

**MINUTES OF THE
FIFTEENTH (15th) MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
HELD ON THURSDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

The fifteenth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute was held on Thursday, 17.09.2009 at 9.00 am at TCS Office, Mumbai and the following members were present.

1.	Dr. F. C. Kohli	Chairman
2.	Mr. Atul Kirloskar	Member
3.	Prof. B. S. Sonde	Member
4.	Mr. Harish Mehta	Member
5.	Dr. Uday Salunkhe	Member
8.	Dr. G. B. Pant	Member
6.	Prof. B.N. Chaudhari	Member
7.	Prof. A. D. Sahasrabudhe	Member – Secretary
8.	Mr. Maitreya Doshi, Vice-Chairman & MD, Premier Ltd	Invitee
9.	Prof. B. B. Ahuja, Deputy Director	Invitee
10.	Prof. S.D. Agashe, Dean (Academics)	Invitee
11.	Prof. S.T. Vagge, Dean (Student Affairs)	Invitee
12.	Prof. B.G. Birajdar, BWC Secretary	Invitee
13.	Mrs. Supriya Jain, Personal Relations Officer	Invitee
14.	Mr. Ramakant Athavale, Accounts Manager	Invitee

Mr. Pratap Pawar, Commodore Anand Khandekar, Dr. S.G. Dhande, Mr. J.S. Sahariya, Mr. Kantilal Umap, Dr. S.K. Mahajan could not attend the meeting owing to their prior commitments and were granted leave of absence.

Dr. Kohli welcomed the members.

Tenure of the Board

The Board on being informed that the Board's tenure had come to an end, Dr. F.C. Kohli, Chairman, Board of Governors of the institute, informed that the Board being answerable to all stake holders cannot create a vacuum for the institute. By continuing till the next Board is appointed, the present Board was only discharging its duty in ensuring that the functioning of the institute is not hampered and accountability sustained.

Dr. Kohli applauded and appreciated the contributions made by all members in giving time on continual basis and raising the standards of COEP. He said that this Board had laid the foundation in re-building this institution and all should take pride in its achievements.

Mr. Madhav Pol of M/s. Joshi & Pol, the statutory auditors of COEP, was requested to present the accounts of the financial year 2008-09.

Presentation by Mr. Madhav Pol of M/s. Joshi & Pol, statutory auditors

Mr. Madhav Pol introduced himself and his associate Mrs. Arundhati Rahane and then proceeded to present the institute's accounts for the financial year 2008-09.

Mr. Pol informed the Board that 90-95% objectives of accounting practices were achieved and that by 2010 the accounts would be presented in time. He also

mentioned that by the end of this financial year he would be able to present to the Board department wise cost centres, to facilitate better understanding of accounts.

Mr. Pol brought to the attention of the Board that advances to the tune of Rs. 95 lakhs which were outstanding till last year have been settled to a great extent. The advances were Rs. 26 lakhs as on 31/3/2009 and as on date the advances outstanding are Rs. 2.06 lakhs. He also mentioned that outstanding advances prior to 1982 amounting to Rs. 6 lakhs have been adjusted as approved by the BOG since details of the past accounts were not available. Mr. Pol also mentioned that in the financial year 2008-09, the institute has an operating surplus of Rs. 5.48 crores.

On being queried of the training of the accounts staff, Mr. Pol assured the Board that in the coming six months this exercise would be undertaken and that all staff will be trained in due course of time.

On presenting the income of the institute for the financial year 2008-09, the Board was concerned about Rs. 13 crores lying in the institute's PLA account and wished that efforts be put in to have this amount released for institute's betterment. The Board was informed that about Rs. 2 crores of these Rs. 13 crores were spent on the renovation of hostel building and some departmental facilities and that the amounts were drawn as required in installments of Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs.

On going through the accounts, the Board requested the nomenclature of Immovable property amounting to Rs. 3.26 crores be reflected as Work in Progress.

On the issue of status of these accounts being in public domain, the Board was informed that these accounts will be accessible by public, donors and alumni alike.

After deliberations on the financial statements of the year 2008-09, the Board approved these audited statement of accounts.

Mr. Pol and his associate Mrs. Arundhati Rahane left thereafter.

The Board then decided to have the presentation by Mr. Harsh Manrao from Mr. Christopher Benninger's office, who was then requested to report on the progress of the master plan of the Institute and the progress of the girls hostel building and academic complex before taking up other agenda items.

Presentation by Mr. Harsh Manrao

Mr. Harsh Manrao informed the Board that the work of the girls hostel and the academic complex is in full swing and has reached plinth level. While presenting the plans of the academic complex, he mentioned that the revised architecture will now provide for adequate lighting and ventilation to the complex. However, he was informed by the Board to incorporate Air-condition ducting in all the classrooms apart from seminar hall, mini auditorium and laboratory though it may not be used at present.

