

## **MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF INFLIBNET CENTRE**

**HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2000 AT AHMEDABAD AT 1000 HRS.**

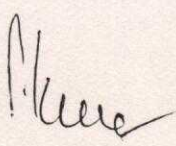
Prof. Yash Pal, Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Governing Board, desired that a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and the Governing Board be held first to discuss certain important matters. The normal meetings of the FC and the GB could be held after this joint meeting. This meeting started at 1000 hrs. Following persons were present :

Prof. Yash Pal : In Chair  
Dr. R.P.Gangurde, Secretary, UGC  
Prof. Arun Nigvekar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Pune  
Prof. M.P. Kapoor, Director, TIET  
Dr. T.A.V.Murthy, Librarian, CIEFL  
Prof. T.Viswanathan, Director, INSDOC  
Shri Pramod Kumar, Director, INFLIBNET Centre  
Shri S.M.Salgar, Scientist "G", INFLIBNET Centre  
Shri C.K.Shah, Admn. Officer-III, INFLIBNET Centre

### **Invitees :**

Shri N. Pant, Member, Space Commission  
Dr. T.S.Kumbar, Scientist "D", INFLIBNET Centre  
Shri S.K.Hasan, Scientist "D", INFLIBNET Centre  
Shri D.P.Negi, Admn. Officer-II, INFLIBNET Centre

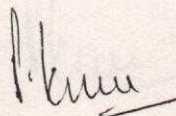
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Prof. Yash Pal welcomed Prof. Nigvekar as new GB member and Dr. T.A.V. Murthy as new FC and GB member. He said that preliminary discussions regarding initiating a Programme like INFLIBNET, started at the UGC in 1987. It was expected that a network linking all the universities would be set up last year. Lots of persons from various departments/institutions were involved in this effort as members of the Technical Committee. Based on the discussions with the vendors, the project proposal was modified by the Committee with a view to develop most suitable configuration to take care of data, audio and video transmission requirements of universities. Prof. Yash Pal was unhappy that no progress has been made in last one year in Networking efforts. He emphasised that it was essential to get the network up at the earliest. He also observed that during his visits to universities he found very poor interconnection between them. Real genius people are available in small places. They have to be provided with proper networking facilities. Due to fast technology growth, their may be feeling that VSAT technology has become obsolete and one must adopt fibre optic technology. Prof. Yash Pal suggested that a VSAT network has the advantage that it can be set up quickly covering wide areas. When other means of networking become available in future like high speed national backbone of DOT, these VSATs can be shifted to colleges in remote areas. One can not wait for an ultimate technology.

He was of the view that funds provided by the UGC to universities for modernising their libraries were too meagre. In spite of the meagre funding, lot of work has been done under INFLIBNET Programme. Variety of software packages have been developed, databases have been created, training courses have been conducted and required competence has been built up. Now the librarians are talking the same language as the IT professionals. All kinds of things have been done but this is not enough. Much more is yet to be done. He was surprised that there seems to be no urgency.



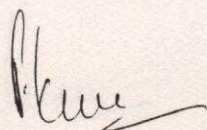


Prof. Viswanathan wanted a firm commitment from UGC since project is getting delayed. He added that though there may be presently bandwidth limitations, satellite network was the fastest way to connect universities in the country. Any other method will take years to link 170 universities.

Shri Pant informed that INFLIBNET had studied three options viz. VSAT, ISP and Leased line for networking of universities. Techno-economic note was prepared and submitted to the UGC. Out of the three options, VSAT works out to be the most cost effective option. For a country like ours, there is a need to have an educational satellite. MHRD can ask ISRO for such a satellite to be made available in next 3-4 years. The presently proposed VSAT network can then mesh with the educational satellite.

Dr. Gangurde said that he was proud of this visionary programme. UGC had started many programmes for the first time in the country. He added that expected things could not happen in last one year due to administrative lacuna. Finance is not a problem. Money for establishing this network has been given to INFLIBNET Centre. He had been of the opinion that UGC should not have got involved in the tendering process. The whole objective has got diluted. He had told the Chairman that activities of the IUCs were not properly projected. He suggested that a separate meeting of the Commission should be held where IUCs can tell what they planned to do. He added that he will convey the feelings of the GB to the Chairman and the Commission.

