

# NPL FORMER SCIENTISTS FORUM

## Minutes of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Management Committee of the NPL Former Scientists Forum, held on Friday, December 22, 2006 at 10.00 A.M. in the Director's Conference Room, NPL

**1. Attendance:** The following attended the meeting:

1. Dr. V N Bindal	President
2. Dr. OP Bahl	Vice President
3. Dr. V S Panwar	Joint Secretary
4. Shri V P Wasan	Treasurer
5. Shri K N Bhatnagar	Member
6. Shri R C Dhawan	Member
7. Dr. A P Jain	Member
8. Dr. P C Jain	Member
9. Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu	Member
10. Mrs. Shashikala Shastri	Member
11. Dr. S P Singal	Member
12. Dr. Ved Ram Singh,	Member
13. Shri Subhsh Chandra	Member
14. Dr. S P Varma	Member
15. Shri G K Arora	Secretary

In addition, Dr. Kailash Chandra, Chairman, Scientific Affairs Committee, who had been invited, also attended the meeting.

Dr. R Bhattacharyya, had regretted his inability to attend the meeting, and Dr. SV Gupta was reported to be hospitalized. Dr. S K Sharma and Shri A C Gupta were absent at the meeting.

**1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks by the President:** Dr. V N Bindal welcomed the Members of the meeting which was being held after a long time – the last having been held on August 7, 2006. Subsequent to that meeting two meetings of the Forum had been held on August 24, and October 27, 2006, and the Scholarship Committee, the Rules & Regulations Revision Committee and the Scientific Affairs Committee had also met. There was therefore a heavy agenda for this meeting.

However, before starting with the Agenda, he informed that it was learnt that Shri Jagdish Lal Sota, a Life Member of the Forum, was learnt to have expired on 13. 06. 2006, which came to notice of the Forum only now, and requested to observe two-minutes silence in his memory. A Resolution was also passed and the Secretary was advised to send the same to the kith and kin of Shri Sota, conveying the deep sense of grief and sorrow on behalf of the Forum.

**2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Management Committee held on August 07, 2006:**

As there were no comments on the Minutes of the Meeting, which had already been circulated to the Members along with the notice for the meeting dated December 11, 2006, they were adopted as confirmed.

**3. Follow-up Action on the various decisions taken at the above meeting:** These were reported in the Secretary's Report – the Next Item on the Agenda. The same was noted.

**4. Status Report by the Secretary:** The Secretary tabled copies of his report at the time of the meeting and briefly presented its highlights (**Annexure A**). It was accompanied with two enclosures relating to (I) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Publication Committee held on December, 14, 2006, to be considered vide Agenda Item 8.3 and (II) Draft Write-up that had been passed on to Dr. M K Tiwari, for putting it on NPL's website to be considered vide Agenda Item 9.

**5. Status Report by the Treasurer:** Shri V P Wasan presented the report on the financial status. In addition to the amount of Rs. 25,000/- in fixed deposit with the Bank, the Forum had an amount of Rs. 1,434, 473/-, the bulk of which (Rs. 1,01,000/-) was the money received for the Scholarship Fund to be considered under Agenda Item 10 of the Meeting. The Balance Rs. 33,473/- was for the other activities of the Forum. The Management Committee decided that when this figure touches Rs. 50,000/-, the Treasurer may ensure deposit of another 25,000/- in fixed deposit for earning higher rate of interest, and report such action to the Committee.

**6. Approval to the induction of New Members to the Forum:** The Committee approved the induction of the Following as the new members of the Forum, if they satisfied the criteria for membership:

Sr. No.	Name & Date of Birth	Amount Received	Membership Status	Remarks, if any
1.	Shri Swapan Kumar Chakladar [01. 08. 46]	Rs. 500/- (Cash)	Life Member	Through Shri N K Babbar
2.	Dr. Tuhi Ram Tyagi [24. 12. 36]	Rs. 500/- (Cash)	Life Member	At the Forum Meeting on 24. 08. 2006
3.	Shri Jai Dev Batra [15. 05. 46]	Rs. 500/- (Cash)	Life Member	At the Forum Meeting on 24. 08. 2006
4.	Shri Chattar Singh [17. 07. 31]	Rs. 500/- (Cheque)	Life Member	In response to the invitation for participation in the Forum Meeting on 24. 08. 2006.
5.	Shri Tri Bhavan Verma [22. 07. 43]	Rs. 500/- (Cheque)	Life Member	In response to the invitation for participation in the Forum Meeting on 24. 08. 2006.

