

Minutes of the NPTEL PIC Meeting held at IIT Madras on 3rd November, 2008

The NPTEL PIC meeting was held at IIT Madras on 3rd November, 2008 from 10:00am onwards in the Board Room, 5th floor, Administrative Block, IIT Madras.

Members present:

1. Prof. M.S. Ananth, Director, IIT Madras, Chairman, NPTEL Project Implementation Committee.
2. Prof. Kolar, Chairman, CCE, IIT Madras.
3. Prof. K. Mangala Sunder, National Web Coordinator and TEL Coordinator, IIT Madras.
4. Prof. Kushal Sen, National Video Coordinator and TEL Coordinator, IIT Delhi.
5. Prof. Kannan Moudgalya, TEL Coordinator, IIT Bombay
6. Prof. Satyaki Roy, TEL Coordinator, IIT Kanpur.
7. Prof. Bikash Mohanty, TEL Coordinator, IIT Roorkee.
8. Prof. Rajiv Tiwari, TEL Coordinator, IIT Gawahati.
9. Dr. Bani Bhattacharya, TEL Coordinator, IIT Kharagpur
10. Prof. K.R. Srivathsan, Pro - Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, Member.
11. Prof. Gopakumar, TEL Coordinator, IISc Bangalore.
12. Ms. Usha Nagarajan, Principal Project Officer, NPTEL, IIT Madras.

Summary of discussions:

1. **Prof. M.S. Ananth, Chairman**, PIC welcomed everyone. He appreciated the efforts taken by all IITs and IISc Bangalore towards converting the existing video courses into web streaming format and also providing additional courses on the NPTEL and YouTube sites. He urged all partner Institutions to complete this task, which is part of phase II activities, in view of the fact that many colleges are setting up video courses on their intranet. He thanked all PIC members for updating the web contents periodically.
2. **Prof. Mangala Sunder**, on his report on streaming video activities between 1st Feb., 2008 and 31st Oct., 2008, summarized that:

124 Web courses and 83 (7 additional courses currently being uploaded) Video courses are currently available on the NPTEL / YouTube sites. The remaining courses are now being updated and formatted to be consistent with the current website distribution.

During this period, there were more than 680,000 visits to this site from 180 countries / territories. Visits from India constituted for 73.49% followed by U.S with 9.21%.

There were more than 20 video courses which had more than 15,000 page views for each of them.

The comments from viewers of the YouTube site are available on site and are overwhelmingly appreciative of the efforts taken by IITs and IISc.

The United States Open Education Forum has listed NPTEL courseware among the top 5 Open Courseware in the world. The other four are initiatives from Universities in the U.S.

Presently, NPTEL is the most subscribed channel for YouTube India.

More than 70 Institutes have requested for and received NPTEL video / web courses for hosting them on their Intranet for a nominal fee. All Government engineering colleges and Government aided Institutions have not been charged any user fee for setting up the web and video contents on their intranet. For individuals, the individual course DVDs are available for a nominal fee.

3. The NPTEL PIC authorized IITM to be the sole distributor of the videos in DVD format until other IITs set up distribution facilities through their Education Technology Cells.
4. **Prof. Kannan Moudgalya** made presentation on the current certification process done at IIT Bombay under the activities of their CDEEP. He also proposed to the NPTEL PIC members to consider introducing similar certification programmes using NPTEL contents.
5. **During the Planning of Phase II activities**, everyone agreed in principle the need to conduct the workshops. The feedback from these workshops would be useful in formulating courses in the future.

Plans to conduct 200 workshops to the teachers (30 teachers per work shop) from the Institutions that are using NPTEL course material, at various locations throughout the country was proposed to be taken up immediately. The NPTEL Subject Matter Experts will offer training and assessment that can be used for this purpose. This will also provide a unique opportunity for a large number of graduates who are professionally employed to upgrade their skills and knowledge.

To accomplish this, the Chairman, Prof. Ananth nominated a sub committee comprising of Prof. Mangala Sunder, Prof. Satyaki Roy, Prof. Kannan Moudgalya and Prof. K.R. Srivathsan. This committee will work out all the relevant details and come up with recommendations.

The NPTEL PIC emphasized the need for more public awareness about the availability of NPTEL contents. Prof. Mangala Sunder informed the members that letters are being prepared to be sent to alumni of all IITs and IISc. In addition a Kiosk would be set up during the Pan IIT meet scheduled from Dec., 19-21, 2008 at the IITM campus.

The following additional measures were proposed:

Advertise or send press release every month to all major news papers.

Advertise in the home page of Yahoo and Google search.

There were discussions regarding large number of Industries expressing interest in acquiring NPTEL courses for training their employees. The PIC requested the chairman to discuss this issue at their next NPC meeting and provide guidelines

It was felt that the delay in sanctioning of funds by MHRD after its public acknowledgment and commitment on carrying out NPTEL Phase II activities is seriously hampering all the efforts taken by everyone involved in the process.

The committee requested the Chairman, NPTEL PIC, to request MHRD to convene a National Program Committee meeting at the earliest to formally commit funds for the phase II activities.

6. 'Tutored video using NPTEL video and IGNOU's outreach' was Presented by Prof. K.R. Srivathsan.

NPTEL PIC endorsed the suggestion from Prof. Srivathsan that IGNOU's Infrastructure may be utilized to conduct some of the workshops for teachers using IGNOU's vast network of remote classrooms supported by Satellite Interactive Terminals. Prof. Srivathsan stated that IGNOU is ready to support such workshops conducted from the IGNOU facilities at Delhi.

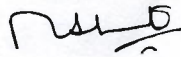
The PIC members also endorsed the launch of refresher courses for teachers in colleges and interested scholars that lead to certification of proficiency and professional diplomas in different streams. Towards this IGNOU and NPTEL will sign an MOU that spells out broadly the roles and responsibilities of both the sides and collective processes of managing the courses using the education grid methods. PIC asked the same subcommittee in charge of Phase-II activities planning to draft the MOU and recommend the same to Chairman NPTEL and Vice Chancellor IGNOU for signing.

7. In his closing remarks, the Chairman, Prof. M.S. Ananth reiterated that he would work closely with MHRD to ensure timely release of adequate funds for the NPTEL Phase II project.

The Meeting ended with a note of thanks to the Chair.

Minutes by

Prof. K.Mangala Sunder, IIT Madras, 7th November, 2008.


डॉ. एम.एस. अनन्त/Dr. M.S. Ananth
निदेशक/Director

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