

**Minutes of the NPTEL – PIC meeting held at
IIT Madras on April 21 & 22, 2011**

The NPTEL PIC meeting was held at IC& SR Hall # 2, IIT Madras, from April 22 & 23, 2011.

Members Present:

1. Prof. M. S. Ananth, Director, IIT Madras, Chairman, NPTEL Project Implementation Committee.
2. Prof. K. Mangala Sunder, National Web Coordinator and TEL Coordinator, IIT Madras.
3. Prof. G. Srinivasan, Coordinator, NPTEL, IIT Madras
4. Prof. Kushal Sen, National Video Coordinator and TEL Coordinator, IIT Delhi
5. Prof. R. K. Shevgaonkar, TEL Coordinator, IIT Bombay
6. Prof. K. Gopakumar, TEL Coordinator, IISc Bangalore
7. Prof. S. C. Srivastava, TEL Coordinator, IIT Kanpur
8. Dr. Bani Bhattacharya, TEL Coordinator, IIT Kharagpur
9. Prof. S. Talukdar, TEL Coordinator, IIT Guwahati
10. Prof. K. R. Srivathsan, Pro Vice Chancellor IGNOU, Member
11. Prof. A. Kandasamy, NITK Surathkal
12. Prof. K. S. Rajan, SASTRA
13. Dr. A. N. Kumar, IUCEE, India
14. Mr. Ashok Kalbag, PAN IIT, India
15. Dr. B. Ramesh, VTU
16. Prof. R. Ravichandran, PSG College
17. Dr. S. Udhayakumar, PSG College
18. Prof. M. S. Vijaya Kumar, MIT, USA
19. Mr. V. Vaidya Nathan, CEO, Classle
20. Ms. Usha Nagarajan, Principal Project Officer, NPTEL, IITM

Welcome address by Prof. M.S. Ananth, Director, IIT Madras & Chairman, PIC

Prof. M.S. Ananth welcomed the PIC members and other invitees. He stated that he would be relinquishing the office as the Director of IIT Madras on July, 2011 and requested that he be relieved as Chairman NPTEL-PIC as well. He suggested that the next Director of IIT Madras

would be requested to chair the NPTEL PIC meetings and to take responsibility as the PIC Chairman. He assured everyone that he would continue to be associated with NPTEL. PIC members unanimously agreed to request the next Director of IIT Madras to serve as the Chairman for NPTEL PIC, in order to ensure continuity of coordination by Prof. Mangala Sunder at IIT Madras for the current project period. The Chairman suggested that in the future coordination could be taken up by any other Partner Institution (PI) in consultation with the Director and the TEL coordinator of that PI, as well as NPTEL PIC. Prof. M. S. Ananth would present these proposals at the next meeting of IIT Directors for approval.

Presentation by Prof. M. S. Vijay Kumar on Open Education Resources (OER), MIT, USA:

Prof. M. S. Vijay Kumar, MIT, Massachusetts was invited to the PIC to present details of Open Educational Consortium (OEC) with more than 100 countries participating and led by MIT. He stated that OER has created extensive corpus of high quality courses. He invited NPTEL to join the OER consortium. The NPTEL community at large can benefit greatly from sharing of academic strategies, pedagogies and solutions and potential partnerships with OER Community worldwide on many research programs in the creation of open source tools and educational content at all levels. NPTEL will retain its identity and complete control of NPTEL content without any compromise on its programmes. NPTEL will also have the advantage of direct access to other resources for sharing as well as enhanced international visibility as a major partner in OEC. This will showcase NPTEL to the world.

PIC also expressed its concern on potential commercial exploitation by other partner countries of the large number of NPTEL videos. Dr. Vijay Kumar stated that OEC does not permit legal certification of any kind and the copyright of content provided through NPTEL by each member would not be affected by its becoming a member of the Consortium. The Chairman agreed to present the details of the discussion on OEC to all other Directors and request their consent for NPTEL to become a member of the OEC. The PIC agreed to Prof. Ananth's suggestion that NPTEL join OEC after obtaining formal permission from the Directors of all PIs. The PIC members also agreed to speak to their Directors highlighting the partnership details.

