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Government of India
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Department of Pharmaceuticals

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee for new NIPERs held on 23rd March 2009 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Pharma).

List of participants is at annex

The Meeting of the Steering Committee started with Shri Arun Jha, JS in the chair as Secretary (Pharma) had to attend some other important meeting. Shri Arun Jha welcomed all the participants. He mentioned that he had carefully gone through the minutes of the previous meeting and stated that it was heartening to see that NIPERs were forging ahead to achieve their objectives particularly with the starting of incubators and special short term courses to meet the needs of the pharmaceutical industry. All the participants then introduced themselves. Shri R. C. Jha Director, DOP was then called upon to take up the agenda items.

Item No I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee held on 5th November 2008.

Confirmed

Item No. II. Action taken on the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Steering Committee held on 5th November 2008.

A. Land Allotment

All NIPERs apprised the Chair of the position in this regard.

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NIPER Ahmedabad - In r/o. NIPER Ahmedabad, where possession of 60 acres of land had been taken and lease deed signed, Prof. Harish Padh reported that further action for:

- i) Contour mapping and fencing and
- ii) Demarcation of the 60 acres into Ph I, Ph II & Ph III for the macro development of the campus was under way.

The Architect (Mr. Vikram of Ahmedabad) had been appointed. The existing time lines were:

Fencing ___ 2 months - (Wire fencing with few meters of wall fencing)

Contour Mapping ___ (2 months)

The estimated cost as reported by Prof. Padh is Rs. 15.00 lakhs

NIPER Hajipur would require some help for getting the required land allotted by the State Govt. It was reported by Dr. Das that BIADA officials have been non-responsive and non cooperative. It was informed by Director (RCJ) that the Department is in touch with the State Govt. A letter has already been written to principle Secretary (Industries), Govt. of Bihar to look into the matters and not to allot any building or part thereof which has been allotted to NIPER. A letter would be written to CS Govt. of Bihar by Secretary (Pharma) in this regard.

NIPER Hyderabad - The new Project Director for NIPER Hyderabad Dr. Ahmed Kamal reported that MoU between NIPER Hyderabad and IDPL had been signed and IICT the Mentor Institute of NIPER Hyderabad had also transferred the funds meant for this purpose to IDPL. Two buildings and lawns of approx 150 acres had been formally transferred to NIPER Hyderabad by IDPL. He was requested to forward a copy of the signed MoU to the Deptt.

NIPER Kolkata - it was reported that in the meeting taken by Secretary (S&T), they have agreed to provide 35 acres of land in the 1st phase. JS (AJ) stressed the need to quickly sign the lease deed with the State Govt. in r/o the 35 acres of land and vigorously pursue ^{with} the State Govt. of W.B., for allotment of remaining 65 acres of land.

NIPER Rae Bareli was the only NIPER where there had been no progress in allotment of land by the State Govt.

Secretary (Pharma) arrived and thereafter chaired the meeting. He stated that on the issue of land, except for NIPER Rae Bareli, there was no such problem. The issue regarding allotment of some land within the premises of ITI Ltd. Rae Bareli is to be actively pursued by the Deptt with the Ministry of Communication

NIPER Guwahati The issues of approach land is to be resolved quickly in consultations with State Govt. & DM, Kamrup district.

B. Budget

Secretary apprised the Project Directors of the new NIPERs & Director M.Is that additional funds were being made available and everybody would receive grant-in-aid as per their requirement provided proper utilization certificates in r/o grant already released were furnished.

C. Procurement of Equipment

Secretary (Pharma), Chairman Steering Committee stated that Director, NIPER SAS Nagar will within 10 days clear lists, if any, submitted to him by other NIPERs for procurement of equipments. He was also of the view that as travelling to Mentor Institutes takes up a lot of time in r/o NIPER Rae Bareli, NIPER Hajipur and NIPER Guwahati, the laboratories of these NIPERs should be self- sufficient so that students do not have to keep

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going to the Mentor Institutes. This would also allay the perception that these NIPERs are sub standard and do not compare favourably with NIPER Mohali. Secretary (Pharma) emphasized that the 1st step for all new NIPERs should be to bridge the gap between them and NIPER Mohali and the 2nd step should be to outexcel NIPER, Mohali.

Project Incharge of NIPER Guwahati, Dr. (Smt.) Mangale Lahkar reported that equipment procurement was proving to be a very time-consuming process. It was decided that JS (AJ) and Director, NIPER Mohali would visit NIPER Guwahati for a first hand assessment of the situation prevailing there.

