

MINUTES OF THE 13th GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF INFLIBNET CENTRE
HELD ON SUNDAY, THE 4TH OF JULY, 2004 AT
NATIONAL AEROSPACE LABORATORIES,
BANGALORE 560 017

The 13th Meeting of the Governing Board of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore. The meeting commenced at 1200 Hours. The following were present:

Dr. S Ramani

Chairman

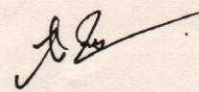
Members:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. V N Rajasekharan Pillai | Vice Chairman, UGC, New Delhi |
| 2. Dr. Ved Prakash | Secretary, UGC, Delhi |
| 3. Dr. S Venkateswaran | Director, BITS, Pilani |
| 4. Dr. A K Bhatnagar | VC, Pondicherry University |
| 5. Prof. Nupur Prakash | GGSI University, New Delhi |
| 6. Prof. V N Bhoraskar | Director, IUC-DAE, Indore |
| 7. Prof. Shalini Urs | University of Mysore, Mysore |
| 8. Dr. T A V Murthy | Director, INFLIBNET Centre &
Member Secretary |

Invitees:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Shri Pawan Agarwal, IAS | Financial Advisor, UGC, New Delhi |
| 2. Prof. Ajit Kembahavi | Dean, (VAP) IUCAA, Pune |
| 3. Dr. P Prakash | Joint Secretary (IUC) & Bureau-head
UGC, New Delhi |
| 4. Shri S M Salgar | Scientist-G, INFLIBNET, Centre |
| 5. Shri D P Negi | Admn. Officer (P A & F),
INFLIBNET Centre. |

Prof. A U Patel, Prof. Gautam Barua, Prof. N Bijoy Singh and Member Secretary, AICTE, New Delhi, could not attend the Meeting.



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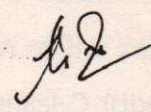
Welcome:

Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre who is also the Member Secretary of the Board, extended a warm welcome to the Chairman and the distinguished Members and introduced each one of them.

**01 Opening remarks
by the Chairman:**

At the outset, Dr. Ramani in his opening remarks also extended greetings to all the Members including the new Members who are joining for the first time and briefed them on the important activities of the Centre including the newer programmes like: UGC-infonet, E-Journal Consortia, Awareness Training, continuous R & D of SOUL Software, quantum jump on the National Database etc. He mentioned that the Centre is progressing on fast-track with limited staff, its achievements have been phenomenal and activities are growing very well. It has set new benchmark in the overall developments.

Dr. Ramani apprised the Members about the discussion he had with Dr. Gulshan Rai, Executive Director, Mrs. Geeta Kapthalia of ERNET, Dr. Ajit Kembhavi and Dr. Murthy on the previous day about the pressing issue of ERNET connectivity under UGC-Infonet to the Universities and expressed satisfaction on the overall solutions put forth and the remedial measures taken by the ERNET authorities in this regard.



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Prof. V N Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chairman, UGC greatly appreciated Dr. Murthy's efforts in taking INFLIBNET all over the country which is now very much seen and is making inroute into Delhi Colleges. He also further appreciated Dr. Murthy's presentations made before the Principals of the Delhi Colleges in a meeting convened by him recently where all the Principals were delighted to know that such activities are taking place and they wanted to be partners in getting the benefit of INFLIBNET's activities.

Dr. Ved Prakash, Secretary, UGC placed on record his appreciation of the tremendous efforts made by Dr. Murthy and his team and quantum jump in all fronts in the Centre which he said is clearly visible in the country. He expressed support on behalf of the Commission to the Centre's Projects and initiatives.


Shri Pawan Agarwal also joined in complimenting the Director and his team for their impressive performance in spite of constraints.

02 Confirmation of the minutes of the 11th GB meeting

Since no comments were received relating to the minutes of 12th GB, the Board confirmed the minutes.

03 Report on the action taken in the last GB Meeting:

The members noted the actions taken by the Centre on the action items generated in the last meeting and expressed satisfaction on all the items. However, the item relating to filling-up of the post of Scientist-D (Library



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Science) generated further debate. In response to certain queries raised by some of the Members, the Director furnished the necessary clarifications.

04 Status Report

The Members considered the status report reflecting all the developmental and, newer initiatives and achievements of the Centre presented by Dr. T A V Murthy and expressed their happiness and satisfaction.

While taking note of the SOUL promotional activities, the Vice Chairman was of the opinion that the interface of the regional languages in multi-lingual form in the Software is yet to be developed. Under the circumstances, he advised that It will be appropriate to publish the Manuals in English and Hindi only, for the present. On this topic, the Director apprised the Board that the Manuals of SOUL Software in regional languages were prepared keeping in mind the demand from the users for their ready reference. However, the suggestion made was noted for compliance.

05 Status of UGC-infonet:

The Director briefed the members about the status of the UGC-infonet, which includes coordination role and implementation carried out by the Centre in collaboration with ERNET. The Director further mentioned that the Centre always accorded top priority to this activity as this is the vehicle for transporting the E-journals and databases and eventually the E-Learning etc.



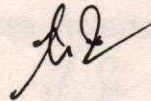
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Dr. Bhoraskar, made a request for extending the same facility to his Centre and other IUCs. At this point, Director requested the Convener, Joint Technical & Tariff Committee to enlighten Members about E-Journal Programme. Based on the input provided by Prof. Kembhavi, all the Members expressed a sense of satisfaction and appreciated the role of INFLIBNET & ERNET for effective coordination.

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, while participating in the deliberations, suggested that 1 Mbps connectivity may be provided to all the Universities and performance watched. He stated that if it is provided to even 100 Universities to start with, it may cost just about Rs.10 crores per annum @ Rs.10 lakhs per University per year. He further reiterated that by doing so, the accessibility to the E-journals will be more effective and, therefore, he is going to take up the issue in the ensuing meeting of the Joint Technical & Tariff Committee of UGC-Infonet.

06 Status of E-Journal Consortium

The Director presented a brief on the E-Journal Consortium including the coverage, coordination with the Universities which also includes training awareness programmes and making all these available on the website of INFLIBNET. He also mentioned to the Members that all the specific 12 queries raised by Shri Pawan Agarwal were attended to within 24 hours and informed that the action arising out of them were implemented. A live demo on the E-journal was also shown on the INFLIBNET website to the Board. The prompt and comprehensive action taken by the Centre was appreciated by all.



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The Members expressed satisfaction over the mammoth task undertaken and executed by the Centre, as it is the largest academic consortium in the world.

Prof. Pillai suggested that INFLIBNET should conduct 8-10 Capacity building Programme on E-Teaching, UGC-Infonet, E-Journals and ICT enabled services for Teachers in Delhi colleges during the next one year. The Board unanimously concurred with this.

The Director requested the Convener, National Negotiation Committee on E-journals to enlighten the Members with other aspects relating to the Consortium. Prof. Kembhavi gave a brief account of this activity and complimented the Director for the achievements and splendid performance of INFLIBNET in executing the Project.

He further mentioned that the Committee will be taking up the request of all the IUCs for extending UGC-Infonet and E-journal Consortia after obtaining clear guidelines from the Chairman, UGC.

07 Review of DDs and Retrocon Projects

The Document Delivery and Retro-conversion Projects initiated a few years back were reviewed by the Board. Taking into account all the aspects including progress made, the Board advised the Director to directly take up these initiatives and include them in the Centre's regular activities and project the Budget for the same in the Centre's budgetary document. However, they also advised to constantly monitor these Projects with

reference to the performance of the participating universities and take remedial measures including expanding the scope of the projects by adding few more potential universities, dropping non-performers and outsourcing wherever necessary.

08 Filling up of vacant Scientific/Technical Posts

The Chairman and Members expressed great concern about the seriousness associated with the inadequate manpower in the Centre and sought the Commission's help in resolving this issue by releasing the vacant posts from the ban. The Board further advised to create some new posts at senior level to carry out mission based newer responsibilities in the present scenario in both Scientific/Technical and Administrative areas.

The Secretary was sympathetic and advised to explore the possibility of taking the personnel on deputation basis. The FA made an observation that in taking the people on deputation, the recruitment rules/norms of the Centre may have to be amended suitably. Dr. Boraskar expressed the views that it will be economical to take the people on lien basis rather than deputation.

09 Promotion Policy for Scientific & Technical Staff:

The issue of periodical performance based promotion scheme (flexible complementing) for the Scientific & Technical staff of the Centre was taken up by the Director for discussion. The Director, Scientist-G and Admn. Officer of the Centre brought to the notice of the Board that the promotion scheme to the Scientific staff and also the GPF/Pension Scheme which were

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operational till April 1998 were withdrawn. Consequently, many of the talented, experienced and qualified staff members have left the organization for better opportunity elsewhere creating a vacuum. This has adversely affected the working culture and morale of the staff.

The Director strongly advocated for re-introduction of the promotion scheme so as to retain and attract the talent in carrying out the challenging tasks assigned to the Centre. He also mentioned that since the Commission has been kind enough to re-start the process of promotion for S&T personnel in a few IUCs, the possibility of extending this to INFLIBNET too is the need of the hour in the best interest of the existing manpower and organization as well.

The Secretary shared the anguish and assured that the Commission will look into this aspect. Dr. Prakash apprised the Board that he will take up the matter with the Chairman, UGC to set up a Committee for promotion policy for the staff of INFLIBNET and NAAC, since they have already set up a similar Committee for promotion policy for CEC Staff. Dr. Bhoraskar, who is also the Convener of the IUC Forum advised that this issue may also be taken up properly in the next meeting of the Forum which he is planning to call in the near future.

