

MINUTES OF 11TH MEETING OF PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT LBSNAA, MUSSOORIE ON FEBRUARY 24, 2012

The following were present:

1. Sh. Padamvir Singh, Director, LBSNAA Mussoorie – in chair
2. Sh. KT Chacko, Director, IIFT, New Delhi
3. Sh. SC Panda, AS&FA (Home & Personnel), New Delhi
4. Smt. Upma Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Training Division), DoPT, New Delhi
5. Sh. Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Director, LBSNAA Mussoorie

In addition, the following officers assisted the Committee:

1. Sh. B. Srinivas, Director (MCT), Training Division, DoPT, New Delhi
2. Dr. Gyanendra Badgaiyan, Professor of Economics, LBSNAA Mussoorie
3. Smt. Ranjana Chopra, Deputy Director (Senior), LBSNAA Mussoorie
4. Sh. Tejveer Singh, Deputy Director (Senior), LBSNAA Mussoorie
5. Smt. Jaspreet Talwar, Deputy Director (Senior), LBSNAA Mussoorie

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members to the meeting. Thereafter, the items listed on the agenda were taken up for discussion. The decisions taken thereupon were as follows:

Agenda Item No 1 – The minutes of the 10th meeting of the PMC were confirmed. The Committee also took note of the action taken on the decisions of the last meeting.

Agenda Item No 2 – The Committee discussed the proposal received by the Ministry from Cambridge University regarding hosting the Foreign Study Tour for Phase V of the MCT Programme in the coming round. It took note of the broad financial comparisons made by the Academy between the cost of the Foreign Study Tour to HKS in 2010, to Columbia University (SIPA) in 2011 and the cost indicated in the Cambridge proposal. It was also pointed out by the Joint Director that the Academy could not accept the proposal on nomination basis as SIPA had been chosen in 2011 based on competitive bidding and the arrangement can be extended for two more years, based on mutual satisfaction. If it is decided to arrange the foreign visit in association with another institution, a fresh RFP would need to be floated.

Given the supply-driven instruction in the two previous rounds (i.e. rounds 4 & 5) and the middling feedback received from participants on both occasions, it was felt that the decision taken in the 10th meeting of the PMC to allow the Academy to be the lead institution to organize a 10-day Foreign Study Tour at a suitable location in the USA, preferably Washington, DC wherein leading academic minds as also senior Government practitioners would be invited to interact with participants, should be tried out. The Committee, therefore decided to reiterate the decision taken in the previous meeting for the ensuing round (i.e. round 6 in October 2012) of Phase V. It was further decided that based upon the general outcome and feedback of the coming round, a decision would be taken by the PMC next year whether or not to invite offers against a Request for Proposal

from top global institutions (wherein the instant proposal from Cambridge University would also be considered) to be shortlisted by the Committee.

Agenda Item No 3 – An update on the preparation for the coming round (round 7) of Phase IV from April 30 to June 22, 2012 was given by the designated Course Coordinator Dr. Gyanendra Badgaiyan. He pointed out that among the significant changes proposed to be done were not to engage the services of any institution (like IIMA or IIMB) for delivering a 1-2 week Public Policy module and to structure thematic sessions on the same day. He informed that the Foreign Study Tour would be organized in collaboration with IPAC, Toronto (Canada) as in the previous round. The Committee took note of the course design and preparations for the conduct of the course.

Agenda Item No 4 – An update on the preparation for the coming round (round 6) of Phase III from July 2 to August 24, 2012 was given by the designated Course Coordinator Smt. Ranjana Chopra. She pointed out that given the success of the last round, the Project Appraisal & PPP Modules would be delivered internally by the Academy faculty. The thematic inputs on various domains would also be delivered in a more focused manner as the Academy had prepared detailed teaching modules on a number of domains in the last six months, viz. Health & Nutrition, Decentralization, Urban Management, etc. She informed that the Foreign Study Tour would be organized in collaboration with KDI, Seoul (South Korea) wherein attempts would be made to make interactions during site visits more focused and meaningful. The Committee took note of the course design and preparations for the conduct of the course.

Agenda Item No 5 – The Committee approved the proposal given by NIAR for conducting an Impact Evaluation for the first cycle of the MCT Programme. It endorsed the Chairman's suggestion that rounds 4 & 5 of the 2nd cycle should also be covered in the Impact Evaluation study.

Agenda Item No 6 – Joint Director, LBSNAA highlighted the point that while the expenditure on various rounds of the MCT Programme conducted by the Academy was always well within the prescribed financial limits of the Ministry indicated in the June 1, 2010 order, inter-se expenditure on specific items could exceed the limits. For instance, this could be on account of increase in hotel rates, air fare or per diem. He requested that flexibility may be provided to the Academy to incur expenditure on inter-se items within the overall indicative limit prescribed. The Committee endorsed the suggestion and advised the Academy to send a proposal to that effect to the Training Division for the Ministry's approval.

Agenda Item No 7 – The Committee took note of the following dates for the proposed meetings-cum-feedback sessions with the participants of the various phases of the MCT Programme to be held at the Academy in 2012:

- Phase IV – June 21, 2012
- Phase III – August 23, 2012
- Phase V – November 1, 2012

Agenda Item No 8 – The additional item taken up for discussion related to compensation to be paid to resource persons/ guest speakers to be invited to address Phase V participants during the Foreign Study Tour. It was pointed out that the Academy did not have any designated rates for the purpose, the only rates being a maximum of USD 3000 per diem (besides compensation for two days of travel time, travel costs and stay arrangements in transit in Delhi) to be paid to an eminent speaker invited to Mussoorie. Effectively, this translated to a maximum of USD 9000 in case a distinguished overseas academician was invited to the Academy. It was also pointed out that the per-session cost (based on Programme Fees paid to partner institutions) in the Phase V Foreign Study Tour's last two rounds worked out to USD 7300 in the case of Columbia University (SIPA) and USD 10949 USD in the case of HKS.

After discussion, the Committee felt that a rate upto a maximum of USD 5000 for a two-hour session (inclusive of local stay arrangements) would be appropriate for distinguished academicians as also senior Government practitioners. In the case of Nobel Laureates or equivalent academicians or Government Leaders, the Academy may be authorized to pay a compensation upto a maximum of USD 10,000 per session. Payments beyond that may be considered after obtaining concurrence of the Indian Embassy. Cost of inland travel within US (Business Class in the case of Professors Emeritus or equivalent and Economy Class for others) would be borne by the Academy. The Committee advised the Academy to send a proposal to that effect to the Training Division for the Ministry's approval.

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