6.	Dr. Joginder Singh [02. 11. 39]	Rs. 500/- (Cheque)	Life Member	In response to the invitation for participation in the Forum Meeting on 24. 08. 2006.
7.	Dr. Kanwas Sushi Zalpuri [12. 09. 46]	Rs. 500/- (Cheque)	Life Member	Contacted directly by G K Arora
8.	Dr. Satya Ranjan Das [01. 06. 26]	Rs. 500/- (Cheque)	Senior Member	Contacted directly by G K Arora
9.	Shri R S Khandekar [01. 07. 34]	Rs. 500/- (Cheque)	Life Member	Contacted directly by G K Arora

The Secretary said that barring Shri Tri Bhawan Verma, whose status at the time of his retirement from the Solid State Physics Laboratory was not known, as there was no such provision in the Membership Form, the other 8 fulfilled the criteria laid down in the Rules & Regulations. The Management Committee constituted the following Sub-committee to examine all proposals for enrollment of Members in future and put up its recommendations before the Management Committee for formal approval:

1. Secretary,
2. Joint Secretary
3. Treasurer

all in their ex-officio capacity, with the Secretary as its convener.

The Secretary also gave to the President, a copy of the Revised Membership Form that he had drawn up for soliciting information also about such of the Members who had not retired from NPL, (**Annexure B**), for consideration for adoption along with the Revised Rules & Regulations to be considered vide Agenda Item 11 of the meeting.

## 7. Induction of New Nominated Members on the Management Committee – Dr. Ved Ram Singh and Shri A C

**Gupta:** The Committee welcomed the addition of Dr. V R Singh and Shri A C Gupta who had been nominated as the new members of the Committee and were happy that Dr. V R Singh who had additionally taken up the responsibility of being the Chairman of the Welfare Committee was present at the meeting.

**8. Reports of the following Area Committees:** It was suggested that in future the names of both the Chairman and the Convener may be indicated in the Agenda by the Secretary.

**8.1 Medical Facilities Committee:** Dr. O P Bahl informed that though no meeting of the Committee had been held, he had met the concerned officer at the CSIR Headquarters to enquire about the new Medical Scheme that was planned to be started in lieu of the CGHS Scheme and whether it would also be applicable to pensioners. He was told that the New Scheme would also cover the Pensioners and was advised to get in touch with him again after 4 weeks. He would be contacting him again shortly.

The Secretary informed about the new list of CGHS-approved hospitals effective from 01. 11. 2006, which had been brought to his notice by Shri Mohinder Nath, Member of the Committee. He had downloaded it from the website of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a copy of which also been passed on to the Chairman of the Medical Affairs Committee. This list had also come to the notice of Dr. S V Gupta and he had indicated that none of the hospitals worth the name figured in this list in so far as the Northern Region was concerned and whether our Forum could do anything about it. It was also observed that other important hospitals like Kailash Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Batra Hospital, Indraprastha Appolo Hospital, and all hospitals specializing in the area of cancer did not figure in this list.

Dr. Bahl was requested to ascertain from the COA, NPL, about the adoption of the New List of CGHS-approved hospitals by the NPL.

Shri Arora also informed that he had written to the COA, NPL regarding the renewal of the CGHS Cards for the year 2007 in respect of its members indicating their CGHS Token Card Numbers and Dispensary Number, as also a list of the members of the Forum, giving additionally information about their residential address, e-mail address and phone number, so that they get their renewed cards well in time mailed to them by speed post. Indication had also been given about the members who had already made their CGHS contribution for 10 years and from whom no more contribution was due. Copy of the same was also passed on to the Chairman of the Committee as also to the President.

