Minutes of *i*-PSG meeting
February 08, 2018, Venue: Committee Room-1

A closed door meeting of the newly constituted *i*-PSG committee was held on 08.02.2018, in the Committee Room No. 1, to discuss the following subjects:

- Status of the approved *i*-PSG projects
- Mandays/modules of scholastic projects
- Selection of theme champions/mentors and probable topics/areas of research
- Credibility improvement of *i*-PSG projects
- Mandatory *i*-PSG projects for scientists etc.
- Next *i*-PSG open house meeting to review the projects
- Call for new project proposals (Thematic, technology development and scholastic)

The Chairman (*i*-PSG) welcomed all the members of the committee followed by a detailed presentation on the above subjects by the *i*-PSG Convener. The committee deliberated on the above subjects and the following recommendations were made:

- All the scholastic projects can be supported for a period not more than 3 years (i.e. 3 modules). The project leaders of the scholastic project will be entitled for a maximum of 50 mandays per year. All the scholastic projects that have been active up to the fourth module will not be extended further. However, to adjust for this transition, the projects that have continued up to the third module can be extended for one more year with 50 mandays. Similarly, after the completion of second module only third module will be permitted with 50 mandays, so as to comply with 'maximum three modules for scholastic projects'.

- It would be mandatory for a project leader, desirous of submitting a proposal to external funding agency, to show the proof of concept prior to the submission of the proposal. However, the Director (CSIR-NML) will have the discretion on whether the proof of concept is required. If a proof of concept is required, proposals can be submitted to *i*-PSG.

- All the scientists, up to Principal Scientist, who have less than 30 mandays/year, need to mandatorily take an *i*-PSG project in thematic areas or technology development. A mentor will be assigned for these projects and he/she will be entitled for a total of 12 mandays in a year.

- Anyone can propose for a thematic project, even if he/she has an *i*-PSG scholastic/technology development project. However, total *i*-PSG involvement cannot be more than 120 mandays.

- The *i*-PSG committee will evolve a grading system for the completed projects. The grading system will mainly consider the innovativeness, efforts made, planning and execution. The final outcome of the project will not be a major consideration for this grading system. The grades assigned to the projects will be linked to the respective APAR evaluation of team members, wherever applicable, in the form of CSE (NML as client).

- The team of the completed *i*-PSG projects, which wins the Professor Shilowbhadra Banerjee award, will be entitled for a grant of Rs. 10 Lakh for facility creation within two years from the date of the conferment of the award, in addition to any momento/certificate. Dh

- As most of the present theme champions are already pre-occupied with numerous responsibilities of the laboratory, the Chairman (*i*-PSG) felt that younger generation should take their responsibility as theme champions and make extra effort to take in-house research to newer heights. In view of this, the recommended new champions for different theme areas are as follows:
    - Dr. R. K. Rath (Fine particle processing)
    - Dr. D. Mishra (Advanced separation processes)
    - Dr. L. C. Pathak (Advanced materials engineering)
    - Dr. S. G. Chowdhury (Advanced manufacturing technology)
    - Dr. Sanjay Kumar (Environment, Energy and Resource Management)
    - Dr. Nilima Roy (Modeling and simulation)

- The theme areas 'Advanced separation processes' and 'REE & PGM' are now merged in one theme 'Advanced separation processes'.

- The new champions will come up with novel topics/titles in their theme areas, which can guide the prospective *i*-PSG project proposals to be submitted in the next 'Call for proposals'.

- Now onwards, the *i*-PSG open house meeting will be convened in April and October every year.

- A meeting will be convened inviting former theme champions and the new ones to discuss the topics for the next *i*-PSG call for proposal.

(S. K. Tiwari)
Member

(D. Mishra)
Member

(Nilima Roy)
Member
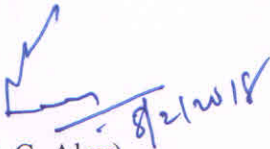
(A. K. Swain)
Member

(Beena Kumari)
Member

(Rajneesh Kumar)
Member

(T. C. Alex)
Member

(V. C. Srivastava)
Co-convener

(S. K. Das)
Convener

(I. Chattoraj)
Chairman, *i*-PSG