Minutes of the Standing Committee of NMEICT held on March 3, 2014

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Participants:
Mission Director (NMEICT): Mr. Praveen Prakash

SC Chairman: Prof. H.P. Khincha

SC Members:

1. Prof. K. Mangala Sunder
2. Prof. C. G. Mahajan
3. Dr. Jayashree Sindhe,
4. Prof. Uma Kanjilal
5. Prof. Y.N. Singh
6. Prof. D.B. Phatak
7. Sh. Pradeep Varma,

Others present:
1. Prof. Kamal Bijlani,
2. Dr. C. S. Arora
3. Dr. Jagdish Arora,
4. PIs and the staff members of the projects presented.

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A. The Mission Director (NMEICT) Mr Praveen Prakash welcomed the new SC Chairman Prof. H.P. Khincha to this first meeting being chaired by him. The Mission Director also apprised the SC Chairman about the latest developments and new thrust areas of NMEICT being pursued particularly in last 6 months. He then gave a brief background of the proposals being put up for discussions in the SC Agenda.

B. In his opening remarks before start of the agenda of the meeting, as well as during the on-going discussions, the SC Chairman made the following observations and recommendations:

a. NMEICT should organize an extensive separate brainstorming meeting involving concerned PIs and stakeholders to evolve and finalize the indices for measuring the impact of various NMEICT Projects.

b. The present strength of NMEICT Consultants and support staff is very low in comparison to its Budget of around Rs. 5000/- crores. The Mission should immediately expand its capacity and set up regional offices for better coordination and monitoring of large projects.

c. NMEICT should form a sub-group of 2-3 SC members to identify all the unaddressed uploaded proposals on Sakshat Portal, and decide either to take up these proposals which should be considered further, or send a “Thanks” mail for remaining proposals.
d. Even for “invited proposals”, the PIs have to upload their proposals on Sakshat Portal after they're found fit to be considered further after the first SC meeting attended by them, so that all uploaded proposals being considered for PAB approval follow a uniform structured format.

e. A Policy document on e-Content creation, management and access needs to be written by MHRD/NMEICT on issues of mapping of this integrated E-Content Portal with other NMEICT e-Content sites. This document will also include issues relating to licensing and access. Mr Pradeep Varma, Senior Consultant (NMEICT) will coordinate. The Document is to be submitted by him to SC.

f. An appropriate documented policy for further distribution of Aakash Tablets should be prepared by NMEICT from now onwards, for transparent accountability of Tablets being distributed using public money.

g. Before the supply of new lot of Aakash tablets begins, NMEICT should create a network of support system for the tablets.

C. Before discussions on the Proposals put up in the Agenda, Chairman SC recommended that for each of the proposals being discussed in SC from now onwards, a Consultant should be clearly earmarked by Mission Director for that proposal. Before that proposal comes up again in SC, the proposal should be seen and commented upon by respective Consultant to be sure that the actions on the recommendations/decision in previous SC meeting are duly taken by the PI.

Subsequently, detailed discussions were held on each of the Agenda Items and after respective PIs’ presentations. The recommendations/ decisions of the Standing Committee in respect of each Agenda item is given below:

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the last Standing Committee held on 06.12.2013.**

   The Minutes were confirmed.

2. **Project: Utilization of NMEICT Products in State Technical Universities and Polytechnic System in the Southern Region.**

   PI: Dr. S. Mohan, Director, NITTTR Chennai.
   NMEICT Contact: Dr C.S.Arora, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)

   PI to revise the proposal incorporating the following observations:

   a. The present proposal is primarily a composition of two sub projects.
b. The first sub project is regarding monitoring and coordination of the outreach activities of the different projects of NMEICT like connectivity, NPTEL, Virtual labs, talk to teacher, e-yantra, spoken tutorials by NITTTR.

c. The second sub project is related to implementation of few activities by the NITTTR directly towards achieving technology enabled teaching by the colleges. Some of the activities are training teachers, providing access device to the teachers etc.

d. The funding for the both sub projects should be clearly mentioned in the project report

3. **Project: e-Training Environment for Training Technical (Polytechnic) Teachers & Students.**
   PI: Dr. S. Mohan, Director, NITTTR Chennai
   NMEICT Contact: Dr C.S.Arora, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)

   PI to revise the proposal extensively incorporating the following observations and re-submit:

   a. NITTTRs should take up the work of 750 courses in phases. In the first phase, only about 100-150 courses should be taken up with priority on courses in manufacturing science/engineering. The courses should be MOOCs compatible.

   b. In the proposal the designations/nomenclature of Project Coordinators, regional directors, etc should be avoided. Instead only the project staff positions should be asked for.

   c. The existing infrastructure of NITTTRs multimedia facilities should be utilized and mentioned appropriately.

   d. PI may work along with Prof. Mangala Sunder of NPTEL for preparing the revised DPR, to ensure that the proposed 100-150 courses are mapped with existing NPTEL courses and Virtual Labs.

   e. The revised proposal prepared as above will be seen and commented upon by Dr C.S.Arora, Senior Consultant (NMEICT) before being presented by PI in next SC meeting.

4. **Project: Integrated E-Content Portal.**

   PI: Dr. Jagdish Arora – INFLIBNET
   NMEICT Contact: Mr Pradeep Varma, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)

   The proposal was recommended to be taken up for PAB's approval.
5. Project: Developing a Joint Entrance Examination (Main) (JEE) Online Item Bank for Remedial Teaching and Learning of Candidates.