Mr. Harsh also mentioned that quality issues were a concern and so they as architects have undertaken adequate measures to put in quality checks such as building small prototypes and samples to demonstrate the quality and finishes expected of the work from the building contractor.

Mr. Harsh also brought to the notice of the Board that the work was behind schedule by almost a month owing to quality related issues and swine flu. To have better construction management control, the Board requested Mr. Harsh to circulate a monthly report to the Board members on the progress of the work based on the work bar chart and that the contractor be kept on toes so that we are able to have these buildings complete by beginning of the next academic session in July 2010.

On the status of the girls hostel, Mr. Harsh informed the Board that concern was the total height of the building which needed formal approval of the Archeological Survey of India and the Pune Municipal Corporation. The Board opined that support of alumni be taken up to hasten the process.

On the status of the restoration of Heritage building, the Board was informed that Mrs. Abha Lamba was awarded the contract at a professional fee of 7.5% of the restoration cost and that her report was expected in two months time from now.

Mr. Harsh Manrao left thereafter.

The Board then decided to have the presentation by institutes' liaisoning Architect Mr. Gohad, Advocates Mr. Karjatkar and Mr. Rao on the status of the land cases of COEP.

Presentation by Mr. Gohad and Advocates Mr. Karjatkar and Mr. Rao

Patil Estate:

The Board was informed that the land at Patil Estate owned by COEP was acquired in 1986 and that the possession was given to the college with slum occupants residing thereon by the Govt. of Maharashtra. The then Divisional Commissioner of Pune and the Municipal Commissioner of Pune were asked to have it vacated for COEP.

Though the legal instruments handed over to the institute then by the Government were complete, the 7/12 extracts did not have the name of College of Engineering, Pune as its lawful and legal owner. The then erstwhile owners who had handed over the Patil Estate land to the Govt. of Maharashtra, taking advantage of the situation as the 7/12 extracts did not bear the name of College of Engineering, Pune, resold this land to a third party, a developer M/S Pole Star Co. to promote slum rehabilitation scheme.

The Board was informed that efforts were put in by the college and matter taken up with the tehsildar and the Pune District Collector to have this land regained by COEP, for its own growth. The 7/12 extract now bears the name of the college as rightful owner.

The Board was also informed that close to 1 acre plot regained by COEP by evacuating the hutment dwellers opposite the Pune District Court would be used to house laboratory staff and construct boatman quarters as this land adjoining the railway tracks will not be appropriate for classroom complex. The Board was also briefed that, a boundary wall was constructed and security employed to safeguard this piece of land.

Mr. Gohad, and Advocates Mr. Karjatkar and Mr. Rao left thereafter.

The Board then decided to have the Director's presentation on the progress made by the institute.

Presentation by Prof. A.D. Sahasrabudhe, Director COEP

On hearing the presentation and understanding the past and present perspective of COEP on all fronts, the Board was appreciative of the improvements made. The progress made, be it on account of live classes from IIT Bombay, enhancing faculty positions, improvement in the teaching learning process, creating conducive environment for research was all appreciated. Improvements in administration, management were applauded.

The Board was happy to note that academic ambience was built up and that lectures/practicals were being conducted by faculty with sense of responsibility. The Board felt the curricula though relevant should have more courses on mathematics upto final year to further strengthen the students with analytical abilities. The Board also highlighted the need to have "Communication Skills" as a credit course for students in their curricula.

On noting the performance of the B. Tech students the Board felt that those bright students with CGPA of 9 and above be urged to pursue Ph.D in their respective disciplines.

The Director while presenting the future of COEP, stressed on Challenges and Action Plans (CAP) evolved in arriving at institute's vision, mission and goals. The Board voiced "Every Puneite should feel proud of COEP" and felt that Service to Community should form a part of the institutes' goals.

The need for further alumni support was strongly felt by the Board, and that by attracting faculty from USA on sabbatical for taking cutting edge technology courses the academics could be greatly improved.

The Board acknowledged the Director's contribution in taking COEP to greater heights and requested him to showcase the achievements of COEP to alumni as also to other engineering institutions for them to emulate.

The Board was informed by the Director that the next alumni meet was scheduled in December 2009 and requested that the Board members be present on the occasion.

The agenda items for the day were taken up as below:

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 14th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute held on 02.04.2009

The Board **CONSIDERED** the Minutes of the 14th meeting of the BOG held on 02.04.2009.

R-15/1/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Fourteenth meeting of the Board of Governors of the Institute held on 02.04.2009 be **CONFIRMED** as enclosed (**ANNEXURE – 1**).

Item No. 2: Actions taken on the decisions of the Fourteenth meeting of the Board of Governors held on 02.04.2009.

