


F. No. 16-8/2017-TEL
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education
(TEL Section)

525-C, Shastri Bhawan
Dated: 30th Jan, 2018

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Minutes of SFC Meeting of e-Shodh Sindhu held on 29/12/2017 – regarding.

The undersigned is directed to forward the minutes of the SFC meeting held on 29/12/2017 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (HE), M/o HRD.


(Rajesh Singh Solanki)
Under Secretary (ICT)
Tele. No. : 011-23385935

To :

1. Smt. Darshana M-Dabral, Joint Secretary & FA, MHRD.
2. Shri Jagdish Singh, Senior Research Officer, NITI Aayog.
3. Smt. Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, Director (HRD), NITI Aayog.
4. Shri D K Kalra, Scientist 'E', MeitY-
5. Shri Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre.

Copy to :

1. PPS to Secretary (HE).
2. PPS to SS(TE).
3. Deputy Secretary (ICT).
4. Shri Parameswaran N, Sr Consultant, M/o HRD.
5. Shri. Amit Sharma, Consultant, NMEICT.



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Dated 30th January 2017

Minutes of the SFC meeting for e-Shodh Sindhu (eSS) held on 29th December 2017

The meeting of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) to consider the proposal for continuing the eSS project was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (HE) on 29th December 2017. The list of members of the SFC committee who attended the meeting is enclosed.

2. The SFC considered the Third Party evaluation report of NASSCOM which evaluated the activities taken up under the eSS. The NASSCOM report strongly recommended continuation of eSS. Hence, this SFC.

3. The project proposal was for continuation of eSS till 31st March 2020, costing Rs. 492.08 Cr, as per the break-up given below:

Item	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
National resources	117.82	117.82	117.82	353.47
World E Library resources & South Asian Archives	25.00	25.00	0	50.00
NLIST	8	8	8	24.00
Backlog to Elsevier	8	0	0	8.00
Total	158.82	150.82	125.82	435.47
Admin @1 %	1.59	1.51	1.26	4.35
GST @ 12%	19.06	18.10	15.09	52.26
Grand total	179.47	170.43	142.17	492.08

4. The following points emerged during the course of discussions:

- The eSS is a Scheme to reap the benefits of collective bargaining for the electronic journals and databases being subscribed by the libraries of higher educational institutions.
- The resource requirements were collated after a web based survey that was conducted by INFLIBNET through a web portal in which the higher education institutions were asked to enter their resource requirements.

- c) These requirements were analysed and resources which are generally required by at least 100 institutions and which are not subject-specific are identified as 'National Resources'.
- d) The Negotiation Committee of INFLIBNET would undertake negotiations with publishers on behalf of the higher education institutions and work out the cost to be paid for the resources.
- e) The cost of the resources is to be paid by the institutions themselves except the cost of 'National Resources' for Centrally funded and State-Funded institutions, which would be paid by MHRD.
- f) The Negotiation Committee can approve a tier based system of rates depending on the usage by the institutions. It is not necessary that same rate has to be applied to all the institutions.
- g) The Negotiation Committee will have flexibility to drop certain journals from the suggested national resources and substitute with others, depending on the importance of the resource.
- h) The rates negotiated by the National Negotiation Committee should be not more than the rates agreed for last year unless there is special circumstance which is to be listed down. The rates approved for each resource would need to be followed by the participating institutions, like a DGS&D Rate Contract.
- i) INFLIBNET should do due diligence of the institutions which have sought certain resources keeping in view their past record of utilisation and their ability to pay. In short, INFLIBNET should be fairly certain that the institution can make payment for the journals which they have indented. Even after the negotiations are completed, INFLIBNET should continue to play a facilitator role to ensure that the Publishers are not disadvantaged due to improper payment by certain institutions.
- j) UGC/AICTE/NIT/IIT Divisions may be asked to keep in view the requirement of the institutions who want to subscribe for e-journals are not already a part of their national resource pool so that the institutions will be able to procure these resources without any difficulty at the rates negotiated by the eSS Negotiation Committee.
- k) The centrally funded institutions would be barred from paying any publisher a rate more than what has been negotiated under the eSS. A certificate would be requested from the Finance Department of the centrally funded institutions, to this effect.
- l) The subscription for the World E book Library and South Asian Archives, which provide access to more than 32 lakh digital books and archives would be continued. The institutes does not have to make any payment for accessing these resources.
- m) Under NLIST in eSS, access is provided to 6000+ journals and 1,25,000 books to about 3000 colleges covered unde Sec 12(B) and 2(f) of UGC Act. The colleges contribute Rs.5000/- annually. This scheme would continue.
- n) Towards the cost of administration of web portal, negotiations cost and other administrative expenses 1% has been provided to INFLIBNET. Also GST @12% has been provided for.

4. Having considered all the views and observations of the members, the SFC has approved the eSS at a total cost of Rs. 492.08 Crores (Rupees Four hundred and ninety two crores eight lakhs) for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2020 as per the SFC memorandum. All disbursements and monitoring of funds would be done through the EAT module of PFMS so as to eliminate the problem of parking of funds.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure-I

List of participants of the meeting of the SFC for e-Shodh Sindhu on 29th December, 2017 at 1.00 p.m.

1. Shri K. K. Sharma, Secretary, D/o HE - Chairperson
2. Shri R Subrahmanyam, Additional Secretary (TE), MHRD - Member
3. Smt. Darshana M Dabral, Joint Secretary & FA, MHRD - Member
4. Shri Jagdish Singh, Senior Research Officer, NITI Aayog
5. Smt. Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan, Director (HRD), NITI Aayog
6. Shri D K Kalra, Scientist 'E', MeitY
7. Shri Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre
8. Smt. Malathi Narayanan, Deputy Secretary (TE)
9. Shri Parameswaran N, Senior Consultant, NMEICT
10. Shri. Amit Sharma, Consultant, NMEICT
11. Shri Saleh Nadim, ASO
12. Shri Neeraj Kumar Vishnoi, ASO