Summary of activities under NPTEL Phases I & II by Prof. K. Mangala Sunder and ratification of minutes of Gangtok PIC meeting

The minutes of the Gangtok PIC meeting were confirmed. Details of ongoing project activities under NPTEL Phases II and III were presented by Prof. K. Mangala Sunder. A summary of courses assigned under NPTEL to Partner Institutions (PI) and associate Partner Institutions (API)

to date was also given. The redesigned NPTEL website where NPTEL Phases I, II and III were merged was presented. It was decided that all participating institutions would actively pursue their faculty to complete the courses by the end of December, 2011 and all uploads would be made by March, 2012. As the number of courses far exceeded the original commitment of 600 courses, a time extension to complete the remaining 400 plus courses was requested by members of the PIC. The Chairman agreed to present the request for project extension till December 2012.

NPTEL - Classle Partnership activities

Mr. V. Vaidhyanathan presented activities done by Classle, under NPTEL partnership. KYIIL – NPTEL Videos on mobile, JASS – Just a Second SMS wherein quiz / questions sent over SMS, Exam Fever – 2011 and Shikshak – faculty development, networking and mentoring programme were the four major activities presented by him. The committee agreed to his proposal to conduct 20 NPTEL awareness workshops within 3 months for a budget of Rs. 20, 000/- per workshop as a pilot project. The committee was of the opinion that the budget proposed for each workshop involving about 100 teachers from a number of institutions and held in a nodal institution for one day was quite reasonable. The PIC suggested that the web services budget allocation to NPTEL project at IIT Madras be used as source for funds to carry out the pilot project. The Committee also agreed that the workshops would begin as early as possible, preferably by May 1, 2011 and requested Prof. Mangala Sunder to report on the progress of the workshops in the next meeting jointly with Mr. Vaidya Nathan. The committee appreciated all the help provided by Vaidya Nathan for making NPTEL popular and thanked him for taking it to students and teachers throughout the country.

Phase I Course – Upgradation timelines and payment

Some of the TEL coordinators wanted clarification on the creation of additional quadrants and content for those courses in Phase I for which the faculty SMEs showed no further interests or were unavailable because of their commitment elsewhere. It was recommended by the Committee that the SME might be requested to recommend collaborator/s, and the SME could validate and sign off after completion. If SMEs are not interested in any of these, not available / unable to recommend, then the institute TEL coordinator would be requested to recommend collaborator/s with the help of subject matter experts. Agencies which are in the social networking of NPTEL community such as Classle and other partners to NPTEL may be approached to identify collaborators/teachers in the future and funds be made available for them to carry out this much-needed effort in making courses complete in most respects.

One of the quadrants, text transcription of videos all courses developed under NPTEL Phase I is currently being carried out at IIT Madras and the script / text will be sent to SMEs for approval. Classle has been helping this initiative quite considerably by bringing in very active students from colleges outside of IITs and training them to transcribe/ edit lectures. Once the transcribed lectures have been checked for accuracy, subtitles will be added to the videos on the NPTEL website. Total honorarium to SMEs / collaborators for adding the other three quadrants to Phase I courses will be a maximum of Rs.1, 00, 000/-. Partial payments will be permissible and will have to be approved by the NPTEL PIC following requests made by the TEL coordinator.

Uploading Phase II Courses with the approval of SMEs, time lines and part payment of honorarium

The Committee decided that Phase II courses would be uploaded only after at least one review has been completed. Payment to SMEs would be made only after the review process has been completed and part payment was not approved.

Guidelines for SMEs providing web and video formats of the same course

It was decided that guidelines provided in the 8th October, 2010, Gangtok PIC minutes would be followed. They are part of the annexures to this minutes. It will be the responsibility of SMEs to obtain permission / approvals from publishers as needed.

Courses from Partner Institutions - Details

Representatives from SASTRA, PSG Tech, NITK Surathkal and VTU (APIs) attended this meeting. The committee agreed in principle that the APIs would have a formal internal mechanism / committee to review the course, including copyright, and submit courses from their institutions. The Committee agreed to an initial transfer of half of the funds allocated per course for courses created at APIs. All courses from partner institutions will be completed by December, 2011.

