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**Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting held on 29th April 2014 at NMNH, New Delhi**

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To: Reena dey <reenadeynmnh@gmail.com>


Sun, Aug 31, 2014 at 10:49 AM

Approved with minor corrections of typographical errors in red. Regards,  
=Saroj Ghose=

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Newly Constituted Advisory Committee of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)/Regional Museum of Natural History (RMNHs) held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the NMNH, New Delhi**

The 1<sup>ST</sup> meeting of the newly constituted Advisory Committee of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)/RMNH, was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 at 11:00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the NMNH. The following Members were present:

1. Dr. Saroj Ghose, Former President of International Council of Museum (Chairman).
2. Shri Rustagi, Chief Engineer, C.C.U., Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.
3. Dr. S.D. Biju, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi.
4. Shri G.S. Rautela, Director General, National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata.
5. Dr. Jaishree Sharma, Head of Department, Department of Education in Science and Maths, NCERT, New Delhi.
6. Dr. S. Seturamlingam, Scientist In-charge, Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal.
7. Shri G.N. Inderesha, Scientist In-charge, Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhubaneswar.
8. Mohd. Yunus, Scientist In-charge, Rajiv Gandhi Regional Museum of Natural History, Sawai Madhopur.
9. Shri B.S. Yogendra, Scientist In-charge, Regional Museum of Natural History, Mysore.

The following persons attended the meeting as Special Invitee:

1. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director Indian Museum, Kolkata
2. Smt. Naaz Rizvi, Scientist D, NMNH,
3. Dr. Reena Dey, Scientist C, NMNH
4. Smt. Anupriya Singh, OSD (PR), NMNH
5. Shri Dinesh Gupta, FAO, NMNH
6. Shri Gaurav, Scientist B, NMNH

At the outset Dr. Saroj Ghose, Chairman welcomed all the participants of the committee. After a brief introduction he requested the participants for self-introduction. Thereafter, Dr. Reena Dey (H.O. – NMNH) with the permission of the Chairman initiated and apprised the participants about the agenda items. The Chairman, asked to take the issues on priority basis specifically that are pending in CAG review.

**Agenda item No. 1 – ATR on the Minutes of the Meeting/Minutes of the last meeting**  
Dr. Reena Dey responded that two issues were pending, first was the Advisory Committee Meeting that is being held today and the second point was about acquiring the

land for NMNH (HQ) premises as is still working the Museum from a rented building. It was added by Sri Rustagi, Chief Engineer, CCU, MoEF that physical verification of the land has been completed in October 2013. The committee members strongly recommended for acquiring a piece of land for HQ, New Delhi.

The committee members suggested that the Museum may invite policy makers such as CM/ Ministers/ Sr. bureaucrats from ministry on occasions to observe environmentally important days. Dr. Biju, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Biology, University of Delhi suggested OSD(PR) to send e – invitations instead of sending invitation cards on such occasions and also to do extensive survey on Marketing and PR plan that will upgrade the image of the Museum. She also should take care that all the enquiries asked on e – mails should be answered properly and timely.

### **Agenda No. 2 – Progress Report**

The Scientists of NMNH and RMNH (Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur) briefed the Chairman and all the members about progress report incorporating the various educational activities & exhibitions since the last meeting.

### **Agenda No. 3 – C&AG Review of NMNH**

The CAG's issues and clarifications required were presented to the members. The newly constructed library is almost ready to open on the fourth floor wherein the books/ reading material from the library situated at the sixth floor is to be shifted.

### **Agenda No. 4 – Budget Summary 2011- 2012, 2012 - 2013, 2013 – 2014**

Budget – After taking a view of Budget Summary of National Museum of Natural History, the Chairman pointed out that the budget Expenditure has gone down for the last three consecutive years i.e. in 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013- 2014. He recommended that the budget expenditure should be increased and to incorporate modernization of facilities which would help the NMNH to attain international level museums.

