

File No.NMEICT (MS)/PAB/15
Government of India
Ministry of HRD
Department of Higher Education

National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology
(NMEICT) New Delhi

(Mission Secretariat)

25th June, 2010

Sub: Minutes of the **15th** Meeting of Empowered Committee of Experts (Project Approval Board) of National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology held **24th** May, 2010

Sir/Madam,

A copy of the Minutes of the **15th** Meeting of the Empowered Committee of Experts (Project Approval Board) of National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology held on **24th** May, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, is sent herewith for information and necessary action.



(Harvinder Singh)
Deputy secretary (PAE) &
Nodal Officer (NMEICT)
Tele: 011-23382604

Encl: As above.

All Members of Project Approval Board of National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology (As per list enclosed)

Copy, along with a copy of Minutes, to: PSO to Secretary (HE), PS to AS&FA and Joint Secretary(DL) - for information.

Minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Project Approval Board of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology held on **24th** May, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. in Conference Room **No.112-C** Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Empowered Committee of Experts (Project Approval Board) (PAB) of National Mission on Education through Information & Communication Technology was held on **24th** May, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. in Conference Room **No.112-C** Wing, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Higher Education.

The list of Members who participated in the meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

Mrs.Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Department of Higher Education welcomed all the Members. Thereafter, agenda items were discussed and the following decisions were taken:

Item No.1:

Chairperson requested all the members to give their comments, if any, on the Minutes of the **14th** PAB Meeting.

It was informed to the PAB that the Serial **No.31** of **Annexure-II** of Minutes of **14th** **PAB** meeting may be read as:

31. DECODING THE GREEK CLASSICS FOR UNDER-GRADUATES & POST GRADUATE STUDENTS
Control No. He 16031010662
Principal Investigator: **Asso. Professor Harvinder Kaur**, Government College, Sector 42, Chandigarh

A Large number of projects received from Chandigarh also came up for discussion. It was felt that it would be better to have a consortium approach rather than **allotting** projects individually or centre-wise. For example, it was felt that for Home Science the premier **institutions/persons** in this area could be roped in so that the contents generated are of national standard. It was explained that anchoring role for content generation in a large number of subjects relating to Social Sciences had been given to IGNOU, CEC and Delhi University, which are premier **institutions/bodies**. The PAB members were requested to provide information regarding eminent **persons/institutions** in various areas and that the **PIs** will also be asked to, in the first instance, indicate consortium of the experts which would be involved.

Thereafter, the Minutes of the 14th PAB meeting held on 22nd March, 2010 were confirmed.

Item No.2:

The Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Project Approval Board was noted by PAB. The PAB observed as follows:

1. Publishing of Booklet on NMEICT

Prof. Uma Kanjilal from IGNOU was advised to come out with the draft Booklet within next fifteen days.

2. Low Cost Device

A team was to visit China from 31st May to 5th June 2010 to firm up the specifications and other modalities.

It was reported to PAB that it might be possible that Low Cost Device which will provide the requisite functionality necessary for the project would be available at a low price. For firming up the specifications and reducing the cost to the minimum, it seemed necessary that the availability and cost of the components involved be looked into closely. Since the most of the components of the Low Cost Devices manufactured in Taiwan were obtained from China, and also manufacturers from China had displayed these devices in Hongkong fair, it was proposed to verify availability of such existing low cost devices in China. Thereafter, expression of interest through global tenders would be floated to have a fair competition. The PAB member, suggested that it would be better if technical specifications are got reviewed from independent experts before issue of expression of interest. In view of the fact that low cost device is expected to have limited functionality, members expressed their view that it would be advisable to make it clear about the functionality it would serve, so that expectations are not raised beyond reasonable limit.

3. Action Taken on the item No. 5 in the agenda for 13th meeting of the Project Approval Board of National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology held on 25 February, 2010

Teachers Empowerment, Students Empowerment and Integration tools for Empowerment (Synchronous Delivery) AKA Talk to a Teacher

The PAB was apprised that for the above said project Peer Review Meeting was conducted. The project was appraised and evaluated by a number of experts in the field including directors of NITs and renowned professors of academia during which the PI was questioned on various issues. The PAB was also informed that the Committee had evaluated the project based on the 10 points prescribed format circulated to all the members. The PAB was further informed that the review was conducted in a more systematic way by thorough grilling the PI by raising various questions on the proposal under consideration.

Further, PAB was informed that the Peer Review had recommended for initially releasing upto 30% of the project money as start up grant and the balance money shall be linked to the progress as well as to the satisfactory completion of the assignment and deliverables promised upto that stage.

PAB approved to initially release upto 30% of the project money and thereafter the balance shall be linked to the progress of the work.

Item No.3:

PAB approved expenditure on holding workshops by NITs for connectivity as a convener of the State/U.T. level on Implementation-cum-Monitoring Committees.

The following norms were fixed as under:

Per head maximum expenditure for a day-long workshop:

Tea/Coffee (2 times)	Rs. 20/-
Lunch	Rs. 100/-

Further, it was decided that NITs shall incur the expenditure in respect of above and other sundry items like stationery etc and seek the reimbursement from Mission Secretariat of NMEICT.

Item No.4:

Budget Estimates for 2010-11 for TSG/Mission Secretariat of NMEICT

PAB approved budget of Rs. 556.43 lakhs for the Mission Secretariat for the year 2010-11 and release of 1st installment of 25% of the total budget after adjusting the unspent amount available with EdCIL.

