

INFORMATION AND LIBRARY NETWORK (INFLIBNET) CENTRE
(AN IUC OF UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION)
AHMEDABAD 380 007

The 11th Meeting of the Governing Board (GB) of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at IUCAA, Pune on 4th January 2003. The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 1100 hrs. as per schedule and concluded at 1330 Hrs.

In the Chair

Dr. S Ramani

Chairman

Members

Dr. Ved Prakash

Dr. S Venkateswaran

Prof. C Khambholja

Prof. S K Kak

Prof. Shalini Urs

Dr. T A V Murthy

Dr. P Prakash

Dr. T S Kumbar

Shri C K Shah

Shri D P Negi

Secretary, UGC

Director, BITS, Pilani

Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat University

Dept. of IT & Head CC, BHI

Professor, Dept. of LIS, Mysore University

Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad

Jt. Secretary, UGC/(Invitee)

Scientist-D, INFLIBNET/(Invitee)

Admn. Officer (F&A), INFLIBNET/(Invitee)

Admn. Officer (P&A), INFLIBNET/(Invitee)

Prof. Y V Reddy, Prof. R K Jha, Prof. R S Nirjar, Dr. N S Rame Gowda and Dr. Amit Roy could not attend the meeting.

01 *Welcome:*

Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad introduced the new Chairman of the Governing Board, Dr. S Ramani, and also welcomed all the Members.

02 *Opening Remarks by the Chairman:*

While expressing his thanks, Dr Ramani extended a formal welcome to all the Members present in the meeting and initiated discussions on the Agenda Items.

03 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the Governing Board.

Since no comments, written or verbal, were there relating to the minutes of the 10th Governing Board, the Board confirmed the Minutes of the 10th meeting.

04 Report on the action taken items generated in the last GB Meeting:

The Director, Dr. T A V Murthy, apprised the Members of the action taken on the 7 points listed under item No.4 of the Agenda.

Action items	Action taken
GB Members desired that E-learning Group be set up at the Centre	This generated a lot of interest among the members and Dr. Venkateswaran, Director, BITS, Pilani, has suggested that the e-learning models developed by BITS, Pilani could be made available for effective use by the Centre. This offer was welcomed and accepted with thanks.
GB advised to have a data security policy for Centre's Web Site Hit Count analysis with feed back to the user to be incorporated in the web site. For instance, this could tell the user that he is the 3026 th visitor to the site since 1 Jan 03.	Centre's compliance - Noted
Detailed proposal regarding setting up of service facilities for SOUL to be submitted	Members felt that SOUL package needs a lot more discussion in view of the changing platforms and moving towards LINUX. It was also mentioned that outsourcing of the R&D activity and technology transfer by even freely making the software available on the Web could be explored. After extensive deliberations on the subject, it was decided to maintain status-quo for the present.
GB advised to work out details regarding consortia approach for e-journals	Since extensive exercises are being done by the consortia e-journal groups set up by the Commission, the Members advised the Director to have the inputs and project it in the Tenth

	Plan document suitably and present it before the Core Committee visiting shortly.
<p>GB desired that steps be taken to make Document Delivery Centres more effective and functional</p> <p>GB directed that librarians of Retrocon Project be called for a meeting and efforts be made to remove bottlenecks faced by them.</p>	<p>Considerable amount of debate went into this and finally it was agreed that in the light of the e-journal and UGC-Infonet, the relevance of DDC will become obsolete. Th activities would take a new shape. It was decided to give one more chance to the Centres to re-activate themselves. Centres not showing progress would be delinked from the project.</p>

05 *Status Report:*

Dr. Murthy briefed the Board on other ongoing activities of the Centre. This was received by the Board with satisfaction.