### **Agenda No.5 - Annual Action Plan 2014 – 2015 and Budget 2014 -2015**

The Annual Action Plans (AAP) for the current financial year (2014 – 15) of the NMNH, New Delhi / and its Regional Museums at Mysore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Sawai Madhopur were presented. It was pointed out that CAG's observations were taken into account while formulating Annual Action Plans for 2014 – 2015. The Committee viewed that the observations of C &AG are important and need to be given special attention. The annual Action Plan of the NMNH and RMNH for (2014 – 15) was recommended by the Committee.



## Agenda No.6 - Major Issues

- a. Exorbitant cost of land for RGNMNH –Mrs. Naaz Rizvi explained the point that State Government of Rajasthan has issued an order instructing NMNH to pay Rs 4 crores for the land allotted for RGRMNH Sawai-Madhopur due to change in their policies whereas this land was allotted free of cost to us on 16.08.2007. After discussion on this issue it was suggested by Shri Rautela that this should not be acceptable, as the land was offered by the State Government of Rajasthan for bringing up the museum which is a public service institution and at certain stage the policy cannot be changed. The chairman showed anxiety and strongly recommended that the issue must be taken up at higher level. A request may be made quoting precedence and the fact that all other RMNH were built on space given free of cost by the respective State govt. The importance of a public service institution which would enhance the tourism potential and informal educational value as well as job opportunities to local population may also be included.
- b. Dr. Reena Dey explained that as this building housing the Museum is in bad shape and requires immediate repair it has been desired by FICCI to carry out the repairs with minimum inconvenience to the public for which there is a possibility to close the Museum for six months. The Chairman recommended that keeping in view that this place is of public interest it cannot be closed for a long span, however the repairing work can be carried out in phased manner and part wise.
- c. Computer Programmer of NMNH – Next point was to appoint a Computer Programmer on outsource basis. The Chairperson recommended that a good specification may be sent to the Ministry for a contractual post for this purpose which is essential to update the website and other related matters. It was suggested that the Museum should have a very good and updated website with all the latest information uploaded. Dr. Biju suggested keeping a person for 2 hours twice a week who can give the answers of all the queries asked by the NMNH web surfers.
- d. Requirement of consultant (Administration) – The Committee was appraised that at present there is no Administrative Officer in NMNH and the work of administration has increased due to opening of new Regional centre. The work of all Regional Centres are being dealt by NMNH and no extra posts are created. Hence, there is a need to appoint a consultant, from those retired from GOI service at the level of Director/Deputy Director @ monthly rate of Rs. 35,000/- to cope up with the administrative works of NMNH/RMNH.

- e. On the issue to appoint a Consultant (Project Management) on contract basis for supervision of the upcoming regional museum in Gangtok, from those retired persons from any museum at the level of Scientist D or above, the Chairperson recommended that the post may be named as Project Curator @ monthly rate of Rs. 35,000/-.
- f. Shri Inderesha, Scientist C, came up with the issue of heavy expenditure on electricity bill at RMNH Bhubaneswar, Bhopal & SawaiMadhopur (Rajasthan), which is due to centrally air conditioned museum building. Increase in the expenditure of electricity bill was recommended by the Chairperson as he felt that AC is for protection & durability of valuable specimens which may face gross deterioration in hot and humid weather. All other members also endorsed it.
- g. The members discussed about the requirement of land to construct the new building for NMNH. After the discussion it was concluded that this Museum which was set up in 1972 and that after so many years the total concept has changed. Space requirement should be different to suit the contemporary concept and it was strongly recommended by the Chairperson that the HQ should have its own building to house the galleries and other areas in modernized way that will be attractive and will give an effective impression to its visitors.

Regarding the issue of entry tickets, it was pointed out the NMNH should introduce entry tickets for all museums under its control. The tickets may be priced at Rs.25/- for general public, Rs.250/- for foreigners, and with concession to students, BPL card holders and disabled/under privileged.

There being no other business the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.