

**Minutes of the 21st Annual General meeting of the NERIST
Society held on 17.01.2013 at 11.00 A.M. in the Board
Meeting Room, NERIST**

The following members were present:

1. Gen. (Retd.) J.J.Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM
H.E. The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh &
President, Society of NERIST, Itanagar. - President
2. Shri M.P.Bezbaruah,
Chairman, BoM, NERIST - Member
3. Shri P.S.Thangkhiew,
Principal Secretary, Education,
Govt. of Meghalaya - Representative of Hon'ble Edu.
Minister, Govt. of Meghalaya
4. Shri Tempo Gamcho,
Special Secretary, Education,
Govt. of Sikkim - Representative of Hon'ble Edu.
Minister, Govt. of Sikkim
5. Shri A.Kathipri,
Director,
Hr. & Technical Education,
Govt. of Nagaland. - Representative of Hon'ble Edu.
Minister, Govt. of Nagaland
6. Dr. Joram Begi,
Director,
Technical & Hr. Education,
Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh - Representative of Hon'ble Edu.
Minister, Govt. of Arunachal
Pradesh
7. Prof.Dipankar Pal,
Director, NERIST. - Member
8. Shri Ankur Garg, IAS,
Secretary to H.E. the Governor of
Arunachal Pradesh. - Special Invitee
9. Shri L.S.Yadav,
Registrar i/c - Non-Member Secretary Society,
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The Hon'ble members who could not attend the meeting are as follows:

1. Shri N.K.Sinha, IAS, Addl. Secretary (TEL), MHRD, Govt. of India.
2. Hon'ble Minister (Education), Govt. of Assam.
3. Hon'ble Minister (Education), Govt. of Mizoram.
4. Hon'ble Minister (Higher Education), Govt. of Tripura.
5. Hon'ble Minister, Education, Govt. of Manipur

At the outset, His Excellency the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and President, NERIST Society, Gen.(Retd.) J.J. Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM was warmly welcomed by Mr. M.P. Bezbaruah, Chairman, BoM, NERIST and Prof. Dipankar Pal, Director, NERIST. The HE then paid homage to Swami Vivekananda along with all the members present. Then, he welcomed all the members who attended the meeting and expressed his happiness for attending the 21st Society meeting of NERIST and declared the meeting open.

Hon'ble President asked the Director, NERIST to give his presentation on the developments taken up during the period 2012.

Director, NERIST made his power-point presentation and explained in detail the developmental activities taken up during the year 2012 and to be taken up in future. The excerpt of his presentation is reproduced below:

1. NERIST has signed an MoU with American University of Sharjah, UAE, one of the top ranking universities of UAE to enhance collaboration in terms of research, research supervision, projects and exchange programmes to mutual benefit. This is the first of its kind done by NERIST in 28 years of its existence.
2. Three new M.Tech. programmes were started by NERIST from the academic session 2012-13 – namely M.Tech. in VLSI, M.Tech in ECE and M.Tech. in Thermal Fluid Engineering.

3. Director was nominated as one of the members from the Indian delegation, sent by RGIIM Shillong to visit the Qingdao Ocean University, China under Sino-Indian bilateral exchange.
4. The E.T. Cell was renovated by a group of students under the overall supervision of the officials.
5. Department of Physics, NERIST has been successful to get the award of fund for Improvement of Science & Technology Infrastructure of Universities (FIST) under DST for over Rs. 2.5 crores.
6. As a 1st Step towards complete automation, from 2013, the filling up of forms and applications for NERIST Entrance Examination (NEE) have been made on-line from the Academic Year 2013-14.
7. Central Library entered into the era of automation. First phase of automation, enabling users to access library through internet is completed.
8. Third Convocation of NERIST was successfully conducted on 12th October, 2012 with H E presiding over the event and with the then Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resource Development Mr. Kapil Sibal, as Chief Guest. Incidentally this 3rd Convocation was held after more than 2-years as no Convocation was held in between.
9. International Conference on Power and energy (ICPEN 2012) – the first one to be technically co-sponsored by IEEE (Kolkata Chapter) was organized successfully in NERIST, during 28-29 December 2012. Prof. K. L. Chopra, Padmashree, delivered the keynote address while faculty from Massachusetts Institute of Technology,