PI: Mr. Vineet Joshi, Chairman CBSE
NMEICT Contact: Dr C.S.Arora, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)

The Chairman observed that the idea behind this proposal is wonderful. However, after discussions, it was decided that PI to revise the proposal incorporating the following observations and re-submit/upload on Sakshat:

a. Financial requirements have to be looked into depth by PI giving detailed justifications/rationale and unit costs etc. Some cost heads may need serious review, e.g. Overhead Costs, which are not admissible.

b. The revised proposal may be prepared using the structured format for all uploaded proposals. Dr C.S.Arora, Senior Consultant (NMEICT) offered to send them the format to facilitate the PI before uploading their revised proposal on Sakshat.

c. PI may present the revised proposal in next SC meeting.


PI: Prof. K.V. Bhanu Murthy, University of Delhi.
NMEICT Contact: Ms. Aurobi Das, Consultant (NMEICT)

The Chairman observed that the philosophy behind this proposal has merits, but the funding estimates mentioned by PI need a serious re-look. After discussions, it was decided that:

a. PI to interact with Dr Phatak, IITB to understand the concepts and costing of remote centres already in operation under T10KT programme. PI may also have a look at the DTH Content creation in process under NMEICT.

b. PI will also study the work already done for creation of Commerce courseware in 70 colleges in Karnataka, where a Tablet-lab is being set-up for Commerce teaching in Bangalore.

c. After interactions and obtaining views of Dr Phatak, PI may prepare the revised DPR.

d. A two member SC subgroup comprising Prof Mahajan, and Prof. Uma Kanjilal will have a detailed look at the proposal.
   PI: Prof. R.K. Shevgaonkar, IIT Delhi.
   NMEICT Contact: Mr Pradeep Varma, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)
   Proposal deferred to next SC meeting as PI was unable to attend.

8. Project: Proposal for Consultancy for conversion of NPTEL video through Regional Languages.
   PI: Dr S. A. Shajahan, Registrar, CD-DIT.
   NMEICT Contact: Dr C.S.Arora, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)
   Proposal deferred to next SC meeting as PI was unable to attend.

   PI: Prof. Kannan Moudgalya, IIT Bombay.
   NMEICT Contact: Ms. Aurobi Das, Consultant (NMEICT)
   PI to revise the proposal incorporating the following observations and
   a. Whether 5 people are really needed for this study? PI to review and revise
      the financial requirements.
   b. Objective of the project needs to be re-worded suitably. Rather than
      “study”, it can be “comparison” of practices in USA and Singapore with
      Indian Universities. ICT mapping instead of IT mapping should be
      mentioned.
   c. Relevance with Indian Context has to be brought our clearly.
   d. Gitam University Vishakhapatnam should be included in the study.
   e. SC recommended to PI to reduce the overall budget

10. Project: Development of Computerized Vocational Educational Modules and Simulators for Vocational Education and Training
   PI: Prof. Bhavani B, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University.
   NMEICT Contact: Mr Pradeep Varma, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)
   a. PI was advised to first hold a Workshop Meet of 30-40 interested and like-
      minded professionals on the subject and give a report on the possibilities
      of proceeding further. The interested professionals should comprise
      NGOs, Industry, C-DAC Bangalore, and other related organizations.
      MHRD/NMEICT funding can be sought for holding this Workshop Meet.
   b. After receiving the Workshop report, PI will revise the proposal to re-look
      at certain costs as pointed out in the notes from KPMG (Desktop
      upgradation, Hindi dubbing, translation) and present the proposal to the
      next meeting of the Standing Committee.

PI: Dr. K. S. Daya, Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra.
NMEICT Contact: Mr Pradeep Varma, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)

a. It was noted by SC that PRSG meeting has not been held for this project so far. However Prof. Mangala Sunder had prepared a report on the project.

b. A two member PRSG (Prof. YN Singh and Prof. Karmeshu) will meet and consider the project status along with the report of Prof. Mangala Sunder. They’ll submit their report for discussion in SC meeting next month. PI will convene this meeting.

12. Project: Development of open source LMS with ERP functions & integration of already available open source modules, for distribution under GNU/GPL for use of academic institution.

PI: Prof. Y.N. Singh, IIT, Kanpur.
NMEICT Contact: Mr Pradeep Varma, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)

a. PI has been advised to hold a PRSG urgently.

b. PRSG to look at promised versus delivered status for each module.

c. PRSG to look at funds transferred to each partner institution and comment on whether the partner institution has delivered as committed or not. If not, reasons thereof.

d. PRSG to report whether there is any institution that has not delivered as committed in spite of having been given funds.

e. PI to present proposal to next SC meeting.

f. Extension of the project for next 6 months was recommended by SC.

13. Project: Establishment of Indian Association of Educational Technology (IAET) to promote Educational Technology initiatives in India.

PI: Prof. Vasudha Kamat, VC SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai
NMEICT Contact: Dr C.S.Arora, Senior Consultant (NMEICT)

Since the proposal relates to creating an “Association”, the PI was advised to first hold a 2-day Conference on Educational Technology using NMEICT funds, at SNDT Women’s University, Mumbai. In the conference minimum of 10-15 like-minded professionals in the field should be invited to deliberate on these proposal and get a resolution passed to be a part of proposed Association. This independent advice of professionals in the field by way of a Resolution can then be sent to MHRD/NMEICT before moving the proposal for creation of the Association.
ATTENDANCE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE UNDER NATIONAL MISSION ON EDUCATION THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.

Date/Time : 3rd March, 2014 at 11.00 A.M.
Venue : Willow Hall, Habitat World at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road New Delhi -110003.

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