

MINUTES OF THE 10th FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF INFLIBNET CENTRE
HELD ON SUNDAY, THE 4TH OF JULY, 2004 AT
NATIONAL AEROSPACE LABORATORIES,
BANGALORE 560 017

The 10th Meeting of the Finance Committee of the INFLIBNET Centre held at National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore. The meeting commenced at 1000 Hours. The following were present:

Dr. S Ramani

Chairman

Members:

01	Dr. S Venakteswaran	Director, BITS, Pilani
02	Dr. Ved Prakash	Secretary, UGC, New Delhi
03	Shri Pawan Agarwal, IAS	Financial Advisor, UGC, New Delhi
04	Dr. T A V Murthy	Director, INFLIBNET Centre
05	Dr. P Prakash	Jt. Secretary, (IUC)/Bureau-Head, UGC, New Delhi
06	Shri S M Salgar,	Scientist-G, INFLIBNET Centre
07	Shri D P Negi,	Admn. Officer (PA & F)/ Non-Member Secretary

Special Invitee:

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi

Dean, VAP, IUCAA, Pune

INTORUDCTION:

Dr. T A V Murthy, Director, INFLIBNET Centre, extended a warm welcome to the Chairman and the distinguished members and introduced each one of them with their profile briefly for the benefit of the Committee Members and requested Dr. S Ramani, Chairman, FC to formally take over and conduct the proceedings.

01 Opening Remarks:

Dr. Ramani, in the opening remarks also extended greetings to all the members and briefly introduced them to the important activities and achievements made and the role played by INFLIBNET in shouldering the prestigious national responsibilities like **UGC-Infonet-E-Journal Subscription** in collaboration with ERNET India and National Negotiation Committee. Further, he expressed a sense of satisfaction on the efforts of the Director and his team to discharge the responsibilities, in addition, to other routine functions.

He expressed serious concern about the depleted manpower position and solicited the support of the Commission in resolving this issue. The Chairman also sought for views on the general issues to be expressed by other Members. Before taking up the Agenda, Dr. Ved Prakash, Secretary, UGC and Shri Pawan Agarwal, Financial Advisor, UGC shared the views of the Chairman and complimented the Director and his team for the hard work done with limited manpower. Dr. Venkateswaran endorsed the views expressed by the Chairman and other members. He further mentioned that the benefits of the initiatives are visible across the country among the academics.

Shri Pawan Agarwal further mentioned that the Centre does not have its own Campus and infrastructure like proper buildings etc. and still it has produced impressive results. He also mentioned further that certain



queries which he raised with regard to E-journal consortia were very promptly attended to and made available on the net as well, which shows that its dedicated team has deeper interest in providing the services.

**02 Confirmation of the Minutes
of the Last Meeting:**

The Centre circulated the Minutes of the 9th Finance Meeting to all the Members vide their letter No.DIR/12.GB.C-6/2003 dated 11th August, 2003. Since no comments were received, the Committee confirmed the Minutes.

**03 Action items generated in the last Meeting of FC
and reporting on action taken:**

While noting that there is no action pending on any items, the members suggested that henceforth routine tabular form of action items and the action taken may be appropriately highlighted and the same was noted.

**04 Presentation of Audited Accounts
For the F.Y 2003-2004:**

The Chairman requested Shri D P Negi, (PA & F), who is a Non-Member Secretary of the Finance Committee to apprise about the Audited accounts for the FY 2003-2004.

The Non-Member Secretary presented to the Committee the Audited Accounts for the year 2003-2004 and explained the contents and other details head-by-head.



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While considering the Audited accounts and deliberating on the same, the Financial Advisor made the following observations/suggestions.

With regard to the Corpus/Capital Fund of the Centre reflected in the Balance Sheet pertaining to F.Y. 2002-2003, he wanted to know the details. The AO (PA&F) clarified that this comprises the income generated out of the supply of the SOUL Software, accumulated savings over the years and interest earned on the investments made and Fixed and Current Assets of the Centre and the Miscellaneous income. He submitted for the kind information of the Members that although INFLIBNET is an Autonomous body, it is a Registered Society and Trust as well and certain inputs prescribed under the Society/Trust rules are to be reflected in the Annual accounts including Balance Sheet of the Centre.

He further submitted that the format of accounts has been adopted by the Centre as per the report/recommendations of the Committee of Experts on Uniform Format of Accounts for Central Autonomous Bodies and accordingly Annual accounts of the Centre for the F.Y. in question have been prepared.

The FA suggested that the Centre should not show the physical assets as a part of Corpus fund in future. With regard to accounting format, he suggested that Shri D P Negi, AO (PA &F) may visit UGC Headquarters and get in touch with the officials of Finance Division for arriving at a uniform accounting format for implementation.

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On getting the desired information on these points, the FA expressed satisfaction.

05 Briefing on the replies furnished to Internal Audit Wing of UGC against the Audit queries relating to F.Y. 2002-2003:

The Committee considered the Audit queries and replies furnished by the Centre. The Members made a special mention of the accumulated savings in the Centre and took note of the Audit paras made by the Audit Party – IAW/UGC in this regard. Since the issue was already debated and clarification was furnished, they expressed a sense of satisfaction. The Board advised that the income generated by the Centre from the supply of SOUL Software etc. should be utilized for the related activities and only the balance left after incurring the expenditure on the related activities, may be reflected in the Statement of Accounts/Balance Sheet.

06 To scrutinize and approve revised estimates for F.Y.2004-2005 and Budget estimates for F.Y. 2005-2006:

The revised estimates for F.Y.2004-2005 and Budget estimates for FY 2005-06 were presented to the Committee by the Non-Member Secretary.

The Board considered the projections of the Centre under RE for FY 2004-05 and BE for FY 2005-06 as shown under different heads in Budget document:

- (a) The FA suggested that the Centre should rearrange the various heads of accounts, consolidate them in broader heads and reduce to bare



minimum for functional convenience and more clarity. The suggestion made was noted for compliance.

(b) Shri Agarwal and Dr. P Prakash observed that under the new activities in the Budget document E-Journal related budgetary provision has been shown in "Non-Plan head" whereas the same should have been projected in "Plan-Head".

(c) Dr. Ved Prakash, Secretary, UGC advised that since the Centre is trying to get the land from Gujarat University in its Campus as a second option and is yet to get the same, it may project only a provision of Rs.2 lakhs or so as a token seed money for permanent buildings/campus development and may approach the Commission with actual estimated amount for building grant at an appropriate time and should not project huge amount at this stage.

(d) Dr. Ramani enlightened the members that huge benefits have been extended under the UGC-infonet-E-Journal Consortia involving very small amount of funds as compared to similar consortium involving Rs.40,000 crores launched by China. He further observed that our initiative is phenomenal and accrues benefits to larger population remarkably.

(e) The Secretary, UGC also complimented the Director and his team for effective coordination with ERNET, Universities and UGC in carrying out the

Correction
My remark referred to \$ 8 Bln said to be earmarked for the whole of "information of education" over a number of years, by China. We cannot say that they spend all this in a consortium.
S. Ramani

[Signature]

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herculean task with a limited manpower available at the Centre. He further mentioned that the Service Providers like INFLIBNET are always at a receiving end and usually find it difficult to satisfy all the users. However, the services provided by the Centre are praise-worthy and he hoped that the tempo will be maintained. The system will be in place in the near future in its totality to serve the Higher Education sector in the country.

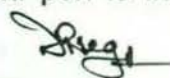
- (f) Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, while participating in the deliberations suggested that 1 Mbps connectivity may be provided to all the Universities and performance watched. He stated that if it is provided to even 100 Universities to start with, it may cost just about Rs.10 crores per annum @ Rs.10 lakhs per University per year. He further reiterated that by doing so, the accessibility for E-journals will be more effective and, therefore, he is going to take up the issue in the ensuing meeting of the Joint Technical & Tariff Committee of UGC-Infonet.
- (g) The FA suggested to restrict the Non-Plan Budget Projection to the level of last year as far as possible.
- (h) With regard to the nomenclature of E-journal Subscription, he was of the opinion that a suitable catchy word may be used for the Budget-head and cover all the aspects under one head. He further informed the Members that a provision of Rs.25 crores has been made by the Commission for this purpose for the current year.