Item No.5:

PAB approved inclusion of sakshat portal team in the Mission Secretariat and decided that expenditure to be incurred in this regard may be treated as expenditure of the Mission Secretariat. The salary of staff of maintenance of sakshat portal would be paid through EdCIL out of funds allocated for Mission Secretariat.

PAB also approved the extension of contract of staff engaged for maintenance of the sakshat portal for one year.

Item No.6:

PAB approved sitting fee of Rs.1000/- to all the **experts/Reviewers** of the projects invited for attending the PAB meetings apart from the TA/DA in addition to the Honorarium of Rs.2000/- being paid for reviewing the project.

Item No.7

General Points:

On the issue of e-content generation, the PAB advised as follows:

- The subjects selected for e-content generation should be more specific and focused and broadly should cover the UG/ PG programme curriculum, as the case may be.
- The methodology for expanding the Standing Committee to cover more areas and to achieve the same in a time-bound manner should be worked out.

- Central universities, universities experts should be invited to work out a consortia approach to identify more core groups in taking forward the Mission's Objectives.

Proposals for approval of projects

Peer Reviews had been conducted in respect of four on-going projects. PAB was apprised about the progress in respect of those projects. The directions of the PAB are as follows:

1. Development of Language Tools and Resources for Machine Translation System (English to Hindi and English to Tamil)

Machine translation may be synergize with CDAC efforts for language translator.

2. Development of Computerized Vocational Educational Modules and use of **Haptic** Devices for Training

The PAB observed that the vocational training course selected should be difficulty related so as to fully cover the powers of e-learning.

PAB advised that a demonstration may be made by the PI in the next PAB and DGET experts should also be called.

3. u-share : Multi-user Real time Shared Access platform for Remote Experimentation

The PAB has advised that the PI should present the said proposal at IIT Delhi and after the assessment, the same may be put up to PAB.

4. Development of an Open Source Integrated Graphical Programming Ecosystem for Scientific Computing

PAB advised that the PI should **demonstrate/make** a presentation in the next PAB.

Item No.8

Presentation by BSNL on the progress of Connectivity to Colleges and Universities

The BSNL made a presentation about the progress being made by them so far. The BSNL offered to organize Zonal Meetings with Vice-Chancellors/Principals of Universities and Colleges. BSNL sought clarification/directions with regard to connectivity. Thereupon, PAB keeping in view earlier decisions clarified that:

- BSNL should continue to provide connection for the nodes beyond 150 kms as being done presently for NIC.

- universities where connectivity to NKN has been provided by NIC, should be deleted from the NMEICT scope to avoid any duplication.
the time-line should not be mismatched as it shall upset the objectives of the Mission.
- NKN and NMEICT should join hand and pool the resources effectively in providing connectivity.
- all universities are to be connected to NKN POP.
- universities should get the connectivity of 1 Gbps along with LAN as a package in time without compromising effective dissemination of Mission's objectives.

The issues relating to connectivity can be resolved by Inter-Ministerial meetings of DIT, DOT, MHRD along with Finance & Planning so that progress under NKN and NMEICT is ensured.

The representative of MTNL pointed out that they do not have all the papers relating to connectivity to be provided in their area. Dr. Harvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary (PAE) & Nodal Officer (NMEICT) pointed out that the papers were duly handed over to Mr. Satija, OSD to Executive Director, MTNL. Thereupon the PAB directed that a second set of papers may be given to MTNL urgently.

Item No.9

Accommodation for the Mission Secretariat

The PAB approved, in principle, for hiring the accommodation for the Mission Secretariat and asked EdCIL to look for different options for consideration.

Table Agenda

Item No.1

Expansion of Standing Committee of NMEICT

PAB authorized the Secretary (HE), Chairperson of PAB to nominate persons for whom nominations have been received from members of Apex Committee, PAB, Standing Committee, Vice Chancellors etc. to be members of the Standing Committee.

Item No.2

Village Community Network

The Item was presented by Prof.Prem K. Kalra, Director, IIT, Rajasthan. PAB appreciated the technology and advised that if it is successful it will be very useful for the Mission as well as for the Society as a whole. The PAB agreed to support the project provided DOT/BSNL share certain expenditure involved. Secretary, DOT may be contacted in this regard.

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

Annexure-I

Attendance of the **15th** Meeting of the Project Approval Board (PAB) of the National Mission on Education through **Information &** Communication Technology (NMEICT) held on **24th** May, 2010 at 4.00 p.m. under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources Development in Conference Room **No.112-C** Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

S.No.	Name, Designation and Address	Phone No., Fax and Email
1	Ms. Vibha Puri Das Secretary (HE) MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi Chairperson	
2	Mr. R.P.Agrawal Former Secretary (HE) & Chairman BOG IIT Delhi	rpal949@gmail.com
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4	Prof. Prem K Kalra Director, IIT-Rajasthan	pkalra@iitk.ac.in
5	Mr. N.K.Sinha Joint Secretary(DL) Department of Higher Education, MHRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi	23387781 nksinha.edu@nic.in
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7	Prof. Ajay Khare Director School of Planning & Architecture Bhopal	director@spabhopal.ac.in 9425019780 0755-2671120
8	Prof. Uma Kanjilal (Representing VC, IGNOU) Director SOSS. IGNOU New Delhi	ukanjilal@ignou.ac.in 9810488895
9	Prof. A. T. Khan Representing IIT Patna On behalf of Director Professor In charge Faculty Affairs IITP, Patna-800013	atu@iitp.ac.in 09162920826
10	Ms. Shakila Shamsu Joint Advisor Planning Commission	shakilatshamsu@nic.in

11	Mr. A. Mukhopadhyay DST, New Delhi	tsd@nic.in
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