2.1 Proposal to Govt. of Maharashtra seeking funds for girls hostel, classroom complex, heritage building and new library building: The Board noted the status.

2.2 Presentation of Final Accounts for the financial year 2008-09: This item was taken up prior to the discussion of the agenda items and the Board approved the audited statements for the financial year 2008-09.

2.3 Campus Master Plan: This item was taken up prior to the discussion of the agenda items.

2.4 Salary grant for PG courses withdrawn by MHRD: The Board noted the same and urged the State Government to provide grant from the State Government.

2.5 Revision in Hostel fee from the academic year 2009-10: The Board noted the same.

2.6 Faculty recruitment. The Board noted the same and approved the list of selected candidates.

R-15/2(a)/2009: The Board **NOTED** the actions taken on the decisions of the 14th meeting of the Board held on 02.04.2009 as stated above.

R-15/2(b)/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** to ratify and approve the appointments of faculty recommended by the Selection Committee during interviews held in July 2009.

Item No. 3: Presentation of Accounts of Financial Year 2008-09:
This item was taken up prior to the discussion of the agenda items.

R-15/3/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** that audited accounts for financial year 2008-09 be adopted.

Item No. 4: Progress on the construction of Girls Hostel and academic complex:
This item was taken up prior to the discussion of agenda items.

R-15/4/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** to ratify and approve the contract given to Mrs. Abha Lamba for restoration of heritage building at 7.5 % professional fees of the restoration cost.

Item No. 5: Presentation on the progress of the Institute by the Director:
This item was taken up prior to the discussion of the agenda items. The Board also noted the global alumni meet in December 2009.

R-15/5/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** that the Director make presentation on the achievements of COEP to alumni as also to other engineering institutions for them to emulate.

Item No. 6: Recommendations for the award of B. Tech degrees and Gold Medals to B.Tech Toppers

The Board accepted the recommendations of the Senate and approved award of B. Tech and M. Tech degrees. On the award of Gold Medal to Civil Engineering B.Tech Topper, the Board noted that Mr. Kashid who had the highest CGPA was a direct second year entrant after diploma and spent only three years in the institute, while Mr. Inamdar was a class XII entrant and went through 4 years in the institute. Further, Mr. Inamdar was found to have higher CGPA if the comparison of results of 6 common semesters undertaken by both of them was considered. After thorough deliberations, the Board decided to award Gold Medals to both students i.e Mr. Inamdar and Mr. Kashid. The Board also approved B.Tech toppers in all the remaining disciplines.

R-15/6(a)/2009: On the recommendations of the Senate, the Board **RESOLVED** award of B. Tech degrees and M. Tech degrees to the list of students who have successfully completed the requirements for the award of B. Tech and M. Tech degrees and forward the same to the Controller of Examinations, University of Pune.

R-15/6(b)/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** to approve the list of toppers at B.Tech for passing all the courses in the first attempt, scoring highest CGPA in the respective departments and award of Gold Medals. In the case of Civil Engineering, the Board **RESOLVED** to award 2 Gold Medals.

Item No. 7: Regularisation of Staff

The Director informed the Board the necessity to regularize the temporary services of Class III and Class IV employees and fix their consolidated salaries. He mentioned that in all there are 32 such employees. 12 of them are in service before autonomy and 20 of whom were employed after the autonomy.

R-15/7/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the Committee setup for staff regularization and ratify the decision of the Chairman, Finance Committee, Mr. Pratap Pawar in respect of regularization of 32 staff employed before and after autonomy.

Item No. 8: Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership:

The Board appreciated the efforts of Shri Narendra Kale an alumnus of COEP and Mr. Sanjay Inamdar. The Board while approving the building plans of Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership by M/S. Shibanee and Kamal Architects of Bangalore, observed that the inputs be also taken from Mrs Abha Lamba, heritage architect apart from M/s Christopher Benninger, Master Plan architects. The Board noted the ground breaking ceremony (Bhoomi puja) of the building planned to be held near the boat club at COEP on the auspicious day of Dasara, on September 28, 2009 at 9.00 am.

R-15/8/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** to set up an Bhau Institute of Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Leadership with the help of founders Mr. Narendra Kale and Mr. Sanjay Inamdar and approved the plans prepared by M/S. Shibanee and Kamal Architects of Bangalore.

