

# National Institute of Science Communication And Information Resources

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## Minutes of the meeting of the Apex Coordination Committee held on 18 January 2012

A meeting of the Apex Coordination Committee was held on 18 January 2012 at 10.00 am at the Pusa Campus. The following attended the meeting:

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|-----|------------------------|-------------|
| 1.  | Director               | Chairperson |
| 2.  | Ms Deeksha Bist        |             |
| 3.  | Mr Rajiv Mathur        |             |
| 4.  | Mr Gauhar Raza         |             |
| 5.  | Ms VV Lakshmi          |             |
| 6.  | Mr Hasan Jawaid Khan   |             |
| 7.  | Dr G. Mishra           |             |
| 8.  | Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma |             |
| 9.  | Ms Simesh Verma        |             |
| 10. | Mr Sunil Khanna        |             |

Mr Ashok Chawla could not attend the meeting, however, he sent his observations on the Agenda Items listed for the meeting through E-mail.

The Director congratulated Mr Gauhar Raza on organizing a highly successful International Conference on Science Communication for Scientific Temper recently. He appreciated the press publicity that the event received. He hoped that the next conference on Science Communication in Hindi would be equally successful. Mr Gauhar informed that he was getting positive feedbacks from several quarters.

### The proceedings of the meeting as per Agenda items are as follows:

- 1. Projectisation of NISCAIR's activities.** The ACC in its last meeting had accorded in-principle approval to the proposed list of NISCAIR's activities under various projects drawn up for the purpose of projectisation. However, since projectisation is basically required for administrative and accounting purposes, the Director wanted a meeting of the Projectisation Committee to be convened wherein FAO and CoA could be invited to clarify issues arising out of the proposed projectisation. **(Action: Mr Rajiv Mathur, Convenor, Projectisation Committee)**
- 2. Enforcing discipline in NISCAIR.** The ACC in its last meeting had decided that the Administration should issue an office memorandum regarding the need to reinforce discipline in the Institute with regard to punctuality of attendance, indiscipline, insubordination, non-performance, smoking etc. clearly outlining acts that constitute indiscipline and against which administrative action could be taken, if the need so arises. Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma, CoA informed that the OM is being issued. **(Action: Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma, CoA)**
- 3. Rationalizing printing procedure and costing.** A Committee was constituted consisting of Ms Deeksha Bist as Chairperson, Mr Hasan Jawaid Khan, Mr Ashwani Brahmi, Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma (CoA), and Dr G. Mishra as members. Ms Deeksha Bist informed that the background work had been completed and a meeting of the Committee would be held soon. **(Action: Ms Deeksha Bist)**
- 4. Rational utilization of EFC.** A Committee consisting of Mr Rajiv Mathur as Chairperson and Dr G. Mishra and Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma as members was constituted for the purpose. Dr Mishra informed that a number of projects of the erstwhile INSDOC had not been reconciled and that there was an unspent balance of Rs 443.91 lakh under 58 projects. In this context, Ms VV Lakshmi also informed that in the past a number of committees had been formed to look into the issue. However, due to lack of records available no headway could be made. Therefore, Dr Mishra

suggested that the matter may be taken up in the MC for transferring the unspent amounts to LRF. **(Action: Dr G. Mishra)**

In this regard, Mr Rajiv Mathur suggested that the matter may be taken up in the MC before the financial year closing itself. Accordingly, Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma was requested to expedite the process of finalisation of the MC. Mr Sharma informed the ACC that he would make efforts to hold the MC meeting in January itself. **(Action: Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma)**

**5. Recruitment of Group III personnel.** Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma informed that the process of recruitment of Group III personnel had already begun. He also informed that the process of recruitment of Group IV personnel would also soon be finalized. Members of the ACC felt that the recruitments needed to be expedited in view of the large-scale retirements and increasing burden on existing staff. **(Action: Mr Yogesh Kumar Sharma)**

**6. Dr JS Pillai's suggestions on improving IJMS inflow, outreach & quality.** In a note dated 28.2.2011, Dr JS Pillai had suggested the following measures to improve inflow and outreach of IJMS:

- a. Reduce time lag between date of submission and publication of articles to 6 months.
- b. Institute Gold medal for best articles in IJMS from among papers submitted from Asia/SAARC countries.
- c. Publish selected articles in IJMS as a book every year and pay royalty to authors.
- d. Give 1-2 NISCAIR books complimentary to Reviewers as incentive.

The ACC observed that best paper award may not be feasible since selection could be a problem as the impact of a paper, that may be a criterion to judge the best paper, would be known only after 2-3 years of its publication.

The ACC further observed that it would not be practicable to publish the 'best' research papers submitted to journals as a book every year. Instead, all journals could be asked to invite authors of best papers to write review articles or books on their subject of interest.

**7. Review of status of NISCAIR Diamond Jubilee activities:** Mr Ashok Chawla, Chairperson of the NISCAIR Diamond Jubilee Celebrations informed that as part of the celebrations one conference had already been completed and efforts are on to organize the second conference on science communication in Hindi.

He also informed that two monthly lectures had been held so far and the third was scheduled on 30<sup>th</sup> January (Dr B.K. Gairola). For the fourth lecture, Justice Katju is being contacted. In this context, the ACC suggested that Mr Pallava Bagla, Prof. Yashpal, Dr N.K. Sehgal and Mr N. Ram could be contacted for delivering lectures. **(Action by Mr Ashok Chawla)**

Director stressed that the Institute must try to organize the Closing Ceremony of the NISCAIR Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in Vigyan Bhawan. **(Action by Mr Ashok Chawla)**

Dr G. Mishra requested that activities to be held as part of the NISCAIR Diamond Jubilee Celebrations be finalized and informed as soon as possible so that budget requirements for the next financial year could be immediately put up. **(Action by Mr Ashok Chawla)**

**8. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.** Through e-mail inputs, Mr Ashok Chawla reporting on Works (Infrastructure) informed that i) bids have been re-invited for the SCM Hall and the tender opening is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> January; ii) Canteen (Pusa) work is on; iii) For procurement of equipment for canteen (Pusa and SVM) a Committee had been proposed and the OM is yet to be issued; iv) Conceptual plan for renovation and shifting of Director's office has been approved by Director. ESD

has been requested to provide detailed drawings, which are expected in two weeks. The next step would be to work out the estimates; v) Conceptual plans for Hostel/Canteen (SVM)/Reception area/SDC renovation had also been approved by Director. ESD has been requested to provide detailed drawings. Expected in 3-4 weeks time. Next step will be to work out the estimates.

Mr Chawla also informed that for other Miscellaneous civil works, bids had been received and a comparative statement prepared by the engineer has been sent to the Works section for checking. Once this work is awarded, many small civil works will get implemented smoothly.

Mr Rajiv Mathur requested that the work of renovation of the Periodicals Hall also be taken up expeditiously. **(Action by Mr Ashok Chawla)**

The ACC also observed that the general upkeep of the NISCAIR buildings should be improved in the context of disruption in water supply and other problems.