Prof. Nigvekar said that delay is blessing in disguise sometimes. Too many persons seem to have entered the arena of this network but had no clear perspective. He also pointed out some gaps in INFLIBNET's strategy. Neither the UGC nor the universities were getting a proper feel of what the INFLIBNET was doing in networking. They are not aware of INFLIBNET's



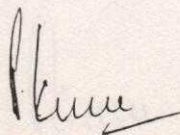


efforts. Universities are going on their own for networking. He felt that to automate all the universities in the country at one go was a poor exercise. It was like spreading the butter too thin. Instead, 20-30 universities only should have been taken up in first phase for full automation, which would have set up an example. Money has been thinly spread. He wanted to know if INFLIBNET was aware that IITs and IISc were to be connected by Vidya-vahini. He wanted INFLIBNET to brief the GB about the latest scenario. It should prepare a 3-4 page document and circulate to GB members.

Prof. Kapoor also felt that things did not seem to move at all. There seemed to be a stalemate. Technology was changing very fast and one should not, therefore, take long time to decide about the technology to be used. Best available technology presently should be used. It can then be upgraded. He also felt that butter should not be spread thinly. Pick one university and make it a model to show it to others and then slowly bring others into the fold. He informed that TIET had established a 600 node LAN without any monetary support from UGC or AICTE.

Director explained that this was done as the mandate at that stage was to create IT awareness in university libraries and get enough data generated for network to be useful for sharing of information at the earliest.

Prof. Yash Pal said that he had attended a number of CALIBERS. In the first CALIBER, few librarians were aware of IT. In the last CALIBER he found that most of the librarians were IT knowledgeable. Credit for this transformation goes to INFLIBNET. We have to bring entire academic community into it. People will get infected with network and will try to get money from other sources. Highways are O.K. for affluent institutions like IITs and IISc. But bulk of the people are not involved in this. We need footpaths. Unless universities and



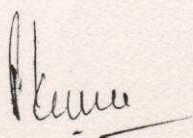


colleges get connected, India is not going to progress. He said that VSAT network was the only solution if one wanted to have wide reach and quick implementation. It can then slowly switch over to other technologies as better options emerge.

All the Board members were of the view that UGC should provide committed support for establishment of VSAT Network. It should take advice of the technical committee set up by the UGC and make use of expertise available at INFLIBNET Centre to examine alternative options, if necessary. Members also expressed a desire to meet the Chairman, UGC to convince him to proceed with the VSAT project.

The Governing Board then decided that a resolution be sent to the Chairman of the UGC regarding GB's views and feelings on the subject of UGC network. Accordingly following resolution was unanimously adopted by the GB for transmission to the Chairman, UGC.

1. Electronic connectivity among all the universities is of utmost importance and should be realised without any further delay.
2. While recognising different technology options available for connectivity viz. ISPs, leased lines, fibre optics, VSAT Network etc., the Governing Board is still of the opinion that VSAT is the best option to realise connectivity in the shortest possible time in a cost-effective manner.
3. The Governing Board therefore urges the Chairman, UGC to consider immediate implementation of this network in a time frame of 6 to 12 months in a project mode.





Formal meeting of the Governing Board started at 1500 hrs. Following persons were present :

Prof. Yash Pal

: In Chair

Dr. R.P. Gangurde, Secretary, UGC

Prof. Arun Nigvekar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Pune

Prof. M.P. Kapoor, Director, TIET

Dr. T.A.V. Murthy, Librarian, CIEFL

Prof. T. Viswanathan, Director, INSDOC

Shri Pramod Kumar

: Member Secretary

**Invitees :**

Shri S.M. Salgar, Scientist "G", INFLIBNET Centre

Dr. T.S. Kumbar, Scientist "D", INFLIBNET Centre

Shri S.K. Hasan, Scientist "D", INFLIBNET Centre

Shri C.K. Shah, Admn. Officer-III, INFLIBNET Centre

Shri D.P. Negi, Admn. Officer-II, INFLIBNET Centre

Following persons could not attend the meeting :

Prof. R.S. Nirjar, Member Secretary, AICTE

Prof. Jayant Narlikar, Director, IUCAA

Prof. Naresh Ved, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University

Deliberations of the meeting are summarised below :

**Agenda Item No. 2 : Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board were circulated to the members by the Secretary vide his letter No. DIR/6.1.6/99 dated May 5, 1999. Since no



comments were received, the minutes were confirmed after checking with the members present.

### **Agenda Item No. 3 : Action Taken Report**

The Director reported the actions taken on various action items generated in the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board as given in the agenda papers. There were no further comments/ suggestions from the members.

### **Agenda Item No. 4 : Status Report**

As part of the Status Report, Director highlighted the achievements and problems faced by the Centre. Achievements are brought out in the Status Report given to the members of the GB. Following problems were discussed in detail for GB's advice.