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With regard to the query raised by him on the expenditure estimated, to begin with the E-Journal subscription in Consortia Project Mode, Dr. Murthy has clarified that as a matter of fact a provision of Rs.15 crores was made last year which was reviewed by the Finance Committee and also minuted in the 9th FC. After considerable debate on this issue, it was agreed to prepare a document appropriately highlighting the transactions within the budget already approved in respect of Journals/Databases, over and above Rs.6.04 crores and circulate the same to the Members for ex.post-facto clearance.

The suggestion made was appreciated and unanimously agreed to by the Members.

- (i) Dr. Kembhavi suggested that additional allocation of Rs.5 crores towards E-journal Subscription can cover 25 more Universities and also accommodate the most demanded ELSEVIER titles. The Members fully endorsed his views and advised to seek sanction for additional funds to the tune of Rs.5 crores for this purpose. The Commission officials assured to consider the same favourably, if an appropriate proposal, to this effect; is submitted.
- (j) There was also a debate that since CEC has been primarily assigned the responsibility of E-Content activity, the budgetary provision for the same will be made by CEC. While debating on this issue, Dr. Ramani mentioned that INFLIBNET is looking after the content part to the extent related to



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UGC-infonet and E-Journal Consortia which is to be propagated to all the Universities under the purview of UGC and eventually to the Colleges over the period of time. Hence, some budgetary provision may be made for this purpose to create required infrastructure.


After lengthy deliberation and taking into account all the aspects, the FC recommended the following budgetary provisions for the Centre to cover the expenditure on all the activities of the Centre including, E-Journal Subscription Consortia on Project mode and the UGC-infonet, Training, R&D, National Database creation, DDS & Retro-conversion, E-learning, infrastructure to be created and activities to be initiated at the Regional Centre at JNTU, Hyderabad etc. for approval of the GB:

Revised Estimates for FY 2004-05	(Rupees in lakhs)	Budget Estimates for FY 2005-06	(Rupees in lakhs)
Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.2500 lakhs for E-Journal Consortium, Rs.85.00 lakhs for Plan Budget of the Centre and Rs.2.00 lakhs for construction of permanent building/Campus Development.	2587.00	Plan (This includes the provision of Rs.3000 lakhs for E-Journal Consortium, Rs.85.00 lakhs for Plan Budget of the Centre and Rs.200 lakhs for construction of permanent building/Campus Development.	3285.00
Non-Plan	302.50	Non-Plan	333.00
Total	2889.50	Total	3618.00

07 Any other item with the permission of the Chair

Dr. Ramani apprised the Members about the discussion he had with Dr. Gulshan Rai, Executive Director, Mrs. Geeta Kapthalia of ERNET, Dr. Ajit Kembhavi and Dr. Murthy on the previous day about the pressing issue of connectivity under UGC-Infonet to the Universities and expressed satisfaction on the overall solutions put forth and the remedial measures taken by the ERNET authorities in this regard.

Shri Pawan Agarwal strongly advocated that INFLIBNET should switch over to 2 Mbps without any further delay to meet the mammoth task in its visibility across the country on the net and take a leadership role in the country and agreed to the projection made by the Centre for internet connectivity up-gradation to 2 Mbps, preferably through ERNET to maintain capability. At the conclusion Shri Agarwal also mentioned that there is an urgent need to give a serious thought of consolidating or amalgamating all consortiums and create a single National consortia which was admired by the Members.



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08 Vote of Thanks

The Non-Member Secretary and the Director thanked the Chair and Members profusely for their valuable contribution and guidance.

Minutes prepared by



(D P Negi)
Admn. Officer (PA & F) and
Non-Member Secretary, FC
INFLIBNET Centre



(Dr. T.A.V. Murthy)
Director
INFLIBNET Centre

Minutes approved by



(Dr. S. Ramani)
Chairman, FC
INFLIBNET Centre