Minutes of the Ninth National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting
held on 9th January,2014 at India International Centre
on Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) Phase-II.

At the outset, the Chairman, National Steering Committee and Secretary(Higher Education) welcomed all the participants to the meeting (the list of participants is enclosed in **Annex-I**) with emphasis on the following points:

(i)   Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyaan (RUSA), a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Department of Higher Education and proposed TEQIP-III should share each other Plans and experiences and in future National Steering Committee of TEQIP should include members from RUSA.

(ii)   Interaction with the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) to fast track accreditation for project institutions has to be accelerated as technical education reforms have to have accreditation as mandatory component for quality enhancement.

The issues discussed and the decisions taken are summarized below.

Agenda Item No. 1   : **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 8th Meeting of National Steering Committee (NSC) held on 23rd January 2013**

The Minutes of the Eighth Meeting of NSC were circulated to all the members. Since no comments / suggestion have been received from any of the members, the minutes were confirmed.

Agenda Item No. 2   : **Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the 8th NSC Meeting**

Actions taken on the minutes of eighth NSC meeting were discussed and approved.

Agenda item No.3   : **Selection of Government Funded and Government Aided institutions under Sub-component 1.2**

- Under Sub-component 1.2, a total of 17 compliance reports were received from State Government / Government aided institutions which had initially failed to meet the Project eligibility requirements. Of these, four institutions were recommended for selection under Sub-component 1.2 of the Project.

- The Chairperson of the NSC accorded approval to the selection of these institutions, subject to the ratification of the NSC members.
  1. Delhi Technological University, New Delhi NCT-Delhi
  2. JNTU Institute of Science & Technology, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
  3. Kamla Nehru Institute of Technology, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh
  4. Bundelkhand Institute of Engineering & Technology, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh

Decision taken:
The members of the NSC ratified the selection of the above four institutions.

Agenda Item No. 4 : **Weeding out of 2 institutions (i) Nizam Institute of Engg. & Technology, Deshimukhi, Nalgonda (Andhra Pradesh) and (ii) Sinhgad College of Engineering, Pune (Maharashtra)**

(i) **Nizam Institute of Engg. & Technology, Deshimukhi, Nalgonda (Andhra Pradesh)**: SPFU Andhra Pradesh has recommended the weeding out of the institute from the Project. As the institute failed to obtain permanent affiliation from the affiliating university (JNTU, Hyderabad) and as the Ist year pass percentage is only 2.0% rendering it unable to apply UGC for autonomy — a mandatory requirement of the project. Accordingly, MHRD has accorded approval for weeding out the institute from the Project.

However, the institute has approached the Hon'ble National Commission for Minority Educational Institution. The matter is subjudice before the National Commission for Minority Educational Institution and final decision is awaited.

(ii) **Sinhgad College of Engineering, Pune (Maharashtra):** As the procurement is non-applicable to Pvt. Unaided institutions, the institute decided to withdraw from the Project.

Decision taken:

(i) The NSC accorded approval to the weeding out of Sinhgad College of Engineering, Pune from the Project.

(ii) In the case of Nizam Institute of Engineering and Technology, decision of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institution is awaited which shall be put up for approval of the Chairman, National Steering Committee .

Agenda Item No. 5 : **Progress Report on Project Outcome Indicators as per PIP**

The physical progress achieved during last two years (2011-2013) of project implementation with respect to key performance indicators was presented and discussed at length.

- **NBA Accreditation**: It was observed that status of NBA accreditation was marginally less compared to the target due to reason that NBA did not accept applications until September, 2013.

- **Academic Autonomy:** Since NBA accreditation is a mandatory requirement for obtaining autonomy, several project institutions, not having accreditation are still awaiting their autonomy status.

  It was discussed that newly-formed universities like the Gujarat Technical University and the Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University do not have 12-B Registration of the University Grant Commission. As a result, affiliated project institutes have not been able to apply for academic autonomy status.

- **Faculty with at least an M.Tech and Faculty enrolled for qualification upgradation:** Under TEQIP, there needs to be a constant emphasis on improving quality of faculty at project institutions. It was observed that such faculty development programmes are key to improving the quality of faculty at project institutions.

Decisions taken:

(i) A workshop to be conducted for the institutions, not yet applied to the NBA for accreditation and close monitoring of the project institutions for the early accreditation of eligible programmes needed, accordingly revised deadline for applying to NBA for accreditation was set as June 2014.

(ii) UGC needs to fast track applications of TEQIP institutions for granting autonomy. In the cases of the Gujarat Technical University and the Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University, the Department of Higher Education, MHRD will suggest to the UGC for considering the waiver from 12 B registrations for newly formed universities.

(iii) The status of the Boards of Governors of each project institute has to be checked as per norms and regular faculty positions at each institution need to be filled as per the Project Implementation Plan (PIP).

Agenda Item No. 6 : Status of operationalizing the Management Information System (MIS)

Decisions taken:

(i) The reports generated by MIS should be made available in public domain.

(ii) The integration of MIS, PMSS and FMR should be prioritized.

(iii) A method to coordinate information /database available with AICTE, UGC and NBA needs to be devised and MIS report formats of TEQIP needs to be shared with RUSA.

(iv) A special consultant to be appointed to exclusively manage MIS and its integration.

Agenda Item No. 7 : Comprehensive Academic Reforms in the project

The progress reports of the Quality Circles initiative at IITs (Kanpur, Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad) through Knowledge Incubation Centre (KIT) and at IIMs (Lucknow, Indore, Bangalore and Kozhikode) through Enhancing Management Capacity Programme were shared .