Reviewer – process and letters for reviewers

Prof. K. Mangala Sunder presented a slide containing sample list of reviewers for a course from IIT Madras. The Committee had previously agreed on one or two peer reviewers and one or two from other institutions and where the SME could identify, one motivated PhD scholar. It was unanimously approved that the honorarium would be released to the reviewer only after the entire

review process was completed. The Committee decided that the reviewer's name need not be published along with the course but, a list of reviewers may be made available in the NPTEL website. Individual institutions will maintain their list of reviewers and add the selected reviewer's details in the admin module (as instructed during the admin demo).

The honorarium for review of NPTEL Phase II course, as specified in the NPTEL – PIC minutes dated 18th September, 2009 will be Rs.20, 000/- per reviewer per course, subject to a maximum of Rs.40, 000/- per course. Partial payments will be made pro rata based on the percentage of contents reviewed by the experts and submitted to the PIC by the TEL coordinator of the respective institutes. PIC resolved that it would be the responsibility of the TEL coordinators to collect all reviews from their institutes and make them available to the PIC.

NPTEL – Advertisement / reach

To further increase the awareness of NPTEL, the Committee decided that new A3 size posters would be designed at IITM and copies of these posters sent to all institutions within India. The Committee suggested that the payment for this could be made from the account at IITM created to deposit revenue collected from institutions and individuals obtaining NPTEL materials on hard disks and through a host of other services such as DVDROM distribution. All IITs & IISc would be requested to post the NPTEL link on their home page. Prof. Srivathsan said that the NPTEL link would be added on IGNOU website.

NPTEL Workshops – Increasing awareness and course specific workshops + Honorarium

Three levels of workshop were proposed:

1. High impact National NPTEL awareness workshop developed for VCs – maximum budget Rs.5 lakhs per workshop.
2. Engineering oriented NPTEL awareness workshop for Principals and Directors – maximum budget Rs.5 lakhs per workshop.
3. Course specific workshop for faculty and students.

Specific formats for different workshops will be designed and used. If universities / institutions request uploading of NPTEL material on their servers, minimum server specification can be provided to the institute with the request to act as a mirror. Prof. Kushal Sen, Prof. Srivathsan and Prof. Mangala Sunder will organize a meeting with NIC, BSNL and ERNET and come up with specification for providing mirrors and their management.

It was agreed that the list and schedule of all future NPTEL awareness and course specific workshops would be posted on the NPTEL website. Advance payment to institutions conducting NPTEL workshops was also approved with final settlement after completion of the workshops. Honorarium to SMEs / resource persons will be as specified in the Gangtok PIC- meeting Minutes (Rs.2, 500/- per session lasting 2 to 3 hours)

Update on server + storage purchase

Servers as mirrors for serving 3000 to 4000 concurrent users of video lessons will be ordered as soon as the final server specification has been decided by the committee constituted by PIC with the following as members:

Prof. P. Sriram, Department of Aerospace engineering, IITM

Prof. K. Mangala Sunder, Department of Chemistry, IITM

Prof. K. R. Srivathsan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU

Prof. A. K. Ray, Department of Educational Technology, IIT Kgp

Prof. Prem Kalra, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IITD

Prof. Satyaki Roy Department of Humanities, IITK and

One Prof. nominated by Prof. Gopakumar from IISc

The committee will evolve the criteria for the server, and will recommend a central purchase order to be placed from IIT Madras after technical presentations from potential vendors following the IIT Madras central purchase procedures as required by IC & SR, IIT Madras.

Video studio equipment purchase – tender details

The committee formed earlier and chaired by Prof. Kushal Sen has submitted its recommendations to the PIC and IIT Madras has initiated calls for tender from vendors. The committee will also finalize the tender and recommend to IIT Madras, the coordinating institute, the final price list. Individual institutions can select from this list and place order accordingly.

Teachers Certification/ Refresher courses using NPTEL Contents by Prof. Srivathsan, IGNOU

Prof. K. R. Srivathsan made a presentation about launching certification program by IGNOU using NPTEL material. This will include offering of formal certification using NPTEL content and/or

teacher certification programmes which emphasize on learner-centric online education and which will serve as a pilot project for the virtual Technical University (VTU). Quality assurance, course accreditation will be as per the open course guide and Course Pedagogy and Management Plan (CPMP). Courses can also be offered on a part time basis to teachers. Time duration will be five months per semester. SMEs will be requested to design the course, as educational consultants, and contact time with students will be approximately 5 days for each course. He also sought an initial grant of Rs.99 lakhs. TEL coordinators had no objection for IGNOU using NPTEL material for the pilot certification process. Prof. K. Mangala Sunder and Prof. G. Srivathsan will prepare details for the pilot programme and present it to the Chairman of PIC for approval. The NPTEL PIC authorized the Chairman, to decide and report the matter in the next meeting.


