



Foundation Board Meeting – Minutes Apr. 9, 2016

Calling the meeting to order: Chair Dr. Nirmala Desai called the meeting to order at 2.08 PM

Attendance: The following participated at the meeting to form a 100 % quorum (including Proxy):
Dr. Nirmala Desai, Dr. Sibu Saha, Dr. D. Sudharshan, Mr. Vinodh Venugopal & M S Viji
Mrs. Usha Chandra (CA) and Mr. Manivannan Narayanasamy (GA) joined via tele-video conference.
Prof. Seetha Subramanian could not attend due to health reasons and had given her Proxy to Dr. Nirmala Desai. The Chair recognized and welcomed the new members to the Board.

Election of New Chairperson: The Chair, Dr. N. Desai asked the members to select a new Chair for the next four year-term, as she wanted to step down. Some were busy with too many commitments and did not want to be considered. After discussion and with consensus, Mr. Vinodh Venugopal was nominated to be the new Chair. He graciously agreed. The new Chair was congratulated by the members and he immediately took over the responsibility at 2.15 PM and conducted the rest of the Board meeting.

Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on Dec. 5, 2015 were presented for review. There were no changes or corrections and was duly proposed and seconded; passed unanimously to be accepted as presented.

Financial status Update: A copy of the 2015 Financial data submitted to the accountant for tax return prep was circulated earlier and presented to the Board. Clarified the returned wire (re-sent) to the Local Charity for the Fire Disaster relief in Guntur Dist., AP. There were no changes and this report was accepted as presented.

Current fiscal year Financial update - Jan. 1, 2016 to Apr. 8, 2016: Was presented and discussed. The Board was happy the efforts of IWSF helped secure the Global Grant (\$ 70,575) from Rotary International 9RI) for the 'SOLAR POWER SUPPLY – Phase-1' for 10 Public schools in Rameswaram. RI would directly remit the grant funds to the Rotary Club-Rameswaram and Rotary Dist. 3212 per their norm. The Grant funds will NOT go through IWSF. The Board appreciated the generosity of the Rotary Club - Lexington, KY, Rotary Dist. 6740 (KY), Rotary Club - Rameswaram, Rotary Dist. 3212 (TN) and the Rotary International. This historic grant shall benefit 14,120+ deserving children annually y enrolled in public schools in Rameswaram for each of the next 20 years.

2016 Budget: The Board reviewed the budget for 2016 presented. Members suggested to show a separate category 'Anonymous Donations' (cash and/or check). Will do so in future reports.

Active Missions & Projects Update – presented by M S Viji

The President gave a detailed report to the Board through specific, project based presentations, the collaboration with many entities, plan to implement and seek funds. After each presentation, the Board sought clarifications and was satisfied these were well planned and are continuing the existing Missions to empower the people.

- [1] Video Presentation on Chennai Floods rescue using IGUMS UAS Drones
- [2] Flood Relief – to set up 200 FPL in flood affected public schools in the 4 districts in TN
- [3] Solar Rameswaram Mission update
- [4] Fire Disaster relief in Nagaram, Guntur Dist., AP – especially educating and feeding 130 children



- [5] Flood Relief and Recovery – 40 + ESC under the IGNITING MINDS Mission
- [6] Dynamic Knowledge Center (Node) – by the Rotary Clubs in India

IWSF is focusing only on the education sector, under the IGNITING MINDS mission (FPL, ESC) by collaborating with local organizations ready to volunteer / sponsor / maintain / donate funds. IWSF is signing MOU with a number of collaborating entities in USA and India for these missions.

