MINUTES OF THE 2ND HUB GOVERNING BODY MEETING
HELD ON 5TH APRIL 2021

The following members were present during the 2nd HUB Governing Body meeting of the Institute held in virtual mode on April 5, 2021, at 11.00 AM, IIIT-D Campus, New Delhi.

Prof. Ranjan Bose	-	Chairman
Ms. Debjani Ghosh	-	Member
Dr. Abhay Karandikar	-	Member
Dr. Pushpendra Singh	-	Member
Mr. Ajai Chowdhry	-	Member
Dr. K. R. Murali Mohan	-	Member
Mr. Manish Gupta	-	Member
Mr. Venkat Padmanabhan	-	Member

In attendance:

Dr. Mukesh Mohania	-	Member
Dr. Vikram Goyal	-	Member
Dr. Tanmoy Chakraborty	-	Member

Prof. Narendra Ahuja could not attend the meeting due to some other prior commitments and was granted leave of absence.

TiH presented the following points/updates:

1. Provision for the payment to the staff of IIITD working for IHUB will be done as per IIITD norms. The honorarium to be paid to the IIITD staff who are engaged in the services for IHUB. This also includes the faculty members who are serving as the Project Directors. They may be paid as per the overtime model of IIITD.

2. Hiring, purchase policies and procedures to be followed for IHUB as per IIITD norms. Interface between IIITD and TiH for administrative or day-to-day activities and other areas like space, bills & reimbursements (like electricity, internet, VPN, firewall, etc), as per mutual agreement.

3. Project overhead for the institutes with which IHUB engages for collaboration purposes will be as follows

a) Autonomous and Self-Sustaining Institutes (For example: IIITD) – 20 %
b) Fully Funded Institutes/ Grants-in-aid Institutes (For example: CFTI) – 10%

4. Project funding through Project Review and Supervisory Groups (PRSG). The verticals which will be monitored by PRSGs: the progress of the project, approval and funding will go through these.

5. Collaborate with other TiHs. Already talking to IITD TiH and looking at some common activities going forward.

6. Started interfacing with the incubation center at IIITD. One of the stated objectives of the TiH is to incubated companies.

7. Interfacing with line ministries. This was a suggestion given by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma in one of the all-TiH's meetings and IHUB is already trying to interface with some line ministries.

8. As per the detailed Project Report, IHUB has been given two grand problems by DST:

    a) To develop a Legal Information Processing and Management,
    b) To develop solutions in the domain of Public Health.

    Have identified some sub-problems as well and would seek inputs from the HGB on these.

    IHUB also had a meeting with Center of Technology in Policing which has been established at IIITD and have sent a proposal that the Delhi Police should be our user agency and should collaborate with us so that IHUB can get data with respect to FIRs and other reports that will help IHUB to develop solutions. Center of Technology in Policing would review and get back on this.
    In the area of Public Health, IHUB is looking to set up collaboration at the national level, with NGOs and startups.

9. CEO for IHUB has been selected via a 3-step process. The CEO would be joining from 7th June 2021.

10. Manager TiH has joined.

11. TIH is in the process of creating the project evaluation committee for the first CFP. Already contacted some faculty members from IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad. Shortlisting of projects will be done by this committee and the projects will be selected from the first round of CFP. Depending on which projects are selected, respective PRSG committees will be formed. The aim is to release the initial funding by 30th April.

Suggestions, inputs and other points from the HGB

• TIH should work with Public Health Foundation on getting a better fix on defined problems.

• Connect with NGO called ARMMAN. They deliver voice messages to expecting mothers over mobile phone, however they are ultimately looking for a two-way conversational agent that helps them. Currently, they have a scale of about 300K women and are looking to expand to 1 million by the end of this year. Overall plan is to grow to a very large number in future.

• Connect with another NGO named Population Foundation. This was already implemented 3-4 years ago, two-way communication with an IVRS that was developed by a start-up. A product of chat-bot is already running for two years and is now upgrading to a multi-lingual chat-bot.