The practice of automatic renewal of CGHS Card in respect of those beneficiaries who had already made their full subscription had already been introduced at the CSIR Headquarters as informed by Shri Sudarshan Kumar in his letter addressed to Director, NPL, a copy of which he had sent to the Secretary. This letter was also handed over to the Chairman.

**8.2 Programme Committee:** The Programme Committee had also not had any meeting to draw out any programmes for the future meetings of the Forum, as informed by Dr. V S Panwar. As had been indicated by the Secretary, in his report, two presentations by Shri H M Mathur and Shri R C Dhawan which had been slated for presentation at the Forum's meeting held on October 27, 2006, had got deferred for want of time. Dr. K C Nagpal had also planned speaking about the discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton and about X-rays, of which only the one about Newton could be presented at that meeting.

The Committee was informed that Shri H M Mathur had informed the Secretary that he would be out of station till around the middle of January 2007. Dr. Kailash Chandra Suggested holding a family get-together of the members of the Forum some time in February 2007.

**8.3 Publication Committee:** Shri Arora presented the highlights of the Publication Committee meeting held on October 14, 2006, which had also been annexed to the Secretary's Report. The Committee had decided to have ' Holistic Health Care' as the theme for the next issue of the Newsletter. The Draft Contents List for that Newsletter that had been so far compiled and placed before the Committee at that meeting were also presented before the meeting. The Committee had recommended compilation of information for the next issue accordingly, for which the estimated size was 100 pages. The Committee had also recommended an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 15,000/- for that issue, and for making efforts to raise funds through advertisements at the earlier approved rates for meeting this expenditure. It also recommended the publication of some Coloured Photographs relating to the activities of the Forum as also a Black & White Passport-size photograph of Shri Jagdish Lal Sota along with a write-up on him under 'Transitions'. The Committee also suggested publication of the Newsletter by Photo-Offset Process to make it more presentable, while noting that the expenditure on the publication of the Photographs in the August 2005 issue of the Newsletter had been met by Shri Subodh Kumar Singhal.

The Management Committee felt that the Publication Committee may consider reduction in the size of the Newsletter to cut down on its expenditure. Dr. Kailash Chandra suggested publication of the Newsletter twice a year and suggested the following guidelines for consideration of the Committee for the next Issue of the Newsletter:

1. Information on CSIR, Central Government circulars
2. News about NPL-FSF; including reports of various sub-committees, other activities and achievements
3. News about the members
4. Holistic Health Care, Medical issues, Health Care
5. General information, news etc., which may be of interest to members (e.g. Income Tax Guide).

**8.4 Welfare Committee:** Dr. Ved Ram Singh informed that since he had to go abroad soon after assuming the responsibility of the Chairmanship of the Committee and had returned only on the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, he had not been able to hold any meeting of this Committee. The Management Committee felt that the immediate issue of interest to the members, which this Committee needs to consider relates to the Sixth Pay Commission. He was requested to collect information about it. The Secretary also gave him the letter that Dr. R Venkatachari had written to him having a bearing on this issue.

**8.5: Scientific Affairs Committee:** Shri Arora said that during the absence of Dr. Kailash Chandra, Dr. S V Gupta, Co-Chairman of the Committee had been looking after it, but he was unable to be present at this meeting. He informed that the Scientific Affairs Committee had met on October 4, 2006 for which all the members of the Forum who had evinced interest in participation in the Training Course in Metrology, planned to be held from January by the Metrology Society of India jointly with NPL, were invited to participate. Dr. R P Singal had also been invited for that meeting.

At that meeting it was noted that the response received to the Profile Proforma that had been mailed to the Members was not very encouraging to undertake the publication of the proposed Directory of R & D expertise available with the members of the Forum.

