

Green Panel Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Oct. 31, 2014 from 02:15 to 04:00 pm
at the Stable Complex, Conference Room, Kamand

Chair: Prof. T.A. Gonsalves

Members: Ms. Rinki Sarkar, Ms. Snehal Shete, Dr. Padmanabhan, Er. Sunil Kapoor, Dr. Venkata Krishnan

Invitees: Dr. Arnav Bhavsar, Dr. Jaspreet Kaur, Dr. Rik Rani Koner, Ms. Lishma Anand, Prof. Subramanian, Prof. Bhavendra Paul and Dr. Subrata Ghosh

By Video Conferencing: Dr. Anil Kishan

I. Welcome

Prof. Timothy A. Gonsalves welcomed the Members and Invitees to the first meeting of the Green Panel. The Green Panel is constituted primarily as a watchdog over the construction, maintenance and operation of the IIT campus. While serving the academic needs of the institute, development is to be done with sensitivity to the natural environment. The IIT campus could become a model for other such campuses in mountain areas.

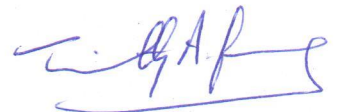
II. Discussion Points

- (1) The members viewed the presentation sent by Ranjit Daniels from Care Earth Trust who could not attend in person. There were some suggestions regarding division of the campus into grids for efficient monitoring.
- (2) Rinki Sarkar touched on the apparently haphazard growth happening in the Kamand campus and stressed the need for a cautious approach. It was clarified that a master plan based on natural habitat, that order will emerge as construction completes. She also mentioned about her informal interactions with school children, bird enthusiasts and others in the Kamand campus. She raised some issues:
 - What should be the focus and agenda of the Green Panel ?
 - Any activity pertaining to the local villages ?
 - Long term vision: Green Campus ? - Technological innovations for others ?
- (3) Suggestions from the participants:
 - Give time for things to settle in the campus, which is currently under construction.
 - Start monitoring the activities in the campus
 - Water – monitor water depletion and recharge
 - Uhl and Kataula rivers – monitor water quality (contact IPH for data)
 - Air - quality of air
 - Climate – monitor the extremities in weather patterns
 - Forest (flora and fauna) – monitor biodiversity

- Need monitoring indices, methods and strategies for monitoring
 - Decide on threshold values
 - Use nature-inspired technology
- (4) Padmanabhan briefed about the waste management plan that has been arrived after a discussion among a few concerned faculty members. It was suggested that they contact Chintan Group, Delhi and Vellore Srinivasan.
- (5) There were some discussions about dealing with the solvent waste from research labs (AMRC in particular) and the effluent treatment plant, which will be constructed on site.

II. Decisions:

- (i) Evolve a Green Policy
- (ii) Start monitoring of 5 main areas:
 - 1) Air quality
 - 2) Water quality (incl. river water, underground water, etc.)
 - 3) Waste management
 - 4) Energy (incl. Power)
 - 5) Biodiversity (flora and fauna)
- (iii) Formalize the waste management plan
- (iv) Beautify the campus with information about flora and fauna
- (v) Appoint a Green Coordinator to take care of the above activities.



T.A. Gonsalves
Director