



Minutes of Meeting - Hub Governing Board Meeting

Date - Friday 23rd April 2021

Venue & Time - Google Meet, 7.30-8.30pm IST

Attendees -

Govindan Rangarajan (Director IISc)
Daniella Rus (Professor & Director, CSAIL MIT)
Vijendran Venkoparao (Bosch) - Representing Dattatri Salgame
Bharadwaj Amrutur (Faculty -IISc, Research Head - Artpark)
B Gurumoorthy (CEO, SID, IISc)
Umakant Soni (CEO, Artpark, Chairman AI foundry)
Navakanta Bhat (Dean, Division of Interdisciplinary Sciences, IISc)
Prashanth Prakash (MD, Accel Partner)

Absentees -

Because of Covid and scheduling conflict, following were not present in the HGB meeting

Prof. A Paul Raj (Professor Emeritus Stanford University)
Subhashis Banerjee (Co-founder & CEO, Alfoundry)
Dattatri Salgame (President & MD, Robert Bosch Engineering and business solutions Pvt. Ltd)
Dr. Murali Mohan - Mission director, National Mission on ICPS, Department of science and technology, Govt. of India
Dr. Ramana Reddy - Additional Chief Secretary , Department of IT-BT, Govt. of Karnataka

Important Minutes -

- a. Chairman Prof. [Govindan Rangarajan](#) called the meeting to order, welcomed the HGB members present and asked Umakant Soni, CEO ARTPARK to share the updates.
- b. Umakant Soni, welcomed the HGB members and shared the developments on following points,
 - i. It was noted that 230 cr (\$32mn) grants have been committed by DST (170 cr) & Govt. of Karnataka (60 cr) over next 5 years. ARTPARK is now set up to receive CSR grants from companies. It is working to get FCRA Exempt status to help it get outside India grants as well.
 - ii. ARTPARK Innovation Program & ART Venture fund - ARTPARK is rolling out the innovation program (<https://www.artpark.in/artpark-innovation-program>- Spark, Ignite, Turbo & Boost) to help grow the AI & Robotics ecosystem in India. ARTPARK is also creating a new section 8 entity to help invest in and incubate

the ART Venture fund(with proposed corpus of \$100m (750 cr)) to help in achieving ARTPARK's goals and objectives.

- iii. Industry and Academia Collaborations - ARTPARK is currently pursuing MoUs with various global and Indian academia & Industry partners Nvidia, Ericsson, Volvo, Flipkart, SAAB, SIBC, Bosch, Macchani Group, MIT, University of Aalto, IIT Jodhpur, Airtel, Flight Aviation Academy to help in its goals & objectives. It also further intends to enter into MoU with Indian Army for strategic needs of the nation.
- iv. Technology Moonshots - ARTPARK is Exploring moonshot technology moonshots together with DST & NITI Aayog at the intersection of societal impact, economic sustainability and new technology creation. Initial focus on problems in healthcare, education, financial inclusion and agriculture. A few sample ideas were also floated to stimulate discussion and seek feedback.
- v. Lablets - ARTPARK is collaborating with RBCCPS(IISc) for a masters program in Robotics and Autonomous systems to establish a world renowned centre for AI & Robotics in additions to creating Lablets, a short term course in key AI & Robotics areas . Experiential learning for AI & Robotics
- vi. Processes and policies - To effectively operationalize ARTPARK effectively, following processes and policies have been put into place,
 - 1. Procurement Policy - Effective and transparent policy to enable ARTPARK to procure capital assets, following the spirit of GFR in terms of robustness, transparency and accountability.
 - 2. Recruitment Policy - Process and checklist for effective hiring
 - 3. Investment Policy - Transparent process of investing and supporting companies having goals and objectives aligned with ARTPARK
 - 4. Incubation Policy - Transparent process of incubating and creating companies having goals and objectives aligned with ARTPARK
 - 5. Intellectual Property Policy - IP policy for engaging with Industry and academia with clear and transparent guidelines for effective translation
 - 6. HR policies including Leave policy, working hour policies - HR policy for enabling better employee retention and welfare
 - 7. POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) Policy - Policy for prevention of sexual harassment for creating better working environment
- vii. Further it was noted that ARTPARK is organizing ARTPARK Summit 2021 - July 24th to bring together the global AI & Robotics ecosystem around big problem areas the developing world is facing with technology.
- viii. Future challenges on growing the organization, getting it further funded and focusing it on a few technology moonshot problems were noted and were asked for further feedback from the HGB members.
- ix. Floor was opened for discussion & Q&A

- c. Important feedback from HGB members were noted as follows-
- i. Daniella Rus suggested that focus on a few areas are important, while data banks could be a good challenge it needs to have right funding and structure around it. Moonshots around Indic languages with much lower amount of data and development of smart clusters could be an interesting area, however a much higher amount of funding might be needed, otherwise there could be a big gap in vision and funding to support that vision. Daniella also suggested reusing content in the lablets program and interest in swarm robots and data infrastructure .
 - ii. Prashanth Prakash suggested to prioritize on talent development, technology moonshots on agriculture and indic languages and rollout of ARTPARK Innovation program to include a wide range of teams.
 - iii. Vijendran suggested to focus on data collaboration, agri tech and indic languages for technology moonshots. Also noted that Agriculture is a complex area with its own challenges and opportunities.
 - iv. Navakanta suggested to explore the possibility of technology moonshot in collaboration with IEEE on smart village program and focus on education and development of entrepreneurship
 - v. It was also felt that ARTPARK might also need to secure early wins for it to get more visibility and funding.
- d. Action items -
- i. Umakant to connect with Prashanth for further discussions on areas to focus and framework for technology moonshots by leveraging govt., industry and academia. Further focus on supporting 3 teams from IISc and 3 from external ecosystem to create peer learning opportunities in ARTPARK Innovation program.
 - ii. Umakant to connect with Navakanta for more details on IEEE challenge and deeper discussions on ecosystem growth.
 - iii. ARTPARK team to rollout Lablet program and look at leveraging global connects to enrich it.
 - iv. ARTPARK team to focus on securing a few early wins and raising more capital & grant with visibility to fuel its vision .