- [A] MOU signed with MANUBIKA – a youth Volunteer group with 60,000 followers
- [B] MOU to be signed with Tamil Sangam of Missouri
- [C] MOU to be signed with RILM – India for the TOTAL LITERACY Initiative
- [D] MOU to be signed with other charitable entities in USA – Flood Relief Projects

1. Igniting Minds Mission – progress

- (i) **E-Learning Smart Classrooms (ESC):** IWSF shall set up (subject to funding, etc.) 40+ ESC in the 4 districts seriously affected by the recent floods in TN, India. IWSF took part in the acute phase by donating funds to provide food, blankets, etc. IWSF is discussing with Rotary Clubs in India to match the donations 50-50 to set up ESC in some of the flood affected public schools. On Apr. 18, 2016 IWSF President shall meet in Chennai with leaders of several Rotary Clubs in Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) **TOTAL LITERACY:** IWSF and RILM, the National body of Rotary Clubs all across India are at high level discussions to collaborate in the **TOTAL LITERACY** Initiative launched by the Rotary Clubs in 2014. Many of the programs are in alignment with the projects in operation since Apr 2012 under our IGNITING MINDS Mission. Over 500 + Rotary Clubs have partnered with IWSF all along and are keen on extending that partnership for TOTAL LITERACY. IWSF shall collaborate in projects that foster empowerment of the less fortunate through Physical Connectivity (FPL, Dynamic Knowledge Centers, etc.), Electronic Connectivity (ESC, VSC, TSC, etc.), Knowledge Connectivity (Visiting Educators, Tele-Ed, Tele-Med, etc.). Aply illustrated in the presentations shown to the Board and will be shared on Apr .18th with the Rotarians.
- (iii) **120,000 Free Public Libraries in India:** 8 x 40' FCL have been dispatched to date since Oct. 2013; 197,000 + books with a conservative value exceeding (\$ 960,000). 500+ Rotary Clubs, hundreds of volunteers and local charities in India help sort the books on arrival and set up FPL in their adopted public schools and colleges. IWSF shall dispatch 100,000 donated books in 4 x 40' FCL to establish 200 + FPL in the flood affected public schools in TN. Several charities in US have shown interest to participate / fund one or more 40' FCL dispatch (\$ 9,000 / each 40' FCL). Will update the Board. IWSF shall coordinate with the International Book Project, the dispatch of four 40' FCL during 2016, subject to available sponsored funds.
- (iv) **Visiting Educators Seminars (VES) Project** update – 14 held so far benefitting 4,500+ students: The Board was pleased with the success of VES, enabling direct and personal interactions with the faculty and students by our Volunteer Educators visiting India. Once the MOU is signed between the IWSF and the RILM, this VES project will be scaled up and expanded to all of India. Using internet (now rather limited in many rural areas) or when the Cube-Sat is operational, live / recorded seminars for youth, women and men shall be provided.
- (v) **Uttarakhand Employment Training Mission:** 1M1B and local charity are starting the ground work to establish two rural women training facilities. As more updates come in, will inform the Board.



2. Solar Power Mission:

- (i) **22 Schools Solar Power Supply:** Rotary Dist. 6740 & 3212 partnership – update: Phase 1 Global Grant (\$ 70,575) from Rotary International is expected to reach the special account set up by RC -Rameswaram within the next 2 weeks. Once that is completed, Phase 1 installation for 10 public schools will start in May 2016 and get completed by the first week of June, 2016. RC- Rameswaram and Dist. 3212 are planning a Grand Inauguration of Phase 1 on Friday, June, 24, 2016 at St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School in Rameswaram. Many national, international, regional and local dignitaries and Rotarians from many parts of India are expected to participate in this historic program. The local Event Organizing Committee has extended a warm welcome to all the members of the IWSF Board to participate in this grand celebration.
- (ii) **Solar Lights - Memorial Ground** of H. E. Dr. Abdul Kalam: IWSF sponsored 10 SOLAR STREET LED LIGHTS for the Memorial site of His Excellency Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam at Peikarumbu, Rameswaram. Thousands of children and adults from all over India visit this sacred ground every day to pay their respects to H. E. the 11th and Former President of India. The solar lights ensure the safety and adequate lighting even when there is power failure. The response has been simply amazing from many parts of India. One anonymous donor in India funded this entire project (Rs. 3 lakhs) in the name of IWSF.
- (iii) **Solar Street Lights for 4 Fishing Villages, AP – 13,760 + population:** Being well recognized in many parts of India for Solar Projects in Rameswaram, IWSF is receiving requests from many to set up solar lighting – (street lights in their native villages, village schools, portable lights donation to the poor students, etc.). IWSF is reaching out to many individuals and organizations in USA and India for needed support, sponsorship and connecting with local charities in India to ensure long term maintenance. Once these are in place, IWSF shall implement the projects and update the Board accordingly.

