(RS Jayasomu)
Director Office

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