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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS IN INDIA
Minutes of Special General Body Meeting held on 19.05.2017 at 1500hrs
at SCOPE Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

Participants:

Board of Governors:

- Shri R K Mathur, IAS (Retd.), CCIC, Central Information Commission,
- Dr. Joram Begi, SCIC, Arunachal Pradesh Information Commission,
- Shri Thounaojam Ibobi Singh, IFS (Retd.) SCIC, Manipur Information Commission
- Shri Sunil Kumar Misra, IRS (Retd.) SCIC, Odisha Information Commission
- Shri Suresh Chowdhary, IPS (Retd.) SCIC, Rajasthan Information Commission
- Shri S.S. Channy, IAS, (Retd.) SCIC, Punjab Information Commission

Members:

- Shri L. Krishnamurthy, SCIC, Karnataka Information Commission
- Shri V.S. Gadhavi, SCIC, Gujarat Information Commission
- Shri Kurshid Ahmed Ganai, IAS (Retd.) SCIC, Jammu & Kashmir Information Commission
- Shri S.H. Yash Pal Singh Singhal, IPS (Retd, SCIC., Haryana State Information Commission.
- Shri Lalduhthlana Ralte, IFS (Retd.) SCIC, Mizoram Information Commission
- Shri Vinson M. Paul, SCIC., Kerala State Information Commission.

Spl. Invitees:

- Shri M. Sridhar Acharyulu, CIC., Central Information Commission.
- Ms. Sashiprava Bindhani, SIC., Odisha State Information Commission.
- Shri R.R. Varsani, SIC., Gujarat State Information Commission.
- Shri H.V. Patel, SIC., Gujarat State Information Commission.
- Smt. Anjali Anand Srivastava, Secretary, Central Information Commission
- Shri R.K. Singh, Additional Secretary, Central Information Commission

Also Present:

- Shri S.P. Beck, Joint Secretary (Admn), Central Information Commission, New Delhi.
- Shri Sushil Kumar, Dy. Secretary (Admn.), Central Information Commission, New Delhi.
- Shri A. V. Prakash, Executive Secretary, NFICI, Hyderabad

1. The meeting commenced with the welcome address of Shri R.K. Mathur, Chief Information Commissioner and President NFICI. The Federation decided to place on record its gratitude and appreciation for the services rendered by Shri M. Ratan, the outgoing, SCIC, AP Information Commission & Vice President, NFICI.

2. All the members present confirmed the minutes of earlier General Body Meeting held on 01.04.2017 at New Delhi.

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3. The President invited suggestions from the Members regarding topics for forthcoming seminars of the CIC. Suggestions were received for a review of maintenance and disclosure of Land Records, Education, Environment, Urban Development, Law and Order, Social Security Schemes, Suomoto disclosures etc. The President informed that 2-3 more Seminars are proposed to be organised during the current year and these topics may be taken up one by one. It was also suggested that respective State Chief Secretaries also be involved in the Seminars. It was agreed that the Federation should meet after the seminars to discuss approach to various sections of the RTI Act and issues arising therefrom.

4. It was agreed that the tenure of the Board of Governors should be kept as two years instead of one year. Accordingly it is resolved that the present Board of Governors will continue for a further period of one year. It was also noted that as Shri M. Ratan, CIC., A.P. Information Commission, one of the Board of Governors and Vice President for NFICI has demitted office recently, his post on the Board of Governors and as Vice President needs to be filled up. The General Body, after discussion, chose Shri L. Krishnamurthy, SCIC, Karnataka Information Commission to serve as a member of the Board of Governors. Shri S.S. Channy, SCIC, Punjab Information Commission being the senior most among the members of the Board of Governors, was elected to serve as Vice President.

5. Sh. A.V. Prakash, Executive Secretary informed the Hon'ble Members that reports had been received from the following Commissions that they have utilised the amounts released by the NFICI.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Meghalaya
3. Nagaland
4. Rajasthan
5. Sikkim
6. Tamilnadu

6. The Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh State Chief Information Commissioners present in the meeting informed that their State Commissions had also utilised the funds released and handed over their Utilisation Certificates and vouchers to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary requested the rest of Information Commissions to

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utilise the funds and send report along with the U.Cs and vouchers duly audited, so that the details of the expenditure incurred by end of March, 2017 can be taken into account as expenditure incurred for the financial year 2016-17. This would enable filing of application before the Income Tax authorities for seeking exemption of the NFICI funds from payment of Income Tax.

7. The following Editorial Board was formed for the quarterly Online Newsletter and printing of NFICI quarterly Magazine by YASHADA Pune:-

1. Shri Ratnakar Gaikwad, SCIC, Maharashtra
2. Shri L. Krishnamurthi, SCIC, Karnataka
3. Shri S.S. Channy, SCIC, Punjab
4. Smt. Sashiprava Bindhani, SIC, Odisha
5. Shri Abraham K Tech, SIC, Arunachal Pradesh

The YASHADA Pune may be requested to seek approval of the Editorial Board for releasing the quarterly Online Newsletter and quarterly Magazine.

8. Annual membership fee dues as given in page 12 of the notes was discussed. The Executive Secretary requested the Hon'ble members to clear the membership fee dues and also to pay the Annual Membership fee for the current financial year 2017-18. The President advised to address separate letters to the concerned Commissions in the matter.

9. The President apprised the members present that as per the decision taken, action had been initiated to shift the Headquarter of NFICI from Hyderabad to New Delhi and the NFICI funds have already been transferred to State Bank of India, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi. It was, therefore, proposed and resolved to appoint Shri S.P. Beck, Joint Secretary (Admn.), CIC Office, New Delhi as Honorary Executive Secretary and Shri Sushil Kumar, Deputy Secretary (Admn.), CIC Office, New Delhi as Honorary Secretary for NFICI. They would be nominated as joint signatories with power to sign cheques on behalf of NFICI for any transaction approved by President. It was further decided that the services of Shri A.V. Prakash, Executive Secretary, hereafter will be utilised as Consultant to NFICI on same terms and conditions. The staff at Hyderabad will also continue to hold the positions till the final shifting process to New Delhi is completed.

10. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all participants.

Sd/-

R.K. Mathur
President, NFICI

/F.B.O./


(S.P. Beck)

Honorary Executive Secretary, NFICI