

## MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF INFLIBNET CENTRE

The eighth meeting of the Governing Board of the INFLIBNET Centre was held at the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2000 at 1130 hrs. Following were present :

### **In the Chair:**

Dr. Arun Nigavekar, Vice-Chairman, UGC

### **Members:**

Prof. S. K. Kak	BHU, Varanasi
Prof. R. K. Jha	BHU, Varanasi
Dr. T.A.V. Murthy	CIEFL, Hyderabad
Shri Pramod Kumar	Director, INFLIBNET & Member Secretary

### **Invitees:**

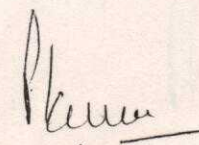
Dr. R. P. Gangurde	Additional Secretary, UGC
Dr. P. Prakash	Dy. Secretary, UGC
Shri S. M. Salgar	Scientist "G", INFLIBNET Centre
Dr. T. S. Kumbar	Scientist "D", INFLIBNET Centre
Shri C. K. Shah	Admn. Officer-III, INFLIBNET Centre
Shri D. P. Negi	Admn. Officer-II, INFLIBNET Centre

Dr. G.G.Dandapat, Prof. Naresh Ved, Prof. R.S.Nirjar, Prof. M.P.Kapoor and Prof. G.K.Mehta could not attend the meeting.

The deliberations on various agenda items are summarised below:

### **AGENDA ITEM No. 1 : Address by the Chairman, GB**

In his opening address, Dr. Nigavekar expressed GB's deep sense of appreciation and gratitude towards Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman of GB, for the enormous contribution made by him for this programme. In last decade, he was instrumental in bringing INFLIBNET Programme from conceptual to operational level. Prof. Nigavekar also acknowledged the substantial contribution made by Shri P.P.Kale, former Director of Space Applications Centre, towards this programme. With his

  
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deep knowledge of communication technology, Shri Kale provided very useful help and guidance to this Centre, especially for networking.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 2 : Welcome to new members and  
Chairman's remarks**

Dr. Nigavekar welcomed the two eminent technocrats viz. Prof.Kak and Prof.Jha to the GB. He observed that Prof. Kak is a computer wizard and Prof. Jha is a communication expert. He expected them to provide necessary guidance to INFLIBNET in its future endeavours.

Dr. Nigavekar said that INFLIBNET is a decade old programme. Lot of changes have taken place, since its inception, in the field of Information Technology. Many of the objectives laid down earlier may not be valid. INFLIBNET needs new directions. GB should try to redefine the future role for this centre. He said that many ideas may emerge from this meeting.

Dr. Gangurde told that the INFLIBNET has not been able to make impact on the academic community as well as Commission members due to lack of information about this programme. He suggested that vigorous efforts are required to be made in this direction and also to make presentation before the Commission.

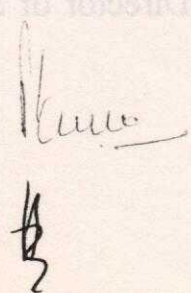
**AGENDA ITEM No. 3 : Confirmation of the minutes  
of last meeting of GB**

Since no specific comments were received from the members on the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GB, the minutes were confirmed.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 4 : Action Taken Report**

GB members were briefed about the actions taken by INFLIBNET on the action items generated in the last GB meeting.

- Regarding revision of remuneration to the consultants, GB advised that INFLIBNET may follow Govt. of India rules in the matter of appointment of consultants. GB also requested UGC to expedite the matter.



- Regarding raising the age of superannuation of non-academic staff from 58 years to 60 years, UGC representatives informed that the proposal sent by the Centre in this regard is under consideration.

- GB was informed by UGC that INFLIBNET's proposal for additional funds for buying residential flats for the staff is linked with the location of INFLIBNET's office premises. GB was informed that Government land is available in Gandhinagar for construction of staff quarters where the offer for land for institutional building was made by the Gujarat Government. GB wanted INFLIBNET to prepare a detailed proposal examining various options like buying land and constructing residences or outright purchase of ready made flats from different Govt. agencies etc.

- Regarding schemes for sending scientists abroad for enriching knowledge, it was suggested that INFLIBNET should first make necessary provision for it in the budget and then get individual cases approved.

#### **AGENDA ITEM No. 5 : Status Report**

Director briefed the Governing Board about the initiatives taken by the Centre and the status of various activities.

##### **1. Automation of University Libraries:**

Director gave a brief on the total activity of automation, which included system definition, procurement of computers, training of staff, software development & installation and helping universities in starting computerised library operations. So far 123 universities have been provided necessary grants and work of automation is at different stages.

##### **2. Review Meeting :**

Director appraised the Board of various difficulties faced by universities in implementing INFLIBNET Programme.

