


Record Notes of 1st Meeting of Coordination Committee on Steel Industry-Academia Interface (SIAI), held in Director's Conference Room, RDCIS, SAIL, Ranchi on May 14, 2016

The list of participants is enclosed as Annexure-I.

Following are the salient points of the meeting :

- The first meeting of the coordination committee to Strengthen Industry-Academia Interface was held at RDCIS, Ranchi on May 14, 2016 at 10.00 AM. After opening remarks by Dr B K Jha , in his welcome address Dr B B Agrawal briefed about the significance of industry – academia interface and the earlier meeting of 19th April 2016 chaired by Mrs Aruna Sundarajan, Secy, MoS.
- After the welcome address, Dr Ramen Datta made a brief presentation on major points of draft approach note which included scope of SIAI, need for SIAI, responsibilities, broad areas of cooperation, linkages & networking, major activities, identification, selection, approval & monitoring of projects/activities, creating synergies with existing platforms such as SDF, SRTMI, funding of project proposals, human resource & time-lines etc.
- Following observations and remarks were made during the course of the discussion :
 - As interest points / priorities of individual industry are often driven by financial bottom-line and therefore may not always match with projects of 'National importance'. Therefore, before finalising the approach note, need to understand the explicit and implicit requirements / expectations of all the stake holders was emphasised. For this purpose, it was proposed to obtain their view in this regard.
 - It was largely agreed that approach note of SIAI to have focus on : (a) Much needed collaborative R&D activity driven by future vision having involvement of both industry and academia, (b) Development of right human resource for the industry, and (c) Consultancy / joint R&D projects for immediate solution to the critical problems of the industry for its survival.
 - With respect to identification of R&D project/programmes and their execution, it was pointed out that
 - (a) There should be a customer for every project
 - (b) There should be a mechanism to identify the exact need of the industry/academia
 - (c) There should be a project governance mechanism (i.e. selection of committees, formulation of project including deliverables, scientific content, respective roles & responsibilities, project execution task-force, project monitoring committee, involvement of advisory members etc.)
 - For successful execution of R&D projects initiated through SIAI, if appropriate Domain experts are not available in India; foreign experts / talents of international repute should be scouted while ensuring development of national talents.

- Idea of “School of Ferrous Technology” was appreciated by the participants in light of its role with respect to development of right type of human resource for the industry and providing applied research and consultancy services to the industry.
- It was agreed to have an annual membership fee for the SIAI member institutions which will promote sense of ownership of the platform and enable them to access the research outputs as per IPR guidelines. It was suggested that a clear IPR policy should be included in the approach note acceptable to both industry and academia. In this context, Prof. P K Ghosh and Shri Manish Sudan, TATA Steel have been requested to formulate the framework relating IPR within a week’s time.
- It has been proposed that a nodal agency be created to coordinate the activities of the platform (SIAI). In this connection, the names of RDCIS (SAIL), TATA Steel & JSW have been proposed.
- It was agreed that SIAI will function more in the form of an advisory body. For high Capex projects of national importance, it will play the role of a recommending body. In case of small projects involving new concepts and ideas, and also for initiatives to strengthen the academia-industry interface, it will provide funding also. For this purpose, SIAI will require around Rs10 crores/annum. It was proposed that the funds required by SIAI can be sourced from SDF/SRTMI/Govt Plan funds.
- The coordination team which has been entrusted with preparation of the approach note shall function as “Standing Committee” members once the approach note is submitted to MoS.
- A pool of “Domain Experts” in different areas such as ironmaking, steelmaking, rolling, product development, process metallurgy, physical metallurgy, project management etc shall be constituted. An “Expert Committee” for examining project proposals of national importance will be chosen from the pool of experts.
- It was suggested to examine the mechanisms followed by “Space /Nuclear Research Programs” in development of indigenous technologies and appropriate/practical points of these may be included in the approach note.
- Further, it was agreed that the draft approach note on SIAI be discussed with D(T) SAIL & Secretary (Steel), MoS on May 25-26, 2016.


 (Dr. Ramen Datta) 16/5/16
 Convenor, SIAI

ANNEXURE-I

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

- 1 Dr B K Jha, Ex-ED,RDCIS, Convenor
- 2 Dr S Chatterjee, GM,MECON
- 3 Dr T Venugopal, Advisor, TATA Steel
- 4 Prof P K Ghosh,Dean,IIT Roorkee
- 5 Dr R Datta, GM, RDCIS

Invitees

- 1 Dr P P Chattopadhyay, Dir(NIFFT)
- 2 A K Paul, GM I/C, RDCIS
- 3 Dr B B Agrawal, GM,RDCIS
- 4 Manish Sudan,SM,TATA Steel
- 5 R K Ahuja, DGM,RDCIS
- 6 Dr Santosh Kumar, DGM,RDCIS
- 7 P Pathak, DGM,RDCIS
- 8 S Srikanth, AGM,RDCIS
- 9 Dr Anjana Deva, AGM,RDCIS
- 10 P K Maini, SM,RDCIS
- 11 A Chatterjee, DM,RDCIS
- 12 Somnath Kumar, DM, RDCIS
- 13 A Goswami, AM,RDCIS