Dr. S V Gupta had been named as the Co-coordinator on behalf of the Forum for the Proposed Training Course in Metrology. No authentic information was available on the status of that proposal, though informal indications were that the course was not likely to start in January. Now that Dr. Kailash Chandra was back, he was requested to ascertain the position for taking further necessary action in this regard.

Another decision taken at that meeting was to gather information about the Doctorate Degrees Awarded to and Guided by the Members of the Forum about which information was being compiled for incorporation in the Diamond Jubilee Volume proposed to be brought out by NPL. Dr. (Mrs.) Jyoti Lata Pandey who had contacted the Secretary in this regard for help in up-dating the information, (which carried no information prior to 1965), was sent the information that could be compiled from the response received from the members. This information was sent to her by e-mail on November 6, 2006. Some more information has subsequently also been received.

At that meeting the Committee had also accorded in-principle approval to a Project Proposal for Popularization of Science at the School Level titled, "Science Education in India: A New Approach" which Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu had drawn up after preliminary discussions with Dr. R A Mashelkar, DG, CSIR. She had been authorized vide letter dated October 8, 2006 issued by the Secretary after obtaining approval of the President, to proceed further in the matter. Dr. Kundu informed about the very encouraging response to the proposal, which could be implemented involving NCERT also, but the precondition for the release of any funds for the proposal was that the Forum must first get itself Registered as a Society.

**8.6 Rules & Regulations Committee:** The Committee noted that the Rules & Regulations Committee had met again on 18<sup>th</sup> instant to give a final shape to the Revised Rules & Regulations and the Memorandum of Association that was required to be submitted to the Registrar of Societies, Union Territory of Delhi after considering the response from the various members of the Management Committee.

Shri Arora, presented to the Committee his own views in regard to the proposed revision of the Rules, relating to (1) Patron, (2) Senior Member, (3) Membership Fee, (4) Role of the Member of the Management Committee and (5) Involvement of Immediate Past President and the Secretary in the meetings of the Management Committee. The Committee decided in favour of doing away with any rules relating to the Patron and the Senior Member, observing that all members were at the same footing. It was also decided to enhance the Life Membership Fee to Rs. 700/-, which may be revised periodically, though this need not be reflected in the Rules. It would just be sufficient to mention that there is a provision for raising funds for the Forum's functioning through Membership Fee. As for the role of the Member of the Management Committee, it was decided not to make it very specific but to keep it flexible.

**8.7 Scholarship Committee:** The Committee noted that the Award of the two scholarships – the Astronaut Kalpana Chawla Chattravritti and the Sudha Jain Memorial Scholarship - had been awarded for the first time on the CSIR Foundation Day Celebrations observed at the NPL on 26 September, 2006 as reported in the Status Report by the Secretary.

Dr. Bindal informed the members about the selection for the Award of these Scholarships made by the Committee at the Meeting of the Committee, which included Shri Dev Kumar and Prof. Suresh Chand Jain who had instituted these scholarships. While there was a provision for the award of two Kalpana Chawla Scholarships to female children of NPL Staff members on merit-cum-means for pursuing Science Course after 10th Class examination of the CBSE, only one could be awarded for lack of response. This was awarded to Miss Nancy Yadav, daughter of Shri Vikram Yadav. A Cheque for Rs. 1500/- @ Rs. 250 per month was paid for a six-month period. The Sudha Jain Scholarship for pursuing a science-based degree course after passing the 12<sup>th</sup> Class examination of CBSE was awarded to Shri Ritesh Sethi son of Smt. Lalita Sethi, and a Cheque for Rs. 2,400/= @ Rs. 400/- was issued to cover a six-month period.

Dr. P C Jain had also instituted an award for the most meritorious child of any of the present or former employees of NPL for getting selected as the best among the list of successful candidates pursuing degree course as per their position on the merit list of the Joint Entrance Examination for the

IITs, instituted in the memory of his wife Mrs. Vina Jain. A cash award of Rs. 1,000/- plus a Memento ere proposed to be awarded each year, for which he had contributed Rs. 16,000/-.

