



International 'We Serve' Foundation

Foundation Board Meeting – Minutes Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017

1. **2.04 PM** - Chair Mr. V. Venugopal called the Board meeting to order. Chair, Venugopal, Prof. D. Sudharshan Mr. Mani Narayanasamy (via Skype), and Dr. M. S. Viji attended. Dr. Nirmala Desai, Prof. Seetha Subramanian, Dr. Sibu Saha and Mrs. Usha Chandra were excused and had given their proxy to the Board Chair. Mr. Rohit Patel could not attend. There was adequate quorum to conduct the Board meeting. The Board Chair expressed sincere appreciation for their support and guidance in IWSF missions & projects.
2. **Minutes of the last Board Meeting** held on May. 6, 2017 were submitted for review and approval. There were no changes. The Minutes as submitted were proposed, seconded and approved unanimously.
3. **Financial status Update** – Jan. 1 to Aug. 10, 2017 - presented in detail. Board advised to maintain relevant documents for sponsorships made on behalf of IWSF in India and adhere to the strict compliance per the laws of India and US. (These are in place and will be continued as advised by the Board). IWSF does not receive donations in India; these are directly donated in INR to the registered Non-Profits (after verifying their credentials). The Board advised to present the local sponsorships in INR separately.

In-Kind donations (used-books) are valued at US \$ 1 / lb irrespective of their original purchase value. These are annually reported to the CPA for filing taxes. IWSF issues donation receipts to donors if asked.

Oct-15-2017 Budget: The budget for the upcoming Oct. 15, 2017 Grand Event was reviewed and approved as presented. This shall be the first one conducted by IWSF. If the response is satisfactory, will plan an annual event as the main Fund-Raiser for IWSF. Net proceeds shall be used for supporting IWSF missions and projects. With no further discussions, the Financial report was accepted as submitted, without any changes.

4. **Missions & Projects Update** – presented in detail by M S Viji, MD

[a] Now there are 102 E-Learning Smart Classrooms in several states in India, benefiting over 80,000 poor students. 14th FCL is waiting for clearance at the seaport in India. Each port has its own unique documentation requirements and formalities. Local Consignees handle these matters as best as they could.

[b] A few Smart Classroom projects have been submitted to the Rotary International by the participating Clubs; waiting for RI Global Grant approval. A few more projects seek international partner Clubs and funds. IWSF shall try to help the Rotary Clubs in India, collaborating with us in many projects over the years.

[c] In many public schools in India, there is an urgent need to improve the drinking water facilities, Hand Washing stations, sanitation, provide feminine napkins incinerators, desks, benches, toilets, sports facilities, etc. IWSF shall seek funding from generous donors & manufacturers to provide these necessities.

[d] Six toilets have been set up in Rameswaram Island to help thousands of tourists every day. Local Rotary Club and City Council have taken the responsibility and assured regular maintenance by assigning staff to clean these daily. Hundreds more toilets will be set up under the SMART CITY Program of the Central Government.



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[e] **JOTHIBAI Rural Women and Youth Empowerment Center** details were presented. 250 + rural women from about 20 surrounding villages will get trained and use that along with youth – for vocational training and many will start earning regular income. Local Rotary Clubs and AKVIM have pledged to support the weekly Women Empowerment Sessions relevant to them. The training will be FREE. Those using the facility equipment to earn income shall contribute 1 % of their income to the RURAL Scholarship Endowment – the yield from the Endowment shall help the rural students from their villages.

[f] Several solar power projects have been completed to date and many more requests keep coming in. Based on available funding, IWSF will try to support some of these. Many Rotary Clubs in several parts of India are seeking the guidance from the Vendor to install solar power for public schools in their areas.

[g] Severe Floods in Gujarat over the past few days has caused major damage. As soon as the local Rotary Clubs send us the details, long-term relief measures for the affected schools shall be taken up. Will provide details when available on the type of help sought, available funding, etc.

[h] 50 Students in the 10 Winning teams are undergoing intensive training by ISRO Experts to design and develop the AK-EDUSAT. IWSF is getting good support from many corners and hopes to raise the needed funds in USA and India. Will contact many Space Tech firms in the US seeking their support.

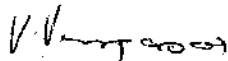
[i] Details of Sep. 2017 visit to India and Singapore were shared – with the emphasis on addressing several thousands of students every day and the Rotary Clubs in the evenings in many cities. Will travel to more than 12 cities and two countries; giving 2 or 3 lectures daily. Will submit a report on my return, by early October.

[j] Oct. 15, 2017 Grand Celebration Schedule and program details as well as the three international awards were discussed. ISA of UK, BIACS and Shree School of Dance are co-sponsoring this gala event. As noted earlier, this event will help plan future events and seek ongoing support from many established individuals & organizations as they get to know IWSF more and build a trusting relationship.

[k] Oct. 14, 2017 to Dec. 16, 2018 India Art Exhibit and promoting Indian-American Artists living in the Central KY area; Promoted by GLOBAL LEX; inauguration on Oct. 14, 2017 – awaiting response from the Ambassador of India. IWSF collaborates with Global Lex, BIACS & Shree School of Dance.

5. **Adjournment:** The Chair, Mr. Vinodh Venugopal thanked those attending the Board meeting. With no other topic for discussion, he adjourned the meeting at 3.34 PM.
6. **Next Board Meeting:** Saturday, 2.00 PM Sat. Dec. 2, 2017 at 895 Edgewater Drive, Lexington, KY

Presented for review and acceptance. [] Accepted as submitted [] with corrections



Vinodh Venugopal, Chair, IWSF Board

Dec. 2, 2017