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USA; Siemens, Germany attended it. Prof. Gautam Barua, Director, IIT G, also attended

10. A good number of corporate houses, Government Agencies i.e. IOC, NEC, Bharti, NEEPCO, Jindal, AXIS Banks etc. offered Scholarships to NERIST students.
11. Under TEQIP Phase-II many academic programmes like Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs), Staff Development Programmes (SDPs) and Workshops among others were conducted throughout the years.
12. New Sponsored Research Projects (2012-13): Continuing with its tradition, faculties of NERIST received a large number of research projects from various agencies like BOT, AICTE, DST etc.
13. Many faculty members attended National/International Conferences, Seminars as Chairman, Key Note speaker and Paper Presenters and brought laurels to the Institute.
14. A Local Advisory Body (LAB) has recently been formed (on 14-12-2012) under the Chairman-ship of the Director to have better discharging of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to the development of the locality. NERIST has been doing that ever since its inception, but only at a non-formal meeting. Among the persons who gave their consent to be a part of it are notable writer Ms. Mamang Dai, journalist and editor Ms. Audrey Apang, Anchal Pradhan, President of the local Chamber of the Commerce, DC (Capital) Shri S. Goel, IAS and SP (Capital) Shri Surendra Kumar, IPS

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Director, NERIST replied on the query of Hon'ble President that no major student-unrest was faced by the Institute during the year 2012. Like every year, Anti-Ragging Squads were formed with faculty members for monitoring round the clock in all hostels to curb the ragging in the Institute. Only a few students were caught this year and who were given punishment sending a signal to other students that NERIST has to be a ragging-free campus loud and clear. One student was rusticated for one semester and the other two students were given minor punishment.

The Director also apprised of the status of the three major construction work taken up by the Institute and explained that due to paucity of fund, the same is getting slowed down. He however informed the house about the completion of minor construction including an LPG-Shed for opening an IOC outlet for cooking gas (a long standing demand of campus-residents), 2-additional ATM Counters in the Boys Hostel Complex, a Security Barrack, fencing of the are in front of the Faculty Block and renovation of the Old Guest House in the Director Bungalow annexes.

In the final note Director, NERIST appealed to the President for requesting for more and timely release of grant from the Ministry in order that a number of pending construction/ maintenance work (for this aging Institute) could be taken up before it is too late. He also apprised the members about the budget cut faced by the Institute in the current FY and the delay in receipt of quarterly installments. The Hon'ble President while assuring the Institute authorities that all logical help shall be extended so that the Institute is not unduly stressed due to financial hardship advised the Director to send the details of fund-release that has happened so far to Secretary to H E so that a request could be sent from H E to the Ministry.

The Hon'ble President expressed his happiness on the developmental activities taken up by the Director, NERIST during the year 2012 and applauded for continuation of more and more developmental programmes at NERIST enhancing the reputation of the Institute to the national and international level.

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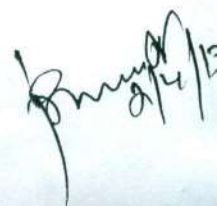
After the presentation of the Director, NERIST, Hon'ble President requested the Chairman, BoM to address the meeting. The Chairman, BoM pointed out the following issues.

Shri M.P. Bezbaruah, Chairman, BoM, NERIST said that placements at NERIST was not in expected lines as many big companies like INFOSIS etc. were expressing their unwillingness to come to NERIST, Nirjuli due to long distance and communication problems. They were conducting interviews in the engineering colleges in Assam, but they were not coming to NERIST, Nijuli. He also emphasized on change of mind-set of students so that they accept job-offers outside their states or region as well as on calling big industries to NERIST for more and more placements to the students of NERIST. He suggested that alternative arrangements are to be made to conduct interviews at Guwahati etc. according to the convenience of the companies in order to improve placements.