(a) Regarding the difficulties faced in recruiting Information Scientists by universities, GB suggested that

- i) INFLIBNET should put up a note to UGC, highlighting the importance of having a computer person in the library, based on which, UGC will instruct universities to recruit such a person by converting some existing vacant post of lecturer. Universities can come up with proposals to convert existing lecturer's position to this post.

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- ii) GB observed that the nomenclature of Information Scientist was not correct. It did not fall in any existing streams in universities and so there may not be any prospect for career advancement for persons recruited against this post. It was suggested that this post may be designated as lecturer's post, so that a person will get same career advancement as a lecturer.
- iii) In 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, UGC will consider to provide post of such lecturers in university libraries for implementing INFLIBNET Programme.

(b) Upgradation of Computers in Universities :

INFLIBNET had suggested that those universities which were funded as far back as in 1994 under this programme, may be funded suitably to upgrade their old computer systems as they can not be used with SOUL and were not suitable for windows NT operation. GB decided that UGC will not fund universities for upgrading old computer systems and universities should do so through funds available under development grants, as the money involved was not very large.

**3. Creation of Union Databases :**

Regarding the quality of databases created by the INFLIBNET, it was reported that in some cases, mistakes in the data received from universities were of the order of 50%. It was very difficult to rectify these mistakes manually, in absence of original sources. GB suggested that INFLIBNET should examine the possibility of developing a suitable software expert system which will enable university libraries to detect and correct mistakes in their databases as far as possible automatically. This will ensure that libraries send accurate databases to INFLIBNET for incorporation in its union databases.

**4. Online Access to Union Databases :**

GB observed that INFLIBNET should provide hyper links to databases of various universities and other institutions.

**5. Training ;**

Under its Human Resource Development Programme, INFLIBNET was conducting a variety of training courses for the library professionals from universities for use of computers in libraries. GB suggested that this training material be put on the web site. INFLIBNET should start online tutorials for the library professionals. At the end of such tutorials, online examinations can be conducted and successful candidates may be given online certificates. If such a scheme is brought into existence, UGC may consider declaring it equivalent to a refresher course, so that more and more university staff can take advantage of this

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online course. Following training modules were suggested for putting on the web site :

- i) Library automation
- ii) Networking
- iii) Document storage/sharing
- iv) Electronic document delivery systems
- v) Library knowledge management

#### **6. Retrocon Project ;**

INFLIBNET informed that a special two weeks workshop on “ Bibliographic Standards and Formats for Retrospective conversion ” was held for staff of five major libraries covered under the RETROCON project. GB felt that to ensure accurate retroconversion of data, mid-term correction after reviewing mistakes is desirable and suggested that INFLIBNET should develop the expert system as suggested and supply it to the libraries at the earliest to minimise mistakes.

#### **7. Caliber:**

In the detailed report on CALIBER-2000, it was brought out that the universities wanted dedicated network access with wider bandwidth to enable sharing of resources and providing proper services to the users. GB desired that INFLIBNET should prepare a detailed project proposal in 3 months time, suggesting a suitable configuration of a wide area network for providing raw data speed of 528 kbps to universities for down loading information. The suggested network should be integrated into existing DOT, DOS infrastructure.

#### **8. SOUL Software:**

GB desired that universities be the first target of INFLIBNET for installing SOUL. SOUL should be a universal software. It should have facility of transporting data from CCF format to MARC and vice-versa. GB noted that SOUL has been installed at 21 universities and suggested that 2<sup>nd</sup> version of SOUL be brought out after getting feed back from these universities after a year. GB wanted that INFLIBNET should have a professional approach in upgrading SOUL, popularising and marketing it. GB advised INFLIBNET to develop a Demo. Version of SOUL and to make it available on CD as well as on its web site. It should be down loadable from the web site. This Demo. Version on CD may be distributed free to all the colleges in the country numbering about 10,000. A

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simple version of SOUL suitable for colleges and costing about Rs. 15,000/- should be developed in next 3 months. GB also desired to make access to INFLIBNET's web site faster and suggested that FTP server should be installed and made operational in next 6 months for this purpose.

#### **9. University Information System :**

GB was of the view that it was not INFLIBNET's role to develop web pages for universities and mount them on its server. This activity should be stopped. INFLIBNET informed that based on the advice given in a meeting taken by the Education Secretary in MHRD, this activity has already been stopped.

#### **10. Scholarships, Awards & Fellowships :**

GB advised that the information being put on the web about above items should be updated every year.

#### **11. Expert Manpower Module :**

GB was briefed on the proposal made by INFLIBNET to NISSAT for creating Expert Manpower Database at a cost of Rs. 22 lakhs, to be completed in three years. GB gave its concurrence to take up this project, subject to the condition that there is no financial involvement on the part of INFLIBNET or UGC.