#### **Difficulty in recruitment of Information Scientist at universities**

The Director briefed the Board about the difficulties faced by universities in recruitment of Information Scientist and the resulting delay because of which work is not progressing satisfactorily even though computers have been purchased. The sanction letter from UGC and a circular to Registrars of universities stipulate :

1. That the salary of Information Scientist will be paid by the UGC for the first five years only from the date of installation of computer system in the library.
2. State Government's permission is required to absorb the post of the Information Scientist after five years even for recruitment on Project basis.

*P. Kumar*



Director brought to the notice of Dr. Gangurde the contents of the circular from UGC to this effect and clarified that a suggestion was given by the Review Committee to recruit Information Scientist on Project basis to help universities to carry on with the programme till approval from the State Government was obtained. Because of the UGC's circular now universities are not in a position to recruit them even on Project basis. Dr. Gangurde assured the Director that he will look at the circular and take corrective action. He agreed that the grant can be utilised by universities within a period of seven years from the date of sanction.

#### **Regularisation of the Post of Administrative Officer -I**

Regarding regularisation of the post of Administrative Officer-I, the Governing Board passed a resolution requesting the UGC to take a sympathetic view at the matter and regularise the post of Administrative Officer-I because the person involved has to be absorbed as he has come on permanent absorption from another Government organisation and lower post vacated by him in INFLIBNET has already been filled up. Chairman, GB made a specific request to the Secretary, UGC to resolve the matter.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5 : Recommendations of the Finance Committee**

The GB meeting was preceded by the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee. Director gave a briefing on the decisions taken in FC.

Members after going through the agenda papers of the Finance Committee made following comments.

In the summary of the budget requirements, given in tabular form on page 54 of the FC agenda papers, sum of Rs. 15 lakhs is projected in BE for FY 2000-2001 towards procurement of CD-ROM databases. GB wanted this Centre to produce a paper and circulate to the GB members as to how these CD-ROM databases are used.



After considering the recommendations of the Finance Committee, GB approved following budget for the Centre.

- Revised Estimates of Rs. 199.36 lakhs under Non-Plan Head and Rs. 60.00 lakhs under Plan Head for F.Y. 1999-2000 for the Centre.
- Rs. 200.00 lakhs against Rs. 224.18 lakhs projected as B.E. for F.Y. 2000-2001 under Non-Plan Head.
- Against a total Plan projection of Rs. 266.09 lakhs for F.Y. 2000-2001 by the Centre, (including Rs. 150.00 lakhs for building construction), Secretary, UGC told that Rs. 60.00 lakhs only is likely to be made available because these allocations are made on five year plan basis. He suggested INFLIBNET to write separately to UGC for requirement of funds for building.
- Following items projected for networking of universities were discussed.
  - ♦ Rs. 1 lakh in RE 1999-2000 and Rs. 3 lakhs in BE 2000-2001 for furniture for the Hub station( # 8, pp 65, FC agenda papers)
  - ♦ Rs. 46 lakhs in BE 2000-2001 for High Speed Internet connection( #1, pp66, FC agenda papers)
  - ♦ Rs. 392 lakhs in BE 2000-2001 as grant-in-aid to 140 universities for procurement of network servers@ Rs. 2.8 lakhs per university ( #3, New Starts, pp 50, FC agenda papers).

The GB approved the requirement shown under these budget heads, but wanted them to be reflected in the VSAT Project budget as they pertain to the proposed INFLIBNET/UGC Network.

- Director informed the Board that in the last meeting of GB, budget was approved for initiating Document Delivery Service and Retrospective Conversion of collection. UGC was, however, not able to provide funds due to budget crunch. Dr. Gangurde advised the Director to write to him separately for



making the provision for funding of these projects. (# 1 & # 2, New Starts, pp 50, FC agenda papers).

### **Agenda Item No. 6 : Matters Related to Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission Recommendations**

Following decisions were taken by GB on matters related to Fifth Pay Commission Recommendations.