Chairman, BoM and Director then raised the demand of implementation of old GPF-cum-Pension scheme to the NERIST employees, who have joined on or before 31st December, 2003. They also said that many institutions were given old pension which were established after NERIST and it was a genuine demand from the employees. Even though many correspondences were made from NERIST, MHRD has denied it so far. They requested the Hon'ble President to intervene and bring the matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister of HRD for an early implementation of old GPF-cum-Pension Scheme to the eligible employees.

Hon'ble President assured to take up the matter with the Hon'ble Minister for HRD.

Chairman, BoM raised the issue of encroachment of NERIST land by the outsiders in the Nirjuli village, which were allotted by the Arunachal Pradesh State Government. He also said that this has become hurdle for the ongoing developmental activities in NERIST. He sought

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the intervention of the Hon'ble President in this matter. Hon'ble President assured of all necessary action from his side.

After the above brief presentation the agenda items were taken up one by one as follows:

Item No.SO.21.01: To confirm the Minutes of the 20th AGM of NERIST Society meeting held on 06.01.2012

[Minutes of the 20th AGM of NERIST Society were circulated to all members. No comments were received either from MHRD/IFD or from any of the members]

Resolution: The minutes of the 20th AGM of NERIST society is confirmed.

Item No.SO.21.02: To consider the Action Taken Report on the decision of the 20th Annual General Body Meeting of NERIST Society

[One member nominee from Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh asked about the recognition of NERIST courses under AICTE which is a regulatory body. In clarification both the Chairman, BoM and the Director, NERIST, stressed that NERIST is a fully independent deemed university under UGC and is following the UGC norms and NERIST MoA is revised as per the direction of the UGC guidelines. AICTE recognition is for the courses of engineering colleges and not for Universities. However, NERIST has still applied for AICTE approval for this year:

Regarding inclusion of NERIST in the Joint Entrance Examination for allocation of seats through JEE in NERIST, Director, NERIST said that NERIST is established by the MHRD, Govt. of India with an objective to impart technical education especially to the students of eight north eastern states through an unique system of a modular pattern (two years certificate, two years diploma and two years degree). In this modular pattern, it is not possible for admission through JEE straightway. If it is included in JEE, the pattern of the modular system has to be changed after examining the technicalities through a committee and it is to be placed in the Academic Council as well as Board of Management meetings for approval. He also said that it is very difficult to disturb the existing modular pattern, which is introduced by the Central Government and forms the very basis of this Institute. He also said that this matter was already discussed with Hon'ble Minister of HRD.

Hon'ble members perused the action taken report on the 20th Annual General Body meeting of NERIST Society as was furnished at Annexure II, President asked the members if any comments on the action taken report. One member nominee from Meghalaya raised about the seat

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allocation to the Meghalaya students and asked to divide the seats equally to the Khasi and Garo tribes.

Director clarified that each of the eight north eastern states is given 10% quota of seats and this 10% quota is being filled as per the reservation policy of the respective state governments. If any change is sought, it should come from the state government concerned in writing for implementation of the same as has been requested by the Hon'ble member nominee.]

Resolution: It was noted and approved as no other comments were made by the members.

Item No.SO.21.03: To consider the Annual Report for the year 2011 –12

[Director, NERIST said that the Annual Report for the year 2011–12 was placed to 74th BoM for consideration and now it is placed in the Society meeting for approval such that it can be placed to Parliament through MHRD in time.

Then, Hon'ble President asked the members if any comments on the matter. No member gave any comment]

Resolution: The Annual Report for the year 2011–12 was approved by the Society.

Item No.SO 21.04 : To consider the Audit Report for the year 2011–12

[Director, NERIST said that the Audit Report for the year 2011–12 was received by the NERIST from CAG, New Delhi through AG, Itanagar and the same was placed in the Annexure – IV.

Then, Hon'ble President asked the members if any comments on the report. No member gave any comments and suggested to follow the general observations raised by the CAG, New Delhi. The members also expressed their happiness on streamlining of various pending issues of the past to this end.]