10 Extension of GPF-cum-Pension Scheme for Staff:

Shri D P Negi, Admn. Officer (PA&F) apprised the Members about the genuine problems faced by the Centre with regard to GPF-cum-Pension-cum-Gratuity Scheme which was in operation earlier and is applicable as



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per the approved By-Laws of the Centre. He further apprised the Board about the repercussions arising out the reversal of the Scheme and mentioned that It has created a negative impact among the existing employees and acted as a deterrent in attracting and inducting the talents. He has also cited examples from the Department of Energy, Space, CSIR etc. where the Autonomous bodies of these Departments/Organisations are having both CPF-cum-Gratuity and GPF-cum-Pension-cum-Gratuity schemes in operation.

The Bureau-head, while appreciating the complexity involved assured that the matter is being re-looked at the Commission's level.

The FA also shared the views on this serious issue and apprised the Board that this is a common problem confronted by all the IUCs and is again being taken up by him with MHRD. He assured that he will use his good offices with the Ministry since this involves welfare of the Staff.

While debating on the above issue, the case of settlement of Pensionary/retirement benefits payable to Shri Promod Kumar, former Director of the Centre, which is pending due to retrospective withdrawal of GPF/Pension scheme, also came up for discussion. The matter was deliberated at length and the members expressed the views that the Commission may reconsider his case and issue necessary communication to the Centre, in order to settle his claims amicably.



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11 Summary of the 10th meeting of the Finance Committee:

The Chairman gave a brief over-view of the deliberations of the 10th Finance Committee meeting, which was also held on the same day preceding the meeting of GB and requested Shri D P Negi, Admn. Officer (PA & F) of the Centre to present the proposals for RE for FY 2004-05 and BE for FY 2005-06. After due deliberations and taking all aspects in account, the GB approved the Budget Estimates of the Centre, as follows:

Revised Estimates for FY 2004-05	(Rupees in lakhs)	Budget Estimates for FY 2005-06	(Rupees in lakhs)
Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.2500 lakhs for E-Journal Consortium, Rs.85.00 lakhs for Plan Budget of the Centre and Rs.2.00 lakhs for construction of permanent building/Campus Development.	2587.00	Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.3000 lakhs for E-Journal Consortium, Rs.85.00 lakhs for Plan Budget of the Centre and Rs.200 lakhs for construction of permanent building/Campus Development.	3285.00
Non-Plan	302.50	Non-Plan	333.00
Total	2889.50	Total	3618.00

12 Presentation of Audited Accounts for FY 2003-04:

The Board considered the audited accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2003-04. After discussion on certain items and obtaining necessary

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clarifications, the Board agreed with the audited accounts and authorized Director to place the same before the Council for approval.

13 Appointment of Auditors for FY 2004-05

The GB considered the proposal of the Centre for appointment of Auditors and approved re-appointment of M/s Navin & Deepak as Auditors for the year 2004-05.

14 Grant of TA to Scientist-D (CS) on joining INFLIBNET Centre

The Board considered the proposal and accorded necessary approval for grant of TA to him. However, the members advised the Director to deal with this as per Government of India's Rules.

15 Any Other items:

a) SOUL

Enhancement of remuneration to SOUL Coordinators and Technical personnel attached with the Coordinators:

Scientist-G took up the issue of enhancement of remuneration to SOUL Coordinators and Technical personnel attached with the Coordinators in view of the overall increase in the wages elsewhere and the responsibility shouldered by them and requested the Board to consider suitably enhancement of their remuneration. The Board

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advised the Director to take up the matter by Circulation as the matter is urgent.

**b) Setting up of Regional Office
at JNTU Hyderabad:**

Shri D P Negi, AO (PA&F) apprised the Chairman and Members about the steps taken in acquiring the accommodation allotted by JNTU at their Masab Tank Campus at Hyderabad and taking over the possession of the same to initiate INFLIBNET's regional activities. He mentioned that the formal possession was taken over a month ago and necessary action has already been initiated for furnishing the accommodation with Furniture & Fixtures and other facilities/amenities for operational requirement. The Board was also apprised that the necessary equipments like; Computer Systems, Server etc. and 512 kpbs leased Internet line through ERNET are being procured on priority basis so that the Regional Office will be ready for taking up the training programmes and other functions as early as possible. The Members expressed satisfaction over these initiatives.

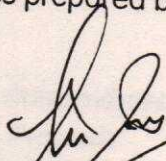


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16 **Vote of Thanks**

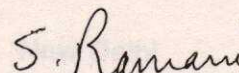
The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and also to the members for their active role, wholehearted support and participation.

Minutes prepared by



(Dr. T A V Murthy)
Member Secretary, GB
Director, INFLIBNET Centre

Minutes approved by



(Dr. S Ramani)
Chairman-Governing Board
INFLIBNET Centre