

Summary Record of the Second Meeting of Executive Council of the MHRD-MoST Alliance held at 5.30 pm on Monday the 29th June, 2011 in Shastri Bhavan,

The second meeting of the Executive Council of the "MHRD-MoST Grand Alliance Initiatives" was held at 5.30 pm on Wednesday the 29th June, 2011 in Shastri Bhavan. The meeting was chaired by Ms Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD. Following were present in the meeting:

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| 1. Dr. T. Ramasami | Secretary, DST, MoST |
| 2. Dr. S.K. Brahmachari | DG CSIR and Secretary, DSIR, MoST |
| 3. Sh. R.P. Sisodia, | Jt. Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD |
| 4. Sh S.S. Mantha | Chairman(ag), AICTE , MHRD |
| 5. Dr Ved Prakash | UGC, MHRD |
| 6. Ms Radha Chauhan | JS (SE II), MHRD |
| 7. Sh Amit Khare, | JS (ICC), MHRD |
| 8. Dr. Suman Govil, | Adviser, DBT, MoST |
| 9. Dr. A.Mukhopadhyay | Adviser, DST, MoST |
| 10. Dr. Akhilesh Gupta | Adviser, DST, MoST |
| 11. Sh. Jayant Bhatnagar, | Director, C-DOT, MCIT |

The Chairperson Ms Vibha Puri Das, Secretary, Higher Education, MHRD welcomed the members and other special invitees. She mentioned that the alliance had two meetings one each of Executive Council and Council held on 14th March and 5th April respectively. Several issues were brought for consideration of above councils. She felt happiness that many of these issues were given go ahead by the councils. She expressed satisfaction about the interest shown by all the partnering ministries and hoped that the alliance would be able to achieve its set goals if we continue to work in collaborative manner.

With this background, the agenda items of the second meeting of Executive Council of Alliance were taken up for discussion. After detailed deliberations, following decisions were arrived at:

Age-nda No	Agenda Item	Details of Agenda Item and Discussion	Action proposed
1	National Test Scheme- Progress so far and actions to be initiated	A National Test Scheme is being designed to set a uniform procedure for selection of students for admission to tertiary education. The scheme is being evolved as a single examination system in place of the existing multiple competitive examination system in the country. Unification, while retaining the diversity of educational systems in the country is the underlying strategy of the proposed National Test Scheme. It is motivated by the principle of inclusion for a collaborative excellence rather than exclusion through competitive excellence. The current status of the actions initiated by DST was presented and discussed.	The EC noted the excellent progress made so far in this direction. The report of the committee is expected to be submitted by September, 2011. Further action on the recommendations of the committee report will be initiated by MHRD.

2	Recommendations of Curriculum Committee on strengthening of R&D in IITs	The Curriculum committee set up by MHRD had come up with several broad recommendations and suggested paths for strengthening of R&D in IITs. The status of implementation of these recommendations was discussed. It was informed that the recommendations of the committee have been placed before IIT council for implementation. Some of the recommendations related to MoST such as setting up of Research Parks were discussed.	It was decided that some of these recommendations could be discussed in the forthcoming IIT Council meeting being held on 16 th July, 2011 and bring this agenda again for discussion in the next meeting of EC.
3	'Building Educators for Science Teaching (BEST)	Building Educators for Science Teaching (BEST) calls for a Grand and long standing Alliance between the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. Whereas several initiatives have been made for the attraction of talent to study of science, adequate investments have not been made into science teaching. The mentoring roles of teachers in the primary, secondary and tertiary education levels in enhancing the quality of researcher are widely acknowledged. Capacity building of teachers who are already in position in science teaching is accorded high priority. A Scheme which provides hitherto unavailable opportunities to teachers in primary and secondary schools and colleges is envisaged. It should include opportunities for professional updating, exposure to superior methods of teaching, learning from global best practices and exchange visits to some leading centres in science teaching. In order that the scheme delivers sufficient impact, the scoping and sizing of the scheme should be optimized. The scheme could include professional updating allowances, access to IT enabled educational tools and technology, and meeting with global science leaders etc. It could target as many as 0.5 million teachers. The selection should be based on merit and nominations and could cover as many schools and colleges as possible, if not all.	It was decided to discuss this agenda exclusively in the next EC meeting wherein DST would make a detailed presentation on the issue.
4	MoST-MHRD joint fund support for Indo-German Programme on "A New Passage to India" beyond 2012	IIT Madras and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) signed a MoU in 2008 to establish an Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS) at Chennai. The centre was officially opened as a Joint project of IIT and several renowned German higher education institutions and is being funded by DAAD within the "A New Passage to India" initiative. Since its launch in 2009, the "A New Passage to India"	It was decided to request IIT Madras to come up with a national level proposal on this issue.

		<p>initiative has led to more than 40 new German-Indian higher education partnerships, which provide framework for exchange of students and young scientists. Over 500 young Indian students were able to gain direct research experience as interns in laboratories at German universities and research institutions under the "Working internships in Science and engineering" (WISE) scholarship programme. Funding for the "A New Passage to India" will be available until 2012. The German side is ready to fund the initiative beyond 2012. This needs to be supplemented by funds from Indian side.</p>	
5	<p>Brainstorming Meeting for IT and Telecom sector to identify niche areas having potential of yielding high impact deliverables at national level</p>	<p>DST initiated action on organising a brainstorming meeting jointly with ministry of Information Technology for the IT and Telecommunication sectors to identify few important areas for initiating a major programme yielding high impact deliverables at national level. Necessary inputs for organising the meeting such a list of relevant experts and stakeholders; inputs for background material, etc have been provided to MCIT.</p>	<p>MCIT was requested to initiate further necessary action in this direction with the support of MoST.</p>
6	<p>Diamond Jubilee Scheme for Women S&T Professionals who are already employed and face challenge of mobility - creation of 1000 positions on consolidated salary.</p>	<p>There has been a gradual increase in number of women entering into S&T domain with graduate, post-graduate and PhD degrees in recent years. However, it is a challenge to keep them engaged in S&T activities due to various reasons such as family responsibilities and lack of options that provide them adequate mobility. The DST 'Women scientists' scheme initiated in 2001 which provides a re-entry point for women has been a great success. DST has now initiated a scheme for addressing the mobility of women scientists. The scheme is proposed to be launched in the Diamond Jubilee year of the Republic of India and would be called the "Diamond Jubilee Scheme for Women Science and Technology Professionals". The scheme would be applicable to women S&T professionals who are already employed and face the challenge of mobility. It is proposed to create a total of 1000 positions for women S&T professionals in the country with consolidated salary. The jobs will be tenable at anywhere in the country in GOI funded institutions including state and central universities. The upper age limit for eligibility will be 60 years.</p>	<p>EC appreciated the initiative taken up by DST and requested them to go ahead with implementation of the proposal.</p>

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.