• Focus on Research with go to market approach. Engage with strong domain expertise from the start. (IHUB's focus is on the areas such as translational research, product development, technology transfer, skill development, etc… with emphasis on innovation entrepreneurship startup ecosystem and international collaboration)

- Approach a bigger collaborator such as law ministry. (DST has already said, that it will put IHUB with the law ministry contact. IHUB will also collaborate with other startups, NGOs, legal companies and law universities on this part.)

- Explore how to connect and utilize the existing software that has been developed with respect to courts. During Covid, everything went online including the court delivering justice using the online methodology.

- Contact with some top lawyers and top ex-judges who have used these products, and can help in identifying what are the weaknesses and where are the actual problems lying and what kind of solutions are required. Mr. Ajai Chowdhry can connect IHUB to a retired advocate from Supreme Court and she can give inputs on this.

- Dr. Murali (DST) mentioned that HUBs are aggregators of knowledge in a particular domain and they will create a number of spokes around the country and even abroad. 1) Hence HUBs will become the single point of source of information for all activities of the research in this particular domain. 2) Work among themselves also to create grand challenges and creating technologies to meet Govt. of India requirements and industry. 3) There are various activities like R&D, technology development in HRD, startups, international collaboration, etc as part of the mission that was given to the HUBs as targets.

- DST has created a dashboard for the mission, 'nmicps.gov.in'. All targets have been mentioned here.

- DST clarified that IHUB is an independent company with its own Board of Directors (BOD). IHUB is created in the research organization and the Director is also the chairman of HGB and chairman of BOD. Ultimately, the BOD has to approve all the activities. The HGB's role is to give feedback on the targets, the activities related to grand challenges, provide technical direction, etc.

- HGB would be the recommending body and BOD would be the accepting body. HGB cannot give any approvals, being a recommending body it will act as a bridge between academic and commercial aspects. HGB will focus on the technical aspects.

- IHUB should have its recruitment, procurement and funding policies, which should be ratified by the BOD as per the company laws.

- IHUB presented the status of the progress, immediate plans and two technical verticals where IHUB intends to work forward. HGB has in principle agreed to this.

- DST informed about an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee meeting, which is part of the mission, that is chaired by Dr. Amitabh Kant, Niti Aayog CEO. The meeting included the line ministries, selected PSUs and some of the industry associations also. Fundamentally this mission has to achieve technological self-sufficiency. For that purpose all the ministries, the departments, PSUs under the Government of India, organizations under the government of India and some of the industries, will flag their requirements. The HUBs will bid for the projects to achieve those requirements. So, there will be a series of requirements from PSUs, departments, ministries, therefore it will be like a directed Research apart from the open Research from HUBs and ultimately it has to be culminated into meeting the products or requirements. Hence there is a clear direction to go for the technology development.

- DST also plans to arrange a meeting with all the 25 HUBs along with some of the Mission Governing Board members, Scientific Advisory Committee, Dr. Amitabh Kant, DST Secretary, etc. for discussing the developmental framework. More clarity will come after this meeting.

- DST informed about a recent notification from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs with respect to the CSR contributions, wherein a minimum of 3 years working is required. Hence DST is working to resolve this part, and once the approval is done, all the HUBs will be eligible for the CSR grant.

- With respect to SIRO recognition (Scientific and Industrial Research Organization) that is given by DSIR is to be taken up. Customs exemption, income tax exemption, GST exemption needed to be addressed at the BOD level and once CEO joins, he will be able to take care of all these issues.

- DST suggested waiting for about 10-15 days from the day of this meeting, i.e., 5th April, 2021 to get more clarity and then proceed with the funding.

- HGB suggested engaging more from the technical perspective to drive innovation. IHUB to mention the expectations from HGB about the research projects, therefore a detailed discussion on the projects and goals are recommended.

- HGB suggested sending out a note to all the participants for the joint meeting that DST is to organize, and what HUBs can do for them with respect to joint research projects and products.

- HGB suggested that the technical projects can also be shared over the emails and the members can give suggestions and comments over emails.

- BOD can come up with the frameworks and those can be brought to the HGB meetings for information.

The meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair

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