

**NPTEL Project Implementation Committee (PIC) meeting
IIT Madras
May 4 - 5 2009**

Minutes of the Meeting

The NPTEL PIC meeting was held at the Board Room on the 5th floor of the administrative block at IIT Madras on the 4th and 5th of May 2009.

Members present:

1. Prof. M. S. Ananth, Director IIT Madras, Chairman, NPTEL PIC
2. Prof. K. Mangala Sunder, National Web Coordinator, TEL Coordinator IIT Madras
3. Prof. Kushal Sen, National Video Coordinator, TEL Coordinator, IIT Delhi
4. Prof. R.K. Shevgaonkar, TEL Coordinator, IIT Bombay
5. Dr. Bani Bhattacharya, TEL Coordinator, IIT Kharagpur
6. Prof. Satyaki Roy, TEL Coordinator, IIT Kanpur
7. Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director, CSIR, Durgapur
8. Prof. Bikash Mohanty, TEL Coordinator, IIT Roorkee
9. Prof. Talukdar, TEL Coordinator, IIT Guwahati
10. Prof. K.R. Srivathsan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IGNOU
11. Ms. Sreeroopa, Project Officer, NPTEL, IIT Madras

Summary of discussions:

1. Status of the NPTEL project Phase I

Prof. Mangala Sunder presented the current status of the NPTEL project and the updates since the last PIC meeting in November 2008. The current tally of the courses stands at 126 web courses and 96 video courses after complete conversion to web format. The following reports were handed over to the TEL Coordinators of each Institute.

- a) A list of courses where the syllabus was not available.
- b) A list of video courses which did not have lecture titles.

Prof. Ananth stressed the need to complete uploading all the missing details by the end of June and thanked all the IITs and IISc for going ahead with the project despite the non-availability of sanctioned funds, for more than one and half years.

2. Allocation of first installment budget funds

The first installment of the funds will be disbursed to all the institutions. The table (Annexure 1) was presented to the committee and was approved. It was decided that the TEL Coordinators of all the institutions will be made Adjunct coordinators for the NPTEL project account at IIT Madras and a single utilization certificate will be obtained for the project.

3. Discipline Coordinators

The members agreed to propose the discipline coordinators from each Institution by the end of May in consultation with their Directors/Heads of department as may be necessary. A meeting of the TEL Coordinators with all the discipline coordinators would be held during June 4- 6 2009 at IIT Madras.

The discipline coordinators will provide a list of all the courses to be developed by each institution, the names of faculty coordinators and the syllabus for each course. The syllabus will be drawn from the AICTE model curriculum and those of large affiliating universities such as Anna University (Tamil Nadu), JNTU (Andhra Pradesh) and VTU (Karnataka).

In case where a branch /stream does not exist in an institution but there are faculty members interested in developing courses for that branch/stream, they will approach the TEL coordinator of the institution. (For example of Applied Mechanics faculty members of IIT Delhi expressed interest in developing Aerospace Engineering courses.)

4. Upgrading studio infrastructure

- a) It was decided that Prof. Kushal Sen and Prof. Mohanty, would finalize the cost of Video equipment, on behalf of NPTEL, with Sony Corporation. Later each institute would work out their individual requirements and standardize the equipment.
- b) The NPTEL PIC authorized Prof. Mangala Sunder to obtain all the necessary details about Video streaming servers after consultation with major hardware developers like IBM, Sun and Apple.

5. NPTEL Workshops

It was pointed out by Prof. Mangala Sunder that IUCEE (Indo-US Collaboration for Engineering Education) approached NPTEL for participating in the workshops to be organized for faculty members from across India. Infosys has offered its facilities in Mysore for the programme for the duration June 20 – July 6 2009. The IUCEE committee had invited NPTEL faculty members for joint development of training modules. Prof. Mangala Sunder informed the members that he would circulate all the details to the NPTEL PIC with a request that the faculty be informed of this programme. He also mentioned that Infosys Education Research Team will offer Infosys campus for NPTEL workshops subject to mutual convenience.

The committee members were open to working with Infosys and IUCEE but suggested that workshops designed and developed by NPTEL faculty for teachers in this country is of very high priority. Therefore, while interested faculty can very well participate in conducting such workshops organized in India, the offer of Infosys campus and infrastructure for NPTEL exclusive workshops is a welcome participation by the Industry to disseminate NPTEL contents.

The members suggested engaging a professional event management company to organize the 300 NPTEL workshops planned for the next 3 years.

It was also agreed upon that a workshop must be conducted for the professors of IIT on the pedagogy of Technology Enhanced Learning.

6. Distribution of video content and print forms of NPTEL material

Currently, the distribution of NPTEL courses to individuals and institutions is happening from IIT Madras. It was suggested that the DVD making and distributing process can be outsourced to a private vendor like Moser Baer. Due diligence must be observed in awarding a contract. A proposal to print NPTEL contents in the form of e-books was also suggested. Reprography was recommended as a possible process so that the cost of production is a minimum so that students and teachers across the country will benefit greatly with high quality, inexpensive print material.

7. Enhancement of NPTEL usability

It was agreed that more layers need to be built around the core NPTEL content leading to better interaction and usability and constant updation.