Item No. 9: Items for reporting to the Board

- a) **11th Meeting of the BWC was held on 24th June 2009. The minutes of this meeting are enclosed as (APPENDIX – 5/Page No. 71)).**
The Board noted the same.
- b) **Items written off and auctioned/disposed:**
The Board noted the same.
- c) **Ph.D status of faculty recruited with conditional appointments:**
The Board noted the same.
- d) **Faculty deputed for training/participation in conferences abroad:**
The Board noted the same.
- e) **MoUs with Academia/Industry:**
The Board noted the same.
- f) **Appointment of Deans/HODs:**
The Board noted the same.
- g) **Hiring a building on lease for Girls Hostel:**
The Board noted the same.
- h) **FAB5 Workshop in association with MIT, U.S.A held at COEP during August 17-21, 2009:**
The Board noted the same.
- i) **Land Court Cases being handled by COEP:**
Case No. 20/2008
The Board noted the same.
Case No. 47/2009
The Board noted the same.
Patil Estate
The Board noted the same and stressed that all land related matters be pursued to regain the lands which lawfully belonged to COEP.
- j) **Donation of Rs. 1 crore from MPLAD fund of Mr. Rahul Bajaj:**
The Board was appreciative of the gesture of Mr. Rahul Bajaj, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), who had very kindly consented to allot Rs. 1 crore out of his MPLADS fund towards the construction of the part of the expenses of the girls hostel.
- k) **Donation of Rs. 1.5 crores from Shri Lalchand Hirachand Premier Trust and Premier Ltd. for modernization of Production Engineering Workshop and labs.:**
The Board applauded the gesture of Mr. Maitreya Doshi of Premier Ltd. for renovating the Production Engineering Department Lab and Workshop building and supporting facilities at an estimated expense of about Rs. 90 lakhs to be executed by their contractor: M/s. Daftary Descon who have been instructed to work out a cost and time efficient work plan for this job.

The Board was also informed that Premier will provide certain machines available in their plant duly reconditioned, upgraded and reinstalled in the new lab at no cost to COEP. The cost of the machines and the renovation of the premises will remain within the overall limit of Rs. 1.5 crores committed by the Trust and the Company to COEP.

The Board accepted the Premier Trust's request that the new Production Engineering Lab, be re-named in the memory of their late Chairman Shri Vinod L Doshi and also to put up a plaque in an appropriate, mutually acceptable location.

The Board also appreciated the Lalchand Hirachand Trusts consideration of supporting 5 needy students every year commencing 2009. Needy students will receive Rs. 60,000/- to cover their entire tuition fee, room and board and books for the year. This scholarship will continue in their 2nd, 3rd and final year provided they maintain a certain academic standard as decided by a committee.

The money will not be paid directly to the students. It will go directly to COEP to cover the tuition, room, boarding, books etc. expenses.

R-15/9(a)/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** that the items reported on the agenda as stated above be **NOTED** as reported and **APPROVED**.

R-15/9(b)/2009: The Board **RESOLVED** that guidelines be evolved for naming the lab should there be donors forthcoming to setup either full labs or contributing to partial labs.

ItemNo.10: Presentation on Special Finance Scheme by Dr. F. C. Kohli, Chairman BoG

Dr. F. C. Kohli through his presentation stressed that autonomy without financial independence is meaningless. He said, that though the Maharashtra Government has increased the grant to government autonomous institutes to the extent of Rs. 5-6 crores per year, excellence in these select institutes could only be achieved by giving such institutes full financial autonomy. A modality of financial assistance in the form of recoverable loan was presented by Dr. Kohli.

According to this novel loan scheme, which has been discussed by Dr. F. C. Kohli with the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India and Chairmen of several banks, Rs. one lakh per student per annum for every student joining the institute will be paid by the banks directly to the institute. However, the responsibility for repayment will rest on the students themselves, i.e. "Burden on Beneficiaries." The institutes receiving this amount will stand guarantors to the scheme while keeping track of the students.

The student will be required to give an undertaking to repay to the bank, entire loan amount of Rs 4 lakhs (for four years) and interest thereon, in a longer time frame for repayment – from 7-10 years. The interest rate chargeable by banks would be simple interest at 10% p.a. Should the student desire to pursue postgraduate education, his/her loan should be suitably restructured, Dr. Kohli said.

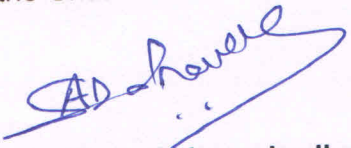
This model according to Dr. Kohli would not only meet societal obligation but also help build world class educational institutes.

The Board appreciated the scheme and the efforts undertaken by Dr. F. C. Kohli in formulating such a novel scheme. It was also felt that, this may be taken up with the Government of Maharashtra for implementation.

Item No. 11: Any other item with the permission of the Chair

The Director informed the Board that the Deputy Director/Deans were drawing an honorarium of Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 5000/- p.m. respectively and that the Heads of Departments and other Incharges were equally putting in extra efforts in addition to their duties as faculty, striving to raise the standards of COEP on all fronts. He requested the Board to consider honorarium for them as well. After deliberations the Board authorised the Chairman to decide the honorarium to all.

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


(A. D. Sahasrabudhe)
Member- Secretary
Board of Governors, COEP