D. Short Term Courses

Secretary (Pharma) stressed the importance and urgent need to launch the special short term industry relevant courses.

NIPER Hyderabad as reported, have started the three short term courses. Upgradation of their labs and other civil works to be done by APIIC.

NIPER Hajipur to launch the 6 months courses in i) Bio Informatics ii) Clinical Research and iii) Lesimaniasis, from 2nd April as infrastructure already exists in the M.I. (RMRIMS, Patna).

NIPER Ahmedabad to launch course on Operational Excellence & IT in collaboration with IIM Ahmedabad. Needful initiative may be taken by Director, PERD (M.I.).

NIPER Kolkata, representative Dr. Mandal stated that starting of short-term courses was not possible in the existing set-up due to lack of infrastructure. Chairman Steering Committee, Secretary (Pharma) observed that it was necessary to overcome the handicaps as by not

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running the need based short term courses, required by industry, these NIPERs would ^{be} undermining their core performance. Placement of students/scholars will also be adversely affected. He suggested hiring of buildings for these short term courses from IIM/ Institutions in Jadavpur university area. A building could be leased and faculty hired from other established Institutions of which there are many. In this connection he made standing offer on behalf of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (BCPL) Kolkata playing host to conducting such short term courses. NIPER Kolkata could start courses on Bio-statistics, Bioinformatics.

NIPER Rae Bareli: CDRI, Mentor Institute has a large Animal House facility with monkeys, dogs, etc. This could be shown to NIPER Mohali who do not have large animals facility. Funds could be provided by the DoP to develop the Animal House at NIPER, Mohali. Short term courses on Biostatistics, Operational Excellence & IT and Analytical process Technology may be started at NIPER Rae Bareli. Such courses may be planned off campus at Lucknow under the banner of NIPER Rae Bareli. IIT Kanpur may be contacted for faculty support, Dr. Dixit & JS (DC) may visit IIT, Kanpur to chalk out this issue.

NIPER Guwahati to start short term courses on Herbal Medicine. They could refer to the several study reports available on the subject recent of which is that of Dr. K.K. Bhutani of NIPER, SAS Nagar. Coordinator Dr. Bhutani would visit Guwahati to finalize courses structure & content.

E. Ph.D Programme Number of Seats may be decided by each NIPER based on the available resource with M.Is. Position may be finalised in consultation with NIPER Mohali. Action plan may be developed by Dr. P. Rama Rao, Director, NIPER Mohali in 30 days. NIPER Hyderabad may develop a lab as developed by U.S. Pharmacopeia (Hyderabad). A proposal on accreditation & certification of labs in new NIPERs may be

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made and sent to DSIR for needful approval. The pending issues in respect of NIPER, SAS Nagar in this respect may be expedited.

F. Faculty

Both Dr. Dikshit from CDRI, Lucknow (M.I. for Rae Bareli) and Dr. Pardeep Das, Project Director NIPER Hajipur expressed the difficulties in getting faculty on contract basis. Dr. Mandal (from IICB, Kolkata NIPER, Kolkata) wanted to know if contract appointments could be for a 5 years period.

It was decided that NIPER-Mohali would explore the possibility of appointing the contractual faculty centrally and deputing them to other NIPERs as per requirement. NIPER Guwahati, NIPER Rae Bareli and NIPER Hajipur would communicate their requirement to NIPER- Mohali.

Item No. III: Presentation by Dr. K.K. Bhutani, Coordinator for New NIPERs

Dr. K.K. Bhutani, Coordinator for new NIPERs made a very detailed power-point presentation of his report on the status/academic standards of new NIPERs. In his overall assessment, the progress of two NIPERs at Ahmedabad & Kolkata were satisfactory while NIPER Hyderabad could achieve the satisfactory level with a few interventions by the M.I. The progress of NIPER Hajipur was poorest among all new NIPERs w.r.t. to teaching and research at PG level. Similar was the case with NIPER Guwahati. According to Dr. Bhutani, both these NIPERs need significant intervention/ handholding. However, NIPER Rae Bareli which started functioning late under the mentorship of CDRI, Lucknow has performed well during the last 4-5 months of its inception to carry out its first semester courses and practicals. The general reasons for awarding low scores to new NIPERs in SWOT analysis were also explained.

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After this presentation the immediate response from the representatives of Mentor Institutes of respective NIPERs was that the M.Is had come forward to help the new NIPERs and should be treated with a little more respect and understanding and not as a sub-contracting agency.

Secretary (Pharma) intervened with the following observations:

- The Department/NIPERs are grateful to the M.Is. who are providing valuable support & leadership, to new NIPERs;
- No comment should be taken as criticism;
- The relationship with M.Is will continue even after the appointment of the Directors for the new NIPERs. In the case of NIPER Ahmedabad, incubator facilities are being set up in the premises of the M.I. viz. PERD Centre;
- Dr. Bhutani has done an excellent job in formulating such a report. All NIPERs may not agree with all the points but the findings may be considered with an open mind;
- All Project Directors have been running their Institutions in very adverse situations and were doing a creditable job;
- The Chairman observed that NIPER-Mohali has been doing a good job. But capacity utilization is poor. So also is Business Development and they are yet to become self-sufficient;
- All new NIPERs will eventually function under their own BOGs. The Deptt will extend support to the BOGs on specific issues. Chairman, Steering Committee expressed his satisfaction with the progress achieved so far; though there is scope for further

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improvement. On certain issues like curriculum, duration of courses, mix of theory & practicals, faculty with requisite qualifications, examination system etc, he stated that there could be no compromise. The following decisions were taken:

- All NIPERs will send a report on Dr. Bhutani's Report to Dr. P. Rama Rao, Director, NIPER, SAS Nagar within 15 days.
- If not received in 15 days it will be presumed that point mentioned in Dr. Bhutani's report is accepted by them.
- Within the next 10 days, Dr. Rama Rao will submit his NIPER wise report, to the Department.

Item No. IV. Presentation on Medical Devices by Dr. Harish Padh, Project Director, NIPER Ahmedabad.

Dr. Harish Padh gave a very comprehensive power point presentation on the Medical Devices Sector. Medical Devices include electro-medical equipment and related software, furniture, supplies and consumables, cardio vascular and neurological products, ophthalmological implants, orthopaedic appliances, prosthetics and diagnostic kits, reagents and equipment. With the significant growth in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors in India, the medical devices sector is set for a vibrant growth in the near future. The presentation dwelt on the following aspects:

- Avenues
- Facts & Figures (both global and Indian)
- Segmentation of the Indian Medical Device market
- Medical equipment Imports by India
- Major Players in India (MNCs, Indian, SMEs, Institutions)
- Top 10 India players in Diagnostic Kits

- SWOT Analysis of the Medical Device Industry
- Growth drivers
- Key Factors 2025
- Issues and Challenges
- Cluster Formation
- The Pharma Co-relation
- Packaging Innovations
- Recommendations for NIPER Ahmedabad
- Academic Centres
- Testing Facility for devices
- Preclinical and Clinical studies for Medical Devices

It was intimated by Secretary (Pharma) that work relating to Medical Devices Clusters has been entrusted to ILFS by DoP.

Secretary (Pharma) proposed the following:

- Setting up of an incubator at NIPER Ahmedabad exclusively for the Medical Devices Sector with separate funding from DoP. JS (AJ) to go to Mumbai along with Prof. Padh for a meeting with IIT Mumbai NIPER Ahmedabad to work out an Action Plan on the same during 2009-10.
- Setting up of testing facilities in one of the NIPERs with user charges. Director NIPER SAS Nagar had supported this idea.
- Assign course on medical devices to one of the IITs in Bio Sciences. CDRI Lucknow to coordinate with IIT Kanpur on this.

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Item No. V. Placement

Secretary (Pharma) wanted to know whether there can be a centralized placement system at NIPER- Mohali and whether the relevant details could be put on a single portal discipline wise. Associated problems were expressed by Director, NIPER SAS Nagar. Secretary (Pharma) directed that a small group chaired by JS (AJ) and consisting of Director NIPER SAS Nagar, Dr. K.K. Bhutani and Director, M.I. (NIPER Hajipur) would go into the issue of placement mechanism and send their report in the next one month.

Secretary (Pharma) then dwelt on the need to prepare the students for placement as all students are not very good at English, writing, talking and social Skills. It would greatly help the students if each NIPER could have a course on finishing skills for which they could take the help of missionary institutions. Special support courses in whatever subject the students were weak in like English and Mathematics could be conducted. It was not enough to go just by curriculum but also to do some more as per the need and request of the students.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.