Prof. Kushal Sen presented a model where each module of a course has an associated FAQ, self assessment, feedback and 'Ask a question' sections. A qualified 'collaborator' – not necessarily the author- would be appointed to periodically review the course posts and answer questions. He/She could also build content, for example, pre-requisites for a course, with the approval of the author. A monthly honorarium may be paid to the collaborator for his/her services.

Prof. Srivathsan presented the Open Distributed TEL model in association with IGNOU. He suggested developing tiers to fulfill the other 3 quadrants of TEL. Prof. Ananth suggested that he propose a pilot project with one course from IIT Delhi to demonstrate the elements of his model.

Mr. Vaidyanathan of Classle.org made a presentation to the committee about opening up the NPTEL content to the public for annotations and wiki. The committee did not agree to the proposal for funds for fear that amateurs or unauthorized persons could add or modify the core NPTEL content in their own local environment. The committee suggested that it was clearly outside the present scope of NPTEL. However, it was suggested that Mr. Vaidyanathan could rework his model and present a demo for a sample course in which the modifications to content will be made by bonafide teachers/trainers and validated by SMEs and course developers.

8. Honoraria for faculty and coordinators

The committee members proposed that the honoraria for developing a web course and a video course must be the same in the second phase of NPTEL and fixed at Rs2.5lakhs which confirms to all elements of NPTEL course guidelines. The chairman accepted the proposal and requested that a suitable honorarium for faculty coordinators be finalized.

9. Number of courses

The total number of courses that would be developed in this phase would be at least 600. It was suggested that at least 20 and up to 40 courses should be developed for Post graduate level in the 5 branches of Engineering covered in Phase I.

10. A number of action items as proposed in the NPTEL Phase II/ III documents were discussed. The recommendations of the committee are given below.

Action Items

The committee agreed on the following

	Activity	Person(s) responsible
1.	Follow up on the missing details of courses, syllabus and video lecture titles	TEL Coordinators of all institutes
2.	Upgrading studio infrastructure - Video recording equipment to be discussed and cost finalized with SONY	Prof. Kushal Sen & Prof. Mohanty
3.	Video streaming server details	Prof. Mangala Sunder
4.	Storage server requirements	Prof. Mangala Sunder
5.	Developing layers around the NPTEL Content – a pilot project with an IIT Delhi course	Prof. Srivathsan
6.	Develop the details of a proposal for IIT Press project with reprography as an option.	Prof Mangala Sunder
7.	Dispatch a hard disk containing all the web and video courses to all the TEL coordinators	Prof. Mangala Sunder
8.	Selection of discipline coordinators	TEL Coordinators of all institutes
9.	Put together the course curriculum from AICTE, Anna university, JNTU and IITs and circulate to all the TEL Coordinators. IIT Kharagpur course curriculum books to be sent to IIT Madras	Prof. Mangala Sunder Dr. Bani Bhattacharya
10.	Job description and honorarium of a collaborator	Prof. Kushal Sen
11.	Circulating the NKN Document to all the TEL Coordinators	Prof. Mangala Sunder

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

ANNEXURE 1:

Allocation of funds to NPTEL partner Institutions

	IITB	IITD	IITG	IITK	IITKgp	IITM	IITR	IISC
Video Streaming	20	165	10	10	20	100	10	10
Web and Video Courses	70	35	10	20	20	35	15	20
Workshops	16	16	8	16	16	20	8	20
Travel	25	25	25	25	25	20	25	25
Total	131	241	53	71	81	175	58	75
Grand total	885							

The minutes of the NPTEL PIC meeting (May 4-5 2009) has been approved by the PIC Chairman, Prof. M.S.Ananth. It will be circulated to all the PIC members for their attention.

National Web Courses Coordinator
NPTEL Project

by Mangala Sunder
Prof. K Mangala Sunder

29/5/09

IIT Madras

S.No	Professors Name	Date	Signature
1.	Prof. M.S. Ananth	5-5-09	
		6-5-09	
2.	Prof. K. Mangala Sunder	5-5-09	<i>K Mangaladunder</i>
		6-5-09	<i>K Mangaladunder</i>
3.	Prof. Bani Bhattacharya	5-5-09	<i>B Bhattacharya</i>
		6-5-09	<i>B Bhattacharya</i>
4.	Prof. Satyaki Ray	5-5-09	<i>Sly.</i>
		6-5-09	<i>Sly.</i>
5.	Prof. S. Talukdar	5-5-09	<i>Talukdar.</i>
		6-5-09	<i>Talukdar.</i>
6.	Prof. Gautam Biswas	5-5-09	
		6-5-09	<i>Gautam Biswas</i>
7.	Prof. Bikas Mohanty	5-5-09	<i>Bikas</i>
		6-5-09	<i>Bikas</i>
8.	Prof. Kushal Sen	5-5-09	<i>K Sen</i>
		6-5-09	<i>K Sen</i>
9.	Prof. Shevgoankar	5-5-09	<i>Shevgoankar</i>
		6-5-09	<i>Shevgoankar</i>
10.	Prof. K.R. Srivathsan	5-5-09	<i>K R Srivathsan</i>
		6-5-09	<i>K R Srivathsan</i>