Direct to Student Programme in 100 project institutions under Quality Enhancement in Engineering Education (QEEE) and Students / Faculty sharing projects with MITACs were also discussed.

Decisions Taken:

(i) The NSC appreciated the innovative measures towards a comprehensive academic reforms initiated by involving the IITs and the IIMs with the TEQIP institutes. Efforts should be made to effect coordination among these initiatives so as to enhance their effectiveness in terms of capacity development of faculty, senior managers and above all learning outcomes.

(ii) The NSC emphasized that the benefits of faculty training programmes need to accrue to non-TEQIP institutions as well.

(iii) The proposal for "student and faculty sharing projects" for TEQIP-II institutions with MITACS Canada was approved as an incentive for students and faculty from high-performing TEQIP institutions fulfilling the PIP indicators and actively participating in Quality Circles being organized by the IITs.

| Agenda Item No. 8 | : | Monitoring and Evaluation of the Project Institutions |

(i)   2nd JRM:

The National Steering Committee discussed the 2nd JRM, Aid Memoire findings and appreciated significant progress in project implementation since 1st JRM, however, observed that rating has failed to capture this improvements.

Decision Taken:

- The NSC did not accept the ranking and stated that this should be brought to the notice of the World Bank.
- The NSC accepted the recommendation that all first cycle institutions (156) fulfilling the 08 parameters should be given a further set of performance parameters to be met by 31st March 2014 as given below:
    - Completion of Governance self-reviews.
    - Publishing minutes of the meetings of Board of Governors meeting on the institution's website.
    - Commitment of 100% of total funds received till December, 2013 by the institution.
    - Complete the MIS data entry for the AY 2013-14
- The NSC directed that State Governments needs to be apprised that the allocation will be reduced to a reasonable amount unless institutes meet the same performance parameters by 31 March 2014. No further funds would be released to these institutions that do not meet all the parameters.
- NPIU /SPFU to share good practices case studies of Industry-Institute Interaction (I-I-I) through Knowledge sharing platforms.

(ii)   TEQIP Evaluation by Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad

A presentation on interim report of external evaluation of TEQIP was made by Prof. Hemnath Rao H. of ASCI, The review was well received by the members of the NSC.

| Agenda Item No. 9 | : | Collaboration with industries |

The proposal for **"Innovation networking of TEQIP institutions"** by Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT), Mumbai, was approved as a pilot operation by the NSC . Under this initiative, a virtual Innovation Network (INN) will be set up with Project institutions who are willing to participate in Networking Projects and to share existing infrastructure expertise to innovate for new products/processes/systems.

| Agenda Item No. 10 | : | International Travel – Decentralization of the Approval Procedure |

It was felt that international travel should be used as an incentive for faculty members who have made significant contributions to the project and research and that faculty members should be sent on international travel in a staggered manner in the last stages of the project.

Decision taken:

The guidelines for International Travel under the project need to be reviewed and

new regulations need to be introduced by the first week of February, 2014 with the approval of the Chairman, NSC.

Agenda Item No. 11 : **Collaboration of TEQIP-III with RUSA**

The chairperson opined that there is an intrinsic link between TEQIP and RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) and that it needs to be the centerpiece of RUSA.

Decision taken:
The NSC should include members from RUSA and share MIS with RUSA.

Agenda Item No. 12 : **The status of fund release and expenditure**
It was observed that there was a great delay in release of funds to the project institutions in several states leading to a subsequent delay in project expenditure and implementation.

Decision taken:
The MHRD will soon write to the Principal Secretaries of all the states where a significant delay in release of funds has been observed.

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

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
NINTH NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
AT INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ON 09.01.2014

S.NO.	NAME & DESIGNATION
1	Shri Ashok Thakur, IAS Secretary (HE), Govt. of India, MHRD
2	Ms. Amita Sharma, IAS Additional Secretary (T) & National Project Director (TEQIP), Govt. of India, MHRD
3	Shri Pawan Agarwal, Advisor, Planning Commission, New Delhi
4	Ms. Ajita Vajpayee Pandey, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary , Dept. of Tech. Education & Training, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
5	Shri Ajay Misra, IAS Principal Secretary (Higher Education), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
6	Shri R. P. Sisodia, IAS, Joint Secretary (HE), Govt. of India, MHRD
7	Dr. Jayanti S Ravi, IAS, Commissioner of Tech. Edu., Govt. of , Gujarat
8	Dr. A Mukhopadhyay, Scientist C, Deptt. of Science & Tech., New Delhi
9	Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, Deptt. of Electrical, IIT, Madras
10	Dr. A S Pant, Vice Chairman, (AICTE), New Delhi
11	Shri Navin Soi, Director (IFD), Govt. of India, MHRD
12	Dr. Sandhya Chintala, President, National Association of Software & Services Company (NASSCOM), New Delhi
13	Ms. Ameet Bajaj (NASSCOM, New Delhi)
14	Shri S Krishnan, Advisor (Engineering & Technology) L & T, (FICCI), New Delhi
15	Shri Subhash Sapru, Dy. Director, CII, New Delhi
16	Prof. Hemnath Rao H, ASCI, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
17	Dr. A K Nassa, Member Secretaryt, (NBA), New Delhi
18	Dr. S B Gupta, UGC, New Delhi
19	Dr. Nidhi Sharma, UGC, New Delhi
20	Shri Shailendra Kumar, Director, Govt. of India MHRD
21	Prof. A. U. Digraskar, Central Project Advisor, NPIU