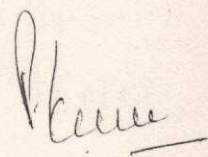
#### **12. INFLIBNET's Website :**

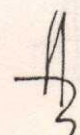
Since INFLIBNET has mounted all its databases on its web site, GB wanted to know the steps taken by INFLIBNET for ensuring security of its data. INFLIBNET explained the present system in use. GB desired that INFLIBNET should put up a note in the next meeting of GB on its data security policy.

GB also suggested that INFLIBNET should put a copy of its MOU and membership details on its web site.

#### **13. Scientific & Technical Staff Vacancies:**

GB discussed the problem of shortage of staff in S&T area and agreed that at least the resultant vacancies due to resignation of already approved S&T posts be allowed to be filled up and requested UGC to give necessary permission.





## **AGENDA ITEM No. 6 : Approval of Budget Projections**

GB went through the budget projections of the Centre in respect of RE for FY 2000-01 and BE for FY 2001-02 as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved the following, as suggested under different heads in the budget document:

Revised Estimates for FY 2000-2001:

Plan : Rs. 60 lakhs

Non-plan : Rs. 190 lakhs

Budget Estimates for FY 2001-2002

Plan : Rs. 60 lakhs

Non-plan : Rs. 225 lakhs

## **AGENDA ITEM No. 7 : Pricing of SOUL**

GB approved following pricing policy for SOUL software, based on the proposal of INFLIBNET :

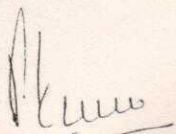
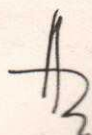
First copy	Rs. 50,000/- (including multilingual interface, Installation, maintenance & training etc.)
Second copy onwards	Rs. 20,000/- per copy+ actual cost of multilingual Interface. This will not cover installation, maintenance, training etc.
Stand Alone version	Rs. 15,000/- per copy

## **AGENDA ITEM No. 8 : Disposal of old computers**

GB approved disposal of 5 Nos. of old computers as per the prescribed procedure.

## **AGENDA ITEM No. 9 : Promotion Policy**

GB went through the career advancement/promotion scheme for Scientific & Technical (S&T) personnel of the Centre as forwarded to the UGC and noted it for information.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 10 : CPF/GPF-CUM-PENSION Schemes**

Draft copies of CPF and GPF Rules of the Centre which were framed in line with the CPF and GPF Rules of the Govt. of India and forwarded to the UGC were placed before the Board. GB noted them for information.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 11 : Changing role of INFLIBNET**

GB was briefed about the MHRD meeting taken by Secretary, Education, Sub-group meeting and ERNET proposal for UGCNET. GB observed that there is not substantial change in INFLIBNET's role except the medium of networking. The scope in fact has been enlarged.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 12 : Difficulties faced by universities**

The matter under this agenda item has already been covered under Agenda Item No.5 "Status Report", #2.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 13 : Service Centres for SOUL**

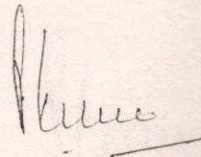
GB went through the proposal for setting up of service centres for installation and maintenance of SOUL and was of the view that instead of private contractors, the job of installation and servicing of SOUL software can be given to universities. INFLIBNET was asked to talk to universities about this matter and get their feedback about willingness to undertake this work.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 14 : Formation of Consortia**

Regarding formation of Consortia to provide access to electronic resources, GB advised INFLIBNET to prepare a detailed approach paper and place it in the next meeting of the GB.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 15 : Annual Report for 1999-2000**

Draft copies of the Annual Report were distributed to the members. Chairman desired that members may read the report and give their feed back to the Director, INFLIBNET Centre in a month's time.







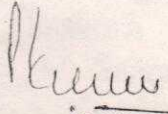
**AGENDA ITEM No. 16 : Any other item with Chairman's  
Permission**

Following points were discussed and approved by the Board :

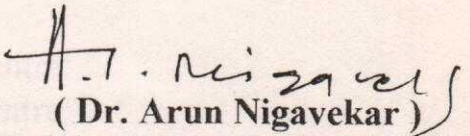
- i) GB was informed that Dr. T.S.Kumbar, Scientist "D" of INFLIBNET Centre has been selected for 6 months training abroad under Fulbright Fellowship. This fellowship is expected to commence in the middle of 2001. GB approved Dr. Kumbar's Fulbright trip abroad.
- ii) Chairman, GB, desired that based on the advice and suggestions given by the members in this meeting, regarding role and activities of INFLIBNET, a brief note may be prepared and put up in the next meeting of the GB.
- iii) The next meeting of GB may be called in the first or last week of February, 2001. GB advised that it may be followed by the Council meeting on the same day. The date for this may be decided after consulting President of the Council.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes prepared by

  
( **Pramod Kumar** )  
Member Secretary to GB

Minutes approved by

  
( **Dr. Arun Nigavekar** )  
Vice-Chairman, UGC &  
Chairman of the GB Meeting