

Minutes of IRDC Meeting held on 3rd January 2009 at PBCEC

Members Present: Dr(s). K. Muralidhar (Chairman), B. Basu (Convener), B. Prakash, A. Pradhan, S.S.K. Iyer, D. Kundu, A. Agarwal, A. Singh, Satyaki Roy, Amalendu Chandra, A. Kushari, V. N. Kulkarni, Deepak Gupta, Kumar Ravi Priya, S. Qureshi, S. Umesh (special invitee).

1. The minutes of the earlier IRDC meetings were confirmed.
2. *Research Complex:* DORD informed the IRDC that a research complex (RC), occupying around 10000 m² floor area would be located near airstrip. Normal construction time is two years, once the proposal is approved in principle by the Institute. The layout of the RC should be designed in such a manner that it will primarily facilitate the cross-fertilization of research ideas and promote more interdisciplinary research. A futuristic building is envisaged in which laboratories would have essential amenities such as stabilized power, water supply, compressed air and air-conditioning. Some of the laboratories would be designated as clean rooms while special rooms for library and discussions would also be available. The spaces in the RC can be allotted to groups of faculty members whose interests coincide with thrust areas identified periodically by the Institute. Space allotment for conducting sponsored projects is also planned. While the overall building would be maintained by the Institute, faculty participation is expected for the upkeep of the individual laboratories.

Following these comments, there was a discussion on overall faculty aspirations as well as the layout for the proposed RC. After a detailed discussion for around an hour, the following points emerged:

- a) IRDC members, at large, welcomed the idea of having a research complex on campus. The entire space should be divided into several bays and each of them will be used for different group

of faculty members. For example, one of such bay will be used by theoreticians as discussion room with appropriate partitioning. Other bays can be used as clean room, animal house, general lab space for housing high-end equipment, and computational laboratories. Another suggestion was that some space can be allotted for projects of short term basis (five years or so), while rest of them will be for long term research. It was proposed that it may be better to have four storey towers with a cafeteria in the central region. A rough estimate reveals that the proposed RC will cost around Rs. 80-100 crores.

b) IRDC members largely emphasized on the fact that it is important first to identify the thrust areas of the Institute and keeping those areas in mind, the layout of the proposed RC can be designed.

c) It has also been recommended that RC cannot be used as general central facility, for example ACMS.

d) Some IRDC members mentioned that the appropriate functioning of various sophisticated research facilities require trained personnel.

e) IRDC members, at large, opined that this issue should be discussed at the department level and subsequently can be brought as an agenda item in one of the future IRDC meeting. This will enable discussion with more clarity.

3. *Accommodation for Project Employees:* Dr. Umesh mentioned the immediate need for accommodation of 60 project employees. IRDC was informed that a new RA hostel with 164 rooms for project employees will be in place by 2010 June. As a short-term solution, some Type IA houses may be converted to house project employees by June, 2009. IRDC also opined that IWD should do the needful to speed up the renovation of those identified Type IA houses.

4. *Work Assignment:* Dr. Basu presented the minutes of the work assignment committee (a copy also enclosed herewith). IRDC was informed that around 400 persons are currently associated

with the work assignment mode. IRDC members recommended that multiple national level contractors should be given the contracts to operate within the campus. For unskilled / semi-skilled personnel, local people around IIT K campus should however be given priority. Also, it was emphasized that all the current work assignment persons should be registered on a priority basis by the contractors.

5. Maximum tenure of project staff: Dr. Chandra presented the report before IRDC and a copy is enclosed herewith. After a brief discussion on the socio-economic aspect, many IRDC members expressed the opinion that the project staff, in particular, the project personnel hired on a temporary basis should view their stay on campus as training and be advised to look for better professional jobs in the long run. Project employees will be initially allowed to work in the project mode for six years. After six years, if a person is till found very useful by a PI, then a strong case needs to be put forward. However, the performance of such project staff will be periodically evaluated after every three years.

The meeting ended with a word of thanks to the Chair.

Bikramjit Basu

Convener: IRDC

12th January, 2009

Enclosures:

1. Report of Work Assignment Committee
2. Report of committee to discuss 'Maximum tenure of staff on projects'