



## May 10, 2015 Foundation Board Meeting – Minutes

*Date:* Sunday, May. 10, 2015 3.30 PM  
*Location:* 895 Edgewater Drive, Lexington, KY, 40502  
*Attending:* Nima Desai, D. Sudharshan & M. S. Viji  
*Invited:* Suvas Desai, Vinodh Venugopal & Gayatri Varanasi  
*Excused:* Sibuh Saha & Usha Chandra (Proxy authorization given by both to Chair Nima Desai)

1. Chair Dr. Nima Desai called the Board meeting to order by 3.37 PM. With adequate quorum, (3 present and 2 by proxy) the meeting was started.
2. Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on Dec. 7, 2014 were reviewed, proposed and seconded. The minutes were accepted unanimously as presented without any changes.
3. Financial status Update were presented and discussed by M S Viji.
  - (i) Income-Expense for 2015 – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter with a balance on May 9, 2015 \$ 39,624.85
  - (ii) Updated Operational Budget for May, 10, 2015 was presented. From the existing balance, \$ 35,000 is set aside for three ongoing projects (listed below), leaving a balance \$ 4,264.85.

Uttarakhand Women Empowerment Project	\$ 30,000.00
Intl Book Project - 120,000 Free Libraries	\$ 3,000.00
Empower Africa – Schools Renovation	\$ 2,000.00

Until now, for 2015, applied for two grants. IWSF was not selected for Rathmann Challenge. Result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> (Buckminster Fuller Foundation Award) will be announced by late August, 2015. IWSF shall apply for these – based on the criteria and terms – when in line with our objectives, projects, mission and vision.  
 No funds to date in 2015 from Kroger Community Rewards Program or Amazon Smile Foundation

4. Cumulative financial and impact data from inception (Apr. 19, 2011 to May 10, 2015) were reviewed. Donations in cash (\$ 80,437.39) and in-kind (value \$ 848,277). 397,850+ poor students and adults have benefited by the various projects and missions in the past four years. This commendable growth is due primarily to the effective utilization of core competencies of all stake-holders and the collaboration with many dedicated individuals, organizations and institutions in several countries. Active involvement and empowerment of the beneficiaries and the local non-profits enables sustained progress in most of these ongoing projects.
5. Updates on Active Missions & Projects were presented.
  - a) **IGNITING MINDS Mission** – progress:
    - (i) **28 Virtual Smart Classrooms** now benefit 35,000+ poor children. IWSF shall collaborate with Rotary Clubs in India in their ‘TOTAL LITERACY by 2017’ program - in setting up E-Learning centers, onsite physical and Digital Libraries, etc. Field surveys of teachers and students indicate preference for Tablet based Smart Classrooms. IWSF shall seek funds to set up tablet based E-learning projects.



(ii) **Free Public Libraries in India:** 500+ Rotary Clubs partner with IWSF to set up local Free Libraries in public schools and colleges. Lions Clubs are also keen to partner with IWSF and this is being explored. 280+ libraries are in place and the next 40' Container shall be dispatched within the next two weeks. Based on the funds received, IWSF donates funds to Intl Book Project to meet part of the freight cost.

**b) Rameswaram Solar Power Mission:** 22 Schools solar lighting - Rotary Dist. 6740 & 3212 partnership: Dist. 6740 has so far raised about \$ 30,000 and Dist. 3212 in India has raised about \$ 11,500. With Rotary International matching funds, about \$ 70,000 + may be available to set up solar power supply to 10 schools during 2015. \$ 90,000 will be needed to complete the solar power supply to the remaining 12 schools in 2016. IWSF has donated \$ 11,000 so far and hopes to raise another \$ 20,000 for the rest of this project.

**c) Empower East Africa:** Rural Schools renovation is continuing. Mr. Manasse Kidaman, our local volunteer and coordinator in Nairobi, Kenya is very active and quite helpful. The Board appreciated his help and oversight.

Kenya Government requires all NGO to be registered in order to be active in Kenya and get a work permit for every volunteer and staff. In anticipation of the expanding projects and funds, Mr. Kidaman recommends registering IWSF in Kenya. Dr. Suvas Desai, the Chair of 'Empower East Africa' Project explained to the Board the process involved. Many countries (including Kenya, India, etc.) require any NGO receiving international donations to conform to strict regulations. After detailed discussions of the pros and cons, the Board decided to defer registration in Kenya. It shall reconsider registration, if the funds raised are sizable to expand the Empower East Africa projects. That would justify taking up the registration formalities in Kenya, associated expenses and annual renewal. Until then, the Board advised partnering with a reputable, registered local non-profit in Kenya.

**d) Uttarakhand Employment Training Mission:** The Board was thankful to the UMA (Uttarakhand Mandal of America) for the \$ 30,000 Grant to benefit the women and youth of Uttarakhand, affected by the 2013 disaster. The Board emphasized the importance of reimbursing UMA approved expenses after receipts have been submitted. FICE, a non-profit in India shall carry out the project approved by UMA. IWSF shall offer online IT training as and when the two centers are open.

**e) Empower Women – Collaboration with AP Neil Armstrong Organization**

A Non-profit from Andhra Pradesh, **A P Neil Armstrong Team Rural Multi-scheme Organization** contacted the Foundation in Dec. 2014 asking for funds for their projects. When Gayatri was in Hyderabad, the four executives from Guntur met her to discuss their projects. Gayatri gave an update to the Board on her meeting with the four executives and about the kinds of projects they had done over the past 30 years. The records given to Gayatri indicate this is a legitimate organization helping needy people, without discrimination. The officers of this organization shall visit Madurai soon to understand the kinds of projects implemented by IWSF.

The budget for **Rural Women Empowerment Project** for vocational training of 25 women (sewing, embroidery, etc.) is US \$ 5,000. With the approaching summer break for the youth, Gayatri would mentor the BTCC / BIACS



Youth groups to promote and collect required funds for this project. If the needed funds are collected, IWSF shall donate that to the **AP Neil Armstrong Organization** and await their feedback on the Project (such as employment and economic improvement of those trained). On satisfactory execution and feedback of this first project, IWSF may consider more projects based on raising required funds.

6. **Other items to discuss:** Attendance requirements at Board meetings was raised. As many Board members had to attend another program that started at 5.00 PM, the Chair decided to discuss this topic at a future meeting.
7. **2015 meetings Planned:** Start at 2.00 PM (i) Sat. Aug. 22, 2015 (ii) Sat. Dec. 12, 2015
8. **Adjournment:** The Chair Dr. Nima Desai adjourned the meeting at 5.18 PM.

Prepared by: M S Viji MD, President –

Presented at the Board meeting on Sep. 19, 2015 for review and approval.

Accepted unanimously as presented, with no change.

Acting Chair Dr D. Sudharshan

Date: Sep. 19, 2015