Resolution: The Audit Report for the year 2011–12 was approved by the Society.

Item No.SO 21.05: To consider the revised budget estimate for 2011-12 and 2012-13 and budget estimate of 2013–14

[Director, NERIST said that the Budget Estimates and revised budget estimates were prepared as per the guidelines of MHRD and were sent to MHRD after getting approval from the Finance Committee and BoM. But, MHRD could not release funds as per our budget estimates both under plan and non-plan heads and especially in plan head. Institute is facing lot of financial crunch due to not releasing of funds by MHRD timely as per the budget estimates sent by

NERIST. Due to this, some major works were stopped by the contractors in the middle and some construction works are not yet taken up so far even though the construction works were passed by the Building and Works Sub-committee as well as Finance Committee and Board of Management.

The Chairman, BoM, and the Director, NERIST informed that all required UC's have been sent. Chairman, Board of Management and Director, NERIST requested the Hon'ble President to intervene for bringing this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister for HRD for early release of funds to NERIST as per the budget estimates submitted to MHRD in order to continue the major works under construction and also to be taken up the proposed developmental works in NERIST.

Hon'ble President asked the Director, NERIST to give detailed information like how much fund has been received and how much fund is to be received both under plan and non-plan heads and also under revised budget estimates for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 to Secretary to H E for taking up this matter to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister for HRD.]

Resolution: Budget Estimates and Revised Budget Estimates for the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 and Budget Estimates for Plan and Non-Plan heads for the years 2013-14 were approved by the Society.

Item No.SO.21.06 : Reporting Items

Item No.SO.21.06.01: Major Academic Activities

Present Status of Ph.D. scholars is as follows:

[Director said that considerable improvement was taken place and there is an increase in the numbers of Ph.D enrollment in comparison with 2010-11 and 2011-12. He also said that four Ph.D Scholars were awarded Degree during 3rd Convocation and three Ph.D scholars are to be awarded in the next Convocation. He gave the break up given for the years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13).

The Hon'ble President, NERIST Society appreciated the increasing numbers of candidates in Ph.D both in Engineering, Sciences and Management. Other members also appreciated for the increasing candidates in Ph.D.]

Resolution: Noted

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Item No.SO.21.06.02: To consider ratification of the Annual Report for the year 2010–11

[Director, NERIST said that the Annual Report for the year 2010 – 11 was already submitted to MHRD for placing in the Parliament after approval of BoM.

[Hon'ble President asked the members if any comments on the Annual Report for the year 2010 – 11. No comment was given by any member]

Resolution: The Annual Report for the year 2010–11 was approved by the Society.

Item No.SO 21.07: Any other item with permission of the Chair

One member nominee from the State of Sikkim suggested to introduce Structural Engineering course in M.Tech at NERIST, which will help north eastern students as this area is seismic prone zone.

Director, NERIST said that it was a very good suggestion and this proposal would be placed in the Academic Council for consideration. He also informed the house of his vision to introduce more courses under this deemed university that would be region-specific and contributing to growth in economy, employment and entrepreneurship – such as food-processing, floriculture, tourism and hospitality management. But due to acute shortage of class rooms, faculty, manpower and infrastructure, it might not be a good idea to start these courses. He also stressed upon more man-power need and infrastructure need to this end

Finally, Gen.(Retd.) J.J.Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, Hon'ble President, Society of NERIST addressed the members of the NERIST Society. A copy of his speech is attached.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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Speech of Gen.(Retd.) J.J.Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM

**21st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NERIST SOCIETY
(17th January 2013)**

I deem it my proud privilege to preside over the 21st Annual General Meeting of North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology.

At the very outset, I welcome the esteemed members of NERIST Society. I trust that with the active participation of all the members, especially those from different States of North East region, this annual meeting of our society will be fruitful and result oriented.

As you all are aware, from a project under the North Eastern Council in 1984 to the status of a deemed university today, NERIST has risen from scratch and become one of the renowned technical institutes of the North East.

However, we cannot rely on past laurels alone and should continue our efforts to make it better and then the best technical institute in the country. We must continue our focus on the relevance of the output from this institute to the industry as well as society. NERIST should be the source of technical knowledge to enhance the pace of development in the region and help in improving the overall well-being of the people.

As Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said in the 100th session of Indian Science Congress at Kolkata, I quote, 'The prime concern of any government in a country is enhancing the well being of its people. Technology has the power of changing the lives of the people by creating physical well being.' Unquote.

As an institute, we also need to keep pace with development and flexibility in its approach. Rapid technological development in almost everything in the world today has created a gap between the curriculum of professional technical education and its significance to society. This gap is the result of lack of flexible mechanism in setting the course content in professional colleges. The syllabus should quickly respond to the growing needs of society as well as developments in technology.


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Changes in technology take place rather quickly, due to changing aspirations of people and innovations resulting from them. Technical education, on the other hand, is more structured because of its basic nature. It is amalgamated with many other factors like the nature and level of primary and secondary education and the intensity of subject depth etc. These factors make the mechanisms for affecting changes in the curricula more complex. It creates an attitudinal gap between the academic courses of technical education and its ultimate users, the society and the industry. The net result is that the students have to learn about the new technology after the placement or 'on-the-job'. This obviously leads to a longer gestation period for the employers to get the best out of these fresh employees. Increased competition has led to the need of improving the productivity of employees and that too, as early as possible after recruitment. It is therefore important that the skill sets required for a job are imparted to a large extent during the course of academic curriculum itself.

One of the biggest challenges we face today is producing a workforce qualified to meet the needs of employers in today's economy. We must make our students ready for industry by teaching them concepts like operations management and promote entrepreneurship. We have to realize that we need highly skilled engineers for our industries and other sectors in the region. Therefore, our approach to some extent should be region specific. There is a need for region specific research initiatives along with the industry.

Here, I appeal to all the representatives of different States of North East region to provide their valuable inputs, so that this institute of ours, becomes a repository of technical ideas to meet any challenge in future. Innovative ideas on bamboo technology of Tripura and flood control structures in Assam and earthquake resistant houses etc. can be studied. The new ideas should be disseminated amongst the people and put in practice. We must emphasize on indigenous and innovative ideas coming from the region. The role of innovation in the contemporary technology-intensive, dynamic and globalized economy is well-known. The need for foregrounding innovation and integrating it with other developmental policies is also widely accepted and is the need of the hour.

Recently, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh unveiled a new Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy at Kolkata. The policy is conceived as the next important step up the ladder of Science and Technology-based development. It argues that innovation is the key to national advancement in the present era.

With India having declared 2010-2020 as the decade of Innovation, and having established a National Innovation Council, the new policy seeks to provide the necessary framework to position STI as the basis of National Development. It will provide the desired force-multiplier effect to meet national challenges

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and inclusive growth, and enable harnessing of the country's resources, and capabilities. Let us ensure that NERIST also benefits from the new policy which in turn will ensure that people of the region benefit from it.

One very important thing I want to emphasize here today is that NERIST must start a system where students can put theoretical knowledge into practice before passing out of the institute. As Mahatma Gandhi said, I quote, 'An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching', we too must focus on providing a system of education to establish institutionalized linkages between the industrial and the academic world.

As I conclude, I am reminded of our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, who said, I quote, 'the quality of our scientific institutions will depend upon the quality of the students we can attract into science, the freedom we give them in pursuing scientific research and the human resource policies we follow in selecting leaders. We must select only the best'. We must therefore go for the best students and facilitate them in pursuing their best in research. I am confident that NERIST, as it continues its excellent traditions, will keep on rising under the able guidance of Chairman, Board of Management, Shri M.P. Bezbaruah and dynamic leadership of the Director, Prof. Dipankar Pal.

I commend Chairman, Board of Management, NERIST, Shri Bezbaruah, distinguished members of Board of Management, Director Prof. Pal, senior officers, the entire faculty and other members of the NERIST family for their untiring support and contribution towards the institution in the last eventful year.

Thank you very much.