- GB noted the proposed changes in recruitment rules for scientific and technical staff but did not take any decision (# 1, pp 36, GB agenda papers).
- GB noted the proposed eligibility criteria for promotion of scientific and technical staff but did not take any decision (# 1.1, pp38, GB agenda papers). Dr. Gangurde advised that INFLIBNET need not write separately to the UGC on this matter. Once the promotion scheme gets approved for NSC, it will be implemented in other IUCs too, including INFLIBNET Centre. GB in principle agreed to implementation of the changes as per UGC's advise.
- Regarding revision of remuneration to consultants, Dr. Gangurde advised that Director, INFLIBNET Centre may write to UGC for approval (# 2, pp 39, GB agenda papers).
- GB agreed to send proposal to UGC for raising the age of superannuation of non-academic staff (Administrative and Support) from 58 years to 60 years as per Government of India's orders in light of the 5th Pay Commission's recommendations.
- Regarding continuation of lease accommodation scheme till May 31, 2000, the Board agreed that the present lease contracts may be honoured. GB agreed in principle that INFLIBNET may buy flats for use as staff quarters, after expiry of the lease contracts by 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2000. INFLIBNET should however, send a proposal in this regard for approval of additional fund under Plan budget head to UGC. (#4, pp 40, GB agenda papers).



**Agenda Item No. 7 : Promotional Avenues for Non-Academic Staff**

GB did not take any decision on this matter as it is coupled with NSC and other IUCs. Common decision is to be conveyed by the UGC.

**Agenda Item No. 8 : Disposal of Old Computers**

GB approved disposal of 10 old computers by entering into buy back arrangement with computer vendors, while purchasing new computers.

**Agenda Item No. 9 : Appointment of Auditors**

GB approved appointment of M/s T.N.Shah & Co., Chartered Accountants as auditors for F.Y. 2000-2001. Fees will be fixed by the Director, INFLIBNET Centre depending upon the workload.

**Agenda Item No. 10 : Appointment of Trainees**

GB approved that INFLIBNET may engage maximum of six trainees every year in different disciplines on stipend ranging from Rs.3000/- p.m. to Rs.4000/- p.m as per present practice.

**Agenda Item No. 11 : Pricing of SOUL Software**

GB decided that INFLIBNET should uniformly charge Rs. 50,000/- per copy of SOUL software, irrespective of the category of institution buying it. This cost will include 1 year free support to the buyer. GB advised that only multiuser version may be supplied as single user version has no use. Any modification in the pricing of SOUL may be considered after a year, based on the response of users. GB also



approved sale of this software to the Y.B.Chavan Open university, who want to include this software in their curriculum for M.Lib. course.

**Agenda Item No. 12 : MOU for Associate Membership**

GB approved draft of Memorandum of Understanding for Associate Membership of INFLIBNET Centre. GB suggested that only academic and R & D institutions, which do not fall under the purview of the UGC, should be made Associate members of INFLIBNET.

**Agenda Item No. 13 : Extension of Recurring Grant to Universities**

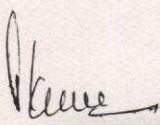
GB approved that in case of Information Scientist, salary may be provided by the UGC from the date of installation of computer system in university library for first five years within the overall limit of seven years. GB also agreed that UGC should streamline the procedure for release of recurring grant well in time so that universities get sufficient time to utilise them in the same financial year.

**Agenda Item No. 14 : Cooperation between Fiz-Karlsruhe, Germany and INFLIBNET Centre**

GB did not approve this proposal.

**Agenda Item No. 15 : EU-India Cross Cultural Programme**

GB did not approve this proposal. Dr. Gangurde informed that UGC had several schemes under which scientists from IUCs can visit foreign institutions for updating their knowledge. He agreed to send details of such schemes to INFLIBNET, so that scientists can make use of them.





**Agenda Item No. 16 : Supply of Past CALIBER Proceedings to Universities Free of Cost**

GB approved supply of past CALIBER proceedings to university libraries free of cost by INFLIBNET. GB advised that in future, INFLIBNET should get printed only required number of CALIBER proceedings.

**Agenda Item No. 17 : Presentation of Annual Report**

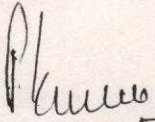
Draft copies of Annual Report of INFLIBNET Centre for the F.Y. 1998-99 were given to the members and they were requested to send their comments/ suggestions to the Director, INFLIBNET Centre within a fortnight.

**Agenda Item No. 18 : Any Other Item with the permission of the Chair**

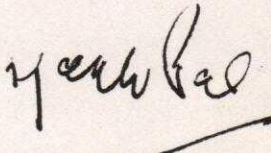
There was a suggestion from Dr. Murthy that GB members may be invited to attend CALIBER. Prof Yash Pal readily agreed to this suggestion and asked the Director, INFLIBNET Centre to do the needful.

The meeting ended at 1700 hrs. with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes prepared by

  
3.2.2000  
**(Pramod Kumar)**  
Secretary, GB

Minutes approved by

  
**(Yash Pal)**  
Chairman, GB