06 *Acquisition of land for the Centre at Infocity, Gandhinagar*

After considerable deliberation, the Members concluded that they would warmly welcome the offer of the Government of Gujarat in offering land in a prime location, free of cost, for establishment of the Centre. The Board strongly endorsed the Centre's proposal to accept the offer and take the possession of the land immediately. The Members advised the Centre to take up building construction activity including fencing and other developmental activities at an early date. The members also welcomed the projections made by the Finance Committee and GB documents in this regard, and endorsed them unanimously.

07 *Outsourcing of Installation and Maintenance of SOUL*

The matter has already been deliberated while giving the status report by the Director in Item No.3. Further, it was advised that this may be given a serious thought to take care of the after sales service which is a primary requirement in the light of the thin scientific skills available at the Centre. For this, Director was requested to prepare a document and circulate (electronically) to the members while maintaining the status-quo.

08 *INFLIBNET Training Centre for Southern Region - A P Government's offer of accommodation*

The Board appreciated the gesture of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in offering the accommodation at Hyderabad for the Southern Regional activities of the Centre. In the light of the innovative initiatives taken up by the Commission, some of which are entrusted to the Centre and co-ordination of the activities involving colleges etc. it has become important to have a decentralized mode of activity in INFLIBNET to serve the community well and effectively. They authorized the Director to suitably incorporate this proposal into the Tenth Plan document enumerating the manpower requirement and services envisaged.

09 *Filling up of vacant scientific posts:*

The Chairman expressed serious concern about the shortage of skilled manpower in proportion to the gigantic activities entrusted to the Centre by the Commission besides on-going activities. All the Members have joined unanimously in supporting the views of Dr. S Ramani.

In this context, Dr. Ved Prakash, Secretary, UGC, while agreeing with the views expressed, enlightened the members that the ban on recruitment is not applicable to the Scientific posts and has requested the Director to suitably submit the proposals for clearing the posts required immediately.

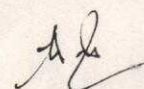
While realizing the gravity of the situation, he assured the Members that Commission would extend full support in this regard keeping in view its developmental activities and projected growth. Considering the present volume of workload and newer activities initiated by the Centre, the Governing Board unanimously agreed to the proposal indicated in the Agenda Item No.9.

10 *Briefing on NISSAT Project.*

The Members appreciated the commendable work done on a web-enabled Database of experts, supported by NISSAT in a Project mode. Since further support of the Project in relation to the funds from DSIR, NISSAT was not forthcoming, the Centre requested approval for continuation of the project and completion of the same under Centre's database activities, which was strongly endorsed by all the Members. This includes all the Project manpower and other related matters.

11 *Consortia for E-Journals:*

Dr. T A V Murthy apprised the Members about the gigantic project of e-journal subscriptions envisaged by the Commission and entrusted to the Centre. INFLIBNET has already initiated action with the cooperation of Dr.



Ajit Kembhavi of IUCAA and other distinguished Scientists and academicians. Experts drawn from different disciplines across the country are involved in identifying valuable e-journals and are suggesting operating models for adoption. The Centre has moved forward considerably and addressed the issues to a great extent in the areas of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities groups and held different levels of discussions at different parts of the country.

All the members noted this with pleasure, and appreciated the speedy actions taken in this direction.

12 *UGC-infonet:*

The Director, Dr. T A V Murthy, apprised all the members about the newer initiative entrusted by the Chairman, UGC to the Centre, involving ERNET India and the Universities in a co-coordinated manner under the guidance of Technical Tariff Committee headed by the Chairman, UGC. The Members noted the progress made in this direction. The Board appreciated the commencement of the training programme on Network Operations and Management. Further, the Centre is continuing its activities to play a pivotal role in this task in which ERNET India is assigned the responsibility of providing the necessary infrastructure on a turn-key basis.

13 *Disposal of old Computers, furniture and Fixtures:*


The proposals made with regard to the obsolete and unserviceable items like; Computers, Furniture and Fixtures etc. were agreed to.

