

TEQIP III: Minutes of Meeting of State Steering Committee of UT of J&K

The Meeting of State Steering Committee (SSC) of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) Phase-III of UT of J&K was held on virtual mode under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Sushma Chauhan, Administrative Secretary, Higher Education Department, Govt. of J&K, on 30th March 2021 at 02.00 PM. The list of participants is as under:

1	Ms. Kirti, Deputy Director, MoE, GOI, New Delhi	Nominee of Director (TE), MoE, GOI, New Delhi
2	Smt. Nirmal Sharma, State Project Administrator, SPIU J&K	(Member)
3	Mr. Giridharan Krishnamurthy, Principal Design Engineer, Urjita Electronics Pvt. Ltd., Chennai	(Industry Member)
4	Mr. Pankaj Gupta, President Spice Digital Noida	(Industry Member)
5	Prof. Dharmendra Singh, ECE Dept., IIT Roorkee,	(Member)
6	Dr. Mohammad Farooq Wani, TEQIP Coordinator, NIT Srinagar	(Nominee of Director, NIT Srinagar)
7	Dr. Sameru Sharma, Principal GCET Jammu	(Member-Secretary)

2. At the outset, Dr. Sameru Sharma, Member Secretary while welcoming Chairperson of SSC and the distinguished members, gave an overview of the achievements made during project period under TEQIP-III in UT of J&K.

3. The Chairperson, SSC, in her opening remarks, appreciated the initiatives taken under TEQIP-III, for strengthening the engineering education in UT of J&K and invited suggestions from members of SSC. gThereafter, Chairperson permitted to proceed with the agenda items.

4. Dr. Sameru Sharma, Member Secretary, presented item-wise agenda through the power-point presentation. A summary of the presentation is as follows:

Item no.1.1: Status of NBA Accreditation of different Project Institutions (PIs) of J&K UT

The status of NBA Accreditation of the Project Institutions of J&K was put up to the Committee. Against the 14 eligible programs of the PIs, 03 programs of GCET Jammu (Tier-2 Institution) have been accredited. The Self Appraisal Report of Electrical Engineering department (4th Program) of GCET Jammu has been uploaded and the team is expected to visit in August 2021.

The issue of the remaining autonomous (Tier-1) Institutions regarding filling up of Senior faculty positions which is pre-requisite for applying for NBA Accreditation was also discussed and the Committee was informed that the request of the Administrative Department, Higher Education Department, J&K Govt. regarding waiving of Pre-Qualifier criteria in case of Tier-1 institutions has not been acceded by NBA as Tier-1 Institutions are governed by Washington Accord norms.

Smt. Nirmal Sharma, SPA, SPIU J&K, requested the authorities to take a view in this regard as NBA is an important measure to maintain standards and quality of the education in the engineering institutions.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no. 1.2(A): Academic activities conducted by PIs under TEQIP-III

Committee was informed that AICTE Mandate is strictly followed/ implemented by the PIs under TEQIP-III. Institutions provided free GATE and Employability Skills Coaching to the students. Faculty of the institutions also attend FDPs, PDTs, Workshops/Seminars/Short term courses to remain well-informed about the latest developments in the field of engineering & technology.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no. 1.2(B): Academic activities conducted by PIs during COVID-19 pandemic period.

Committee was informed about academic activities conducted by the PIs during COVID-19 pandemic period under TEQIP-III by using the various platforms like Zoom/Skype, Google classroom, CISCO Webex, You Tube, Whatsapp Groups etc. to complete the curriculum and other activities.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no. 1.3: Future Skill Training Program for faculty/students during the ongoing pandemic period

Committee was informed that thirty-one (31) faculty of PIs of J&K attended Future Skill trainings at IITs in the technology areas viz. Data science, Robotics, cyber Security, IOT, 3 D Printing, AI & ML, etc. and the trained faculty have further imparted job-oriented training to the students of their institutes to make them industry ready for complying with the future skill requirements of IT-ITes industries.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no. 1.4: Sustainability Plan for TEQIP Faculty post project

Committee was informed that MHRD/NPIU had engaged project based TEQIP Faculty (55 Assistant Professors) after following rigorous open selection process at National level through NITs for the project period. Since the project is completing on 31st March 2021, the PIs have requested for additional funds for retention of TEQIP Faculty post-project till the regular appointments are made by the PIs.

Prof. Dharmendra Singh, ECE Dept., IIT Roorkee, expressed his full support in this regard, in case any action plan is framed by the Government for continuation of TEQIP Faculty post- project.

Dr. Mohammad Farooq Wani, TEQIP Coordinator, NIT Srinagar, stated, that in case TEQIP Faculty engaged by NPIU attains higher qualification (Ph.D.), then they can be considered in the recruitment process to be followed by PIs for appointment of regular faculty.

Committee noted the information so provided.

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Item No. 1.5: Financial status of Pls

The Committee was informed that against total Project Life Allocation of 45.20Cr, institutions have utilised 40.97 Crores as on 30th March 2021(90.64%).

Smt. Nirmal Sharma, SPA, SPIU J&K, informed the esteemed members that the performance of all the Pls remained excellent with regard to various Performance Benchmarks during the Project period. As a result thereof, 5.20 Crores, additional funds were allocated to the Pls of UT of J&K. The funds under TEQIP-III have gone a long way in upgrading the existing infrastructure of Pls by way of Installation of Innovative Labs, Equipment & Machinery, carrying out Minor Civil Works, procurement of High Designed Software, Library Books and Furniture, etc.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no.1.6: Procurement status of Pls

The Committee was informed that 94.69% of the Procurement funds have been utilised by the Pls of J&K as on 30th March 2021.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no.1.7: Performance Audit Report of Pls

The Performance Audit Report of 2019-20 Pls of J&K was placed before the Committee.

Mr. Giridharan Krishnamurthy, Industry Member, enquired about the mechanism of the Performance Audit process and same was explained to him in detail. Committee noted the information and expressed satisfaction over the performance of the Institutions.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no. 1.8: Audit of Project Accounts

Committee was informed that all the audits have been conducted smoothly with adherence to the Financial Guidelines of TEQIP-III and Audit Reports have submitted to NPIU on the given time. The Internal Auditor (first-half) for the current Financial Year (2020-2021) has been conducted in February 2021. The Internal Audit (second-half) and Statutory audit shall be completed during the grace period of the project.

Committee noted the information so provided.

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Item no.1.9: Collaborative Research Scheme (CRS) Projects

Committee was informed about the status of Collaborative Research Scheme(CRS) which was introduced with the objective to provide research grant for young TEQIP faculties recruited in different TEQIP institutes so as to collaborate for research and build research community. Committee was informed that the 17 ongoing CRS projects would complete by 31st of March 2021 and their sustainability plan has also been submitted to NPIU.

Committee noted the information so provided.

Item no. 1.10: Sustainability Plans of TEQIP initiatives post-project

Committee was briefed that all the institutions have established the Sustainability Funds and put 8% of revenue every year as per the prescribed mechanism from the institutions own funds for the sustainability of TEQIP initiatives post-project.

GCET Jammu has increased the contribution to sustainability fund from 8% to 20% from 2020-21 onwards.


Committee noted the information so provided.

The Chairperson assured the members of the SSC that such meetings shall continue to be held post-project to discuss/ implement the sustainability plans of the initiatives taken under TEQIP-III.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Sameru Sharma, Member Secretary, to the Chair and all the esteemed members.

No:- GCET/Pr/21/87

Dated:- 01-04-2021


(Dr. Sameru Sharma)
Principal,
GCET Jammu
Member Secretary