IUCEE (India) – Prof. A. N. Kumar

Prof. A. N. Kumar, Director, IUCEE (India) in his presentation stated that IUCEE, India aimed to improve the quality of engineering education in India by improving employability of engineering graduates and strengthening their research capability. They have so far conducted more than 200 workshops for students and faculty. He also stated that IUCEE was well networked with engineering institutions and offered to collaborate with the industry to conduct workshops and make engineering education more relevant to societal needs with scalable and sustainable activities. The committee agreed in principle to conduct NPTEL course specific workshops in collaboration with IUCEE, India on pilot basis, if the faculty who participated in such workshops could generate quizzes and assignments for NPTEL courses, develop other quadrants such as references and Wikipedia content and agree to implement the NPTEL courses in part or in full in their respective institutions. Their performance will be continually monitored jointly by NPTEL and IUCEE and Certificates of Merit can also be issued to them. IUCEE India will be requested to handle the logistics of organizing the workshops for a fee and an honorarium to the IUCEE coordinator, which will be agreed upon mutually between NPTEL and IUCEE. The objective would be to accelerate the teacher training process and to spread NPTEL across all Indian educational Institutions. Prof. Kumar will work with Prof. Kushal Sen and Prof. Mangala Sunder and create a format to conduct 2 to 3 trial workshops and submit the first set of proposals for May/June 2011 so that workshop activities can begin by July/August concurrently in many parts of the country.

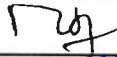


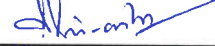

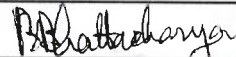
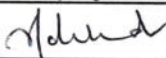
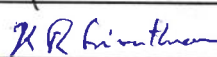
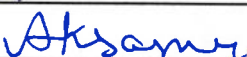
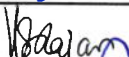
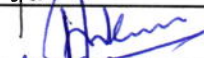

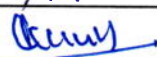

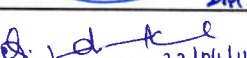

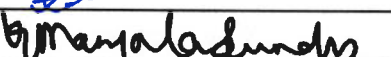

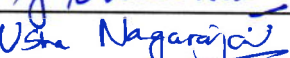

The next NPTEL PIC meeting will be held in Nagaland University and a meeting of the Vice Chancellors and senior faculty members in the Eastern Zone of the Country will be held on the first day in which all NPTEL PIC members would participate and discuss the programme with a large

number of academics from Universities and Colleges. Prof. Kannan Krishnamoorthy, VC, Nagaland agreed to coordinate the workshop/PIC meeting in Nagaland.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.


23/5/2011

NPTEL - PIC Meeting - April 22-23, 2011 at IIT Madras

S. No	Name	Institute	Signature
1	Prof. M. S. Ananth	IIT Madras	
2	Prof. K. Gopakumar	IISc Bangalore	
3	Prof. R.K. Shevgaonkar	IIT Bombay	
4	Prof. S.C.Srivastava	IIT Kanpur	
5	Prof. Kushal Sen	IIT Delhi	
6	Prof. Bani Bhattacharya	IIT Kharagpur	
7	Prof. S. Talukdar	IIT Guwahati	
8	Prof. K. R. Srivathsan	IGNOU	
9	Prof. A.Kandasamy	NITK Surathkal	
10	Prof. K. S. Rajan	SASTRA	
11	Dr.Kumar	IUCEE	
12	Mr. Ashok Kalbag	IUCEE	
13	Dr. B. Ramesh	VTU	
14	Mr. R. Ravichandran	PSG College	
15	Mr. S. Udhayakumar	PSG College	
16	Mr. V. Vaidhyanathan	Classle	
17	Prof. K. Mangala Sunder	IIT Madras	
18	Prof. G. Srinivasan	IIT Madras	
19	Ms. Usha Nagarajan	IIT Madras	
20	M.S.VIJAY KUMAR	MIT	
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			