14 *Revised 10th Plan*

The 10th plan document which was discussed in the 10th GB was subsequently enriched with new initiatives taken up by UGC like **UGC-Infonet, E-Journal Subscription** etc. Members authorized the Centre to place the document before the 10th Plan Visiting Team for final approval.

15 *Summary of the 8th meeting of the Finance Committee:*

The Governing Board considered the views expressed and recommendations made by the 8th Finance Committee meeting held on the same day preceding the meeting of the Governing Board and agreed



in to-to with its recommendations. Accordingly, the following budgetary provisions for the Centre, as proposed were approved by the Board.

Revised Estimates for 2002-03	Rupees in Lakhs	Budget Estimate for 2003-04	Rupees in Lakhs
Plan	56.50	Plan	71.00
Non Plan	213.00	Non Plan	234.95

16 *Presentation of Audited Accounts for FY 2001-2002:*

The Board considered the audited accounts of the Centre for the Financial Year 2001-02. After discussions on certain items and obtaining necessary clarifications, the Board agreed with the audited accounts and authorized the Director to place the same before the Governing Council for approval.

17 *Appointment of Auditors for the Financial Year 2002-03*

The Board considered the proposal of the Centre for appointment of Auditors for FY 2002-03 and approved the appointment of M/s T N Shah & Co. a firm of Chartered Accountants, as Auditors.

18 *MOU with ICICI Technology Park, Hyderabad*

Considering the growing importance and nature of activities of INFLIBNET, the ICICI Knowledge Park, Hyderabad, set-up by NISSAT has approached INFLIBNET Centre for sharing the information resources for mutual benefit of the academic, research and commercial communities through an MoU. Members were further enlightened with the virtual information centre activities and agreed in principle. However, GB desired to have the details including the draft MoU circulated electronically to the Members.

19 *Any other items with the permission of the Chair*

With the permission of the chair, the following matters were taken-up:

- a) Awareness about the service
To the Academic Community:

There was a general consensus that in view of the UGC-infonet, e-Journal subscription, e-contents activities etc. there is an urgent need to create an awareness of the wealth of available network resources among the academics, researchers and student

communities. After considerable discussion, the Chairman suggested that a Sub-Committee consisting of Prof. S K Kak, Dr. H K Kaul, Prof. Shailini Urs and Dr. T S Kumbar, should prepare a proposal to the Centre on a priority basis. This suggestion was accepted by the members concerned.

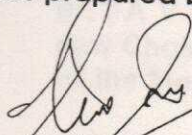
b) Regularization of the promotion cases of Two Officers of Administration:

The Members were informed that Two Officers of the Centre viz. Shri C K Shah, Admn. Officer (F&A) and Shri Ashok P Ahtani, Section Officer who were associated with the Centre since its inception were promoted based on the 5th Governing Board of the Centre in its meeting held at IUCAA on 12.1.1996. Subsequently, UGC pointed out that since the posts were not approved by the UGC prior to the appointment, these Officers should be reverted to their pre-promoted positions. The then Director of the Centre explained to the Commission that since the position with regard to the procedure was not clear, the Centre followed the prevailing practice and the rules prevailing at that time, and promoted these officers to the higher grade and, therefore, requested that their promotion may be regularized. However, instead of repeated requests and detailed justification provided by the Centre, these promotions have not been regularized so far. Therefore, the Board strongly recommended to the Commission to take a sympathetic view and regularize these promotion cases. Further, the Director informed that the Officers were willing to withdraw the Court cases in this regard.

20 *Vote of Thanks*

The meeting concluded with a Vote of thanks to the Chair and also to the Members for their active role and whole-hearted support and participation.

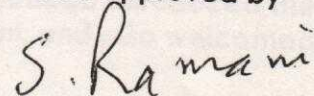
Minutes prepared by



(Dr. T A V Murthy)
Director
INFLIBNET Centre

Dr. T.A.V. MURTHY
Director.
INFLIBNET Centre
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Minutes approved by



(Dr. S Ramani)
Chairman
Governing Board