Dr. S K Joshi had also contributed RS. 50,000/- for the award of a scholarship in the memory of his son Shri Asutosh Joshi, to the best student passing the 8<sup>th</sup> Class Examination from a Government School (not from a Public School), for study @ Rs. 150/- per month during 9<sup>th</sup> Class and @ Rs 200/- during the 10<sup>th</sup> Class. The details for this scholarship were being finalized.

Shri Subhash Chandra, of the Photography Section, NPL had also contributed Rs. 2,000/- towards the Scholarship Fund, at the time of the Forum meeting held on October 27, 2006 as reported by the Secretary in his status report, and just now Shri R C Dhawan and Dr. (Mrs.) Namita Kundu had also offered to contribute Rs. 2,500/- and Rs. 2,000/- respectively to the General Donation Fund.

Dr. Bindal also informed that Shri Dev Kumar had indicated that he shall be contributing Rs. 10,000/- per year for the Kalpana Chawla Chattravritti, and will pay the next instalment in May-June 2007. He informed that he had also been in touch with Prof. Suresh Chand Jain for additional contribution so that it may be possible to have the Sudha Jain Scholarship also on a continuous basis .

Dr. Bindal added that he had discussed the issue with the Manager of the Syndicate Bank for exploring the possibility of husbanding the resources in a manner whereby it may be possible to run the various scholarships and awards on a perpetual basis from the interest accruing on the deposits. This will come up for consideration of the Management Committee vide Agenda Item 10.

**9. Contents of the Matter of the NPL Former Scientists Forum for incorporation in the NPL's Website:** The Committee was informed that just before the meeting he had met Dr. M K Tewari, and learnt that Director, NPL, had approved providing a link to the NPL Former Scientists Forum on the website of NPL and had suggested that we may advise a suitable person to discuss with him the modalities of the operation of the Link. The Committee welcomed the suggestion of the name of Dr. S M Dhawan proposed by the Secretary and he was requested to contact him in this regard.

**10. Scholarship/ Fellowship Fund:** Dr. Bindal said that in the light of his discussions with the Manager Syndicate Bank, NPL, it was proposed to open five more accounts – 4 for each of the scholarships / awards and one a general scholarship fund. Any surplus money not immediately required was proposed to be deposited with that bank under a term deposit for earning more interest on it.

The Management Committee passed the following Resolution:

It has been decided that separate donor's accounts be maintained so that the principal amount as well as the interest earned out of the donation made are accounted for separately. This will ensure good transparency and safe custody of the money donated by each donor.

For this purpose, 5 separate Saving Bank Accounts on the following names may be opened:

1. NPL-FSF A/c Mr. Dev Kumar
2. NPL-FSF A/c Prof. S C Jain
3. NPL-FSF A/c Dr. P C Jain
4. NPL-FSF A/c Prof. S K Joshi
5. NPL-FSF A/c General Donation Fund

These accounts may be opened in the Syndicate Bank, Branch in NPL Campus. An appropriate amount from each of the above accounts may be invested in term deposit for a suitable period with the interest accruing thereon being credited to the respective Saving Fund Accounts.

These accounts may be operated by any two of the following:

1. President, NPL-FSF
2. Treasurer, NPL-FSF
3. Secretary, NPL-FSF

**11. Revision of the Rules & Regulations Committee:** Since the Rules & Regulations had already been discussed threadbare, the Chairman of the Committee was requested to give it the final shape at the earliest for submission to the Registrar of Societies, Union Territory of Delhi. In order to facilitate this process, the members present at the meeting affixed their signatures on a sheet, which was duly witnessed by Dr. Kailash Chandra.

**12. Honouring Members of the Age of 80 years and above:** The issue was again deferred for consideration at a future meeting for want of time.

**13. Venue, Date & Time for the next meeting of the Forum:** It was decided that the next meeting of the Forum may be fixed in consultation with the Chairman of that Committee, some time in February 2007.

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