

**University Grants Commission
New Delhi**

Report of the Expert Committee constituted by UGC to Examine the proposal of ~~North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Itanagar~~ for grant of Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC ACT, 1956.

BACKGROUND:

Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India forwarded the proposal of North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST) for grant of Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC ACT, 1956 to University Grants Commission. NERIST made a presentation before the UGC Screening Committee on 16th November 2004. The Screening Committee short-listed NERIST for visit by an Expert Committee for assessing the physical and academic infrastructure.

The Chairman, University Grants Commission constituted a committee comprising of the following members to examine the proposal of North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology for grant of Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC ACT, 1956.

Professor S V Raghavan Dean (Planning and Alumni Affairs) Department of Computer Science and Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Madras Chennai 600036 INDIA	CONVENOR
Professor S B Singhal (*) Formerly Professor of Civil Engineering MMM Engineering Gorakhpur (UP)	Member
Professor Khalid Moin Department of Civil Engineering Faculty of Engineering & Technology Jamia Milia Islamia New Delhi 110025	Member
Shri. T C Nautiyal, IFS Registrar (Academic) Forest Research Institute Dehradun 248195 (Uttaranchal)	Member

Shri V K Jaiswal
Under Secretary
University Grants Commission
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi 110002

Member Secretary

(*) Prof S.B. Singhal could not join the committee.

The committee visited the Institute during 3-5 February, 2005.

INTRODUCTION

The committee visited the institute for an on the spot assessment of infrastructural facilities and academic programs of the institute. The committee was welcomed and received by Prof. J. Choubey, Director, along with his faculty colleagues and the Registrar of the institute. In their presentation before the committee, the institute highlighted the ongoing academic programs and their plans.

The committee also interacted with the Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Ashok Kumar who is the Chairman of the Board of Management of NERIST. The committee visited all the physical and infrastructural facilities including administrative block, academic block, library, hostels, residential quarters, and other infrastructural facilities. The committee had detailed interactions with faculty members, the students, and the alumni.

The brief profile of the Institute is attached (Annexure - I).

The committee made the following observations:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. For the development of North Eastern region, Govt. of India, through Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) established NERIST at Nirjuli, Itanagar on modular concept of education having multiple entry and exit system, aimed to produce technical manpower at different levels to cater to the needs of the seven north eastern states.
2. To promote science and technology in the North Eastern Region and to provide suitable and efficient institutional facilities of training of technical and scientific manpower in different disciplines with particular reference to the special needs of the North Eastern States to help them in proper exploitation of the natural potential for economic development.
3. NERIST established in 1985 (Ministry of Education letter no. F.25-1/81-T.5 dated 12th September 1985 – refer Annexure II). This is an autonomous body under MHRD, Govt. of India and is fully funded by MHRD. The academic programmes

of NERIST are affiliated to North Eastern Hill University (NEHU). While the academic part is completely handled by NERIST, the Degree is awarded by NEHU.

4. The Institute is registered as a Society under Societies Registration Act of 1860. HE Shri S.K.Singh, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh is the Chairman of NERIST Society. The Chairman of Board of Management (BOM) is appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, MHRD. Shri Ashok Kumar, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, is presently the Chairman of Board of Management of NERIST.
5. There are three types of modules available, viz., certificate, diploma and degree with lateral entry and exit for each programme. The institute has the flexibility to assess and award Certificate or Diploma or Degree during the stay of the student in the institute depending on his/her academic performance. In the existing system, the student after entering the institute can exit at Certificate level after 2 years or at Diploma level after 4 years or at Degree level after 6 years. The adjoining table presents the existing academic programmes of NERIST:

S.No.	Programmes	Certificate	Diploma	Degree (B.Tech)	Degree (B.Sc.)
1	Agricultural Engineering	√	√	√	
2	Construction Technology	√			
3	Maintenance Engineering (Electrical)	√			
4	Maintenance Engineering (Mechanical)	√			
5	Forestry (in Applied Science Stream)	√			√
6	Civil Engineering		√	√	
7	Computer Science and Engineering		√	√	
8	Electrical Engineering		√	√	
9	Electronics and Electrical Communication Engineering		√	√	
10	Mechanical Engineering		√	√	

6. **M.Tech:** NERIST is affiliated to NEHU for the award of degrees. The institute started M.Tech. programme in (a) Information Technology and (b) Environmental

Science and Engineering in 1996, which had to be discontinued from 1997-98 due to affiliation problems.

