

## **Minutes of the IRDC meeting held on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> 2011**

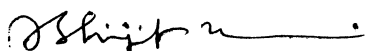
**Members present:** Drs. A. K. Chaturvedi, A. Kushari, S. Verma, N. Kaistha, A. Bandyopadhyay, T. V. Prabhakar, S. N. Tripathi, K. Ravi Priya, D. Bahuguna, P. Venkitanarayanan, D. Philip, B. V. Phani, S. Panda, S. Roy, R. K. Sachan, Mr. S. Nayak, Mr. K. Balasundarm

**Special Invitee:** Prof. K. Muralidhar

1. The minutes of the IRDC meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2009 were confirmed.
2. IRDC members expressed their gratitude to Prof. Muralidhar and praised his role as Dean Research and Development to usher in welcome changes to the functioning of the office of DORD.
3. Dean R&D, Prof. Ajit Chaturvedi, addressed the IRDC members. The summary of his address was as follows:
  - a. Currently a significant fraction of the DORD's time goes into relatively mundane matters or untying bureaucratic knots. There is a need to identify possible structural changes in the system such that the DORD can focus more on big funding opportunities, funding opportunities for inter-disciplinary projects, international projects, execution of big projects, and technology transfer to industries, technology absorption, relationship with well funded government research organizations like DAE, ISRO, DRDO etc.
  - b. Identification of such structural changes will have to be done after due deliberations.
  - c. Once the possible changes are identified, approvals at appropriate levels will be required to affect them.
  - d. While some changes may need the concurrence of the BoG, some others can be done with the concurrence of the Director.
  - e. Last but not the least; the changes should be identified keeping in view the convenience of PIs and their possible impact on the delay in the processing of papers.
4. The address of the DORD was followed by a discussion regarding the possible changes needed to help the PIs in the conduct of the projects. The points that emerged out of this discussion are:

- a. The availability of space to conduct research/ project work remains a major cause of concern. Big projects cannot be taken due to the lack of space and infrastructure (like AC's).
  - b. The lack of space leads to serious safety concerns in research labs.
  - c. Proper storage and disposal of hazardous material should be given top priority.
  - d. Lack of trained manpower and retaining the few good project employees is another issue that requires serious consideration.
  - e. There should be an avenue for the academic growth of project staff by providing them admission into the graduate programs. This initiative is expected to attract better students to project employment.
  - f. The office of DORD should establish liaison with the funding agencies to recover pending funds.
5. Online registration and disbursement of salaries for work assignment is a good initiative. The IRDC members felt that this scheme should not be jeopardized due to the inability of few PIs to fill up the online forms in time. Therefore, IRDC suggested the following procedure:
- a. An email should be send to the PIs regarding the attendance entry at the beginning of every month.
  - b. *If a PI does not fill up the attendance entry form by the 5<sup>th</sup> of a month, the maximum number of days per month, approved for that particular work assignment, will be considered as default attendance and the labor supplier should be asked to release the salary accordingly.*
6. IRDC decided to circulate the minutes of IRDC meeting to the acadstaff after confirmation.

Prepared by



Abhijit Kushari  
Convener - IRDC

Forwarded by



Dean, R&D