3. Empower East Africa

Request for used PC / Laptop, etc. – discussed the ground realities; problems in sending the electronic equipment, repair and maintenance of the used items in Rural parts of Kenya, need to cover funds to freight and the import-duty, etc. Need funds to continue rural schools renovation and basic school supplies for the rural children.

4. Disaster Relief Mission:

- (i) **Fire Disaster in Nagaram** – report and efforts to help: IWSF has sent \$ 7,000 so far to the Local Charity 'AP Neil Armstrong Team' in Cherukupalli, AP which has done a marvelous job in helping the victims. Extremely well received by the children and their parents who are homeless and forced to live on the street after the fire burnt everything to ashes on July 5, 2015. Rs. 3,500 / day provides healthy supper for the 130 children; need more funds to continue this very good program. The Board appreciated the generosity of Drs. Usha and Rayudu Polisetty (\$ 3,000) that will support the evening Free Tuition and free supper program for 55+ days. The children received free check up at the Free Medical Camp, free dresses and some school supplies. IWSF is contacting many individuals and organizations in the USA and India to continue this and if possible, expand to 650 children in Guntur Dist. – especially 4 fishing villages along the shore.
- (ii) **Flood Relief in 4 districts – 200 EPL & 40 ESC:** The devastation from the massive floods was quite revealing in the video as well as pictures. IWSF is keen on focusing on the education sector. Proven, specific projects



(FPL, ESC, etc.) will make a significant difference. Each affected district has over 1,500 public schools. IWSF is not able to help each of them because of very limited resource. Ongoing interactions with many leaders of Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, local charities, Volunteer groups, etc. in India will help IWSF decide if these projects can be taken up. Apart from raising funds, critical to partner with a reliable, dedicated local charity / volunteer-group to ensure sustainability and long term benefits.

TOTAL LITERACY Collaboration with Rotary India: IWSF has set up a **LIAISON COMMITTEE** formed of proven, dedicated leaders within the Rotary Organizations in India to help our contacts with RILM, (the National body) and Rotary Clubs all over India. The Liaison Committee shall guide IWSF in collaborating with RC in India for the **TOTAL LITERACY** Initiative. IWSF shall meet on Apr 18, 2016 with many Rotarians coming from several places and update the Board. If mutually acceptable, IWSF shall sign an MOU with RILM to benefit several thousand – perhaps millions in India.

Solar Power Supply – Phase 2. This will be started soon after completing Phase 1 and its inauguration on June 24, 2016. For the Phase 1, IWSF contributed \$ 11,000 to RC- Lexington, KY and Rs. 1 lakh to RC – Rameswaram. This has secured a grant of \$ 70,575 under the Global Grant program of the Rotary International. For Phase 2, IWSF shall contribute \$ 24,000 (USA and India) seeking a grant (\$ 89,425) to complete the Solar Power Supply to the remaining 12 public schools in Rameswaram.

2016 meetings plan: Saturday – Starting at 2.00 PM on Sat. Aug. 6, 2016 and Sat. Nov. 19, 2016

Adjournment: The Chair Mr. Vinodh Venugopal thanked all the participants for their advice, ideas and discussions. With no other items to discuss, adjourned the meeting at 3.34 PM.

Apr. 10, 2016 Prepared by: M S Viji, President – for review, and to submit at the next Board meeting.