7. **Ph.D:** The departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Applied Sciences (Forestry) have Ph.D programmes. The degrees are being awarded by NEHU.
8. **Total Student Enrolment for the Year 2004-2005:** The students enrolled in the base module are 285, in Diploma 227, in Degree (Technology) 360, and in Degree (Applied Sciences) 57- Grand total 929.
9. **Total Faculty Strength:** There are 122 faculty (10 Professors, 29 Readers, and 83 Lecturers).
10. NERIST is handling 82 Sponsored research projects (63 ongoing and 19 completed) with an amount of Rs. 7.74 Crores.

11. Infrastructural Facilities:

- a. Land and Buildings: The institute has 515 acres of land with ~95,000 Sq. m of built up area costing Rs.46 Crores approximately.
- b. Library: NERIST has around 34,000 books and 200 Journals (Indian and Foreign) at a cost of around Rs. 1.2 Crores. The holdings cover predominantly the textbook requirements for the academic programmes with access to INDEST consortium and IEEE/ACM journals.
- c. Laboratory Equipment: Each department has equipment predominantly to meet their teaching/research needs. The total cost of the equipment is approximately Rs. 33.31 crores.
- d. Central Facilities: Modest central facilities are available for scientific research and computing.
- e. Sports, Recreational and Creative activity: The Institute has Gymkhana, Indoor badminton Hall, NCC/NSS, Multi Gymnasium, Auditorium.
- f. Students Canteen
- g. There are 07 Boys and 01 Girl's Hostel.
- h. The Institute has residential quarters (397 units) for its employees.
- i. The Institute has a Health Centre within its complex.
- j. The Institute has a placement cell. 36 students selected out of 153 passed students for 2004.

12. Approvals from Statutory Bodies: AICTE has approved the Diploma / Degree programmes of NERIST (vide letter No. 750-70-001/E/ET/97/1997 dated 13.07.04 – Annexure III(a) and III(b)).

13. AICTE expert committee which visited NERIST in April 2002 has recommended that Grant of Deemed to be University Status. Copy of the letter from AICTE is attached (F.No. 6032-55/DU/NERI/NBA/2K dated 30th April 2002 - Annexure IV)

14. *NERIST has No Objection Certificates from the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh (No. ED/HE-414/2002/2063 dated 08.11.2004 – Annexure V) and North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) (Letter dated 16.11.2004, copy is attached – Annexure VI).*
15. *Ministry of HRD, GoI conveyed that they have NO OBJECTION to NERIST becoming a Deemed University and has further confirmed that funding for NERIST will continue even after becoming a Deemed University (through their Letter No. F. 11-13/204-TS.IV dated 06.10.2004 – Annexure VII), Copy attached.*

Suggestion for Improvements:

1. *Library:* The institute needs strengthening in terms of IS codes relevant to the Engineering teaching as well as new titles in the field of Engineering and Sciences.
2. *Laboratories:* The institute needs strengthening in terms of laboratory space and equipments required for existing and proposed courses in the field of Engineering and Sciences.
3. *Students' Hostel (Girls):* As the Institute is fully residential, it needs to have more hostel facility for girls students to meet the increased demand.
4. *Central Facilities:* The Institute needs improvements in the Central facility.


Memorandum of Association(MoA/Rules)

NERIST has assured that NERIST will submit their MoA as per the model MoA of UGC for Deemed to be University early – Annexure VIII.

The Committee sincerely thanks NERIST for the excellent hospitality and cooperation in enabling the committee to complete its work.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

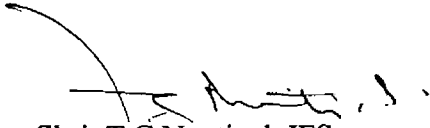
The committee having examined in detail the existing infrastructure, academic setup, quality of faculty and students and the sustainability potential of the institute, **unanimously recommends** that DEEMED to be UNIVERSITY STATUS MAY BE GRANTED TO North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), ITANAGAR (Arunachal Pradesh) under section 3 of UGC act 1956.



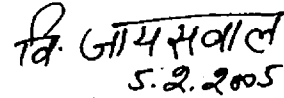
Professor S V Raghavan
Convenor



Professor Khalid Moin
Member



Shri. F C Nautiyal, IFS
Member


5.2.2005

Shri V K Jaiswal
Member Secretary

Date: 05.02.2005

Place: Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh