



Dec. 5, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes - draft

1. In the absence of Dr. Nirmala Desai, Dr. Sibhu Saha (Acting Chair) called the Board meeting to order at 2.00 PM

Attendance: Dr. S. Saha, Dr. D. Sudharshan, Mrs. Usha Chandra (via Tele-Con) and Dr. M. S. Viji

Invited Guests: Prof. Seetha Subramanian, Mr. Manivannan Narayanasamy (via Tele-Con)

Excused: Dr. Nima Desai (Proxy to Dr Viji) & Mr. V. Venugopal (both out of station)

2. Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on Sep. 19, 2015 were presented for review. With no change, the minutes were proposed, seconded and accepted unanimously.
3. Financial status Update – up to Dec. 4, 2015 was presented in a detailed and summary format. The Board was glad to note the significant improvement in the donations from previous years as well as expanded mission and project expenses and activities. Clarifications were provided for the donations, expenses and the original budget Vs actual figures for 2015. The financial documents were proposed for acceptance, seconded and approved as presented by the Board unanimously.
4. The proposal to induct three new members to the Board was presented with their credentials and 'No Conflict of Interest' documents for review. All three candidates were approved and accepted to join the Board as Trustees starting from Jan., 1, 2016 for a four year-term ending on Dec. 31, 2019.

New Members of the Board inducted as of Dec. 5, 2015 are:

Prof. Seetha Subramanian

Mr. Vinodh Venugopal

Mr. Manivannan Narayanasamy

5. Active Missions & Projects Update:

- a) **IGNITING MINDS Mission:** (i) **E-Learning Smart Classrooms:** 28 are in operation and no new ones since last report. In collaboration with the Rotary Clubs in India, Tablet based E-Learning centers are awaiting grant approval from Rotary International. The Board will be sent updates on these by the end of March, 2016.
 - (ii) **Free Public Libraries in India:** Over 188,000 books have been sent to India. 350 + free Public Libraries have been set up, benefiting 380,000+ poor children, students and adults. Thanks to Prof. Seetha over 23,000 books were donated by the Friends of Lexington Library. Within 48 hours these were loaded on to a 40' Container and dispatched to India – a tremendous cooperation with the Intl Book Project, IWSF and the vendor.
 - (iii) **Visiting Educators Project:** 14 have been conducted. These Educational seminars take a while to coordinate. But when set up, are very well received by the students and faculty in the beneficiary institutions.
- b) **Rameswaram Solar Power Mission:** (i) 22 Schools solar lighting - Rotary Dist. 6740 & 3212 partnership is waiting for the Grant approval from Rotary International. Postponed the inauguration to Apr end or early May 2016. Will keep the Board fully informed when the grant is approved. Next update – by end of March 2016.



- (ii) 1,200 poor children use the portable solar lights and 1,800 more need to be donated.
 - (iii) 250 small fishermen boats use the high-beam solar lights; 2,750 more boats to be fitted.
- Significant funds are required to continue these very effective and well used projects.

- c) **Empower East Africa:** Rural Schools renovation continues. Our local Coordinator, Mr. Manasse Kidaman has requested used PC / Laptop, etc. The renovation is done; WISF donated only a small part of the cost. Electricity has been installed and they need desk-tops, laptops, etc. Trying to locate local charitable organizations in Kenya willing to undertake importing, customs duty, etc. responsibilities.
- d) **Uttarakhand Mission:** Grant Funds (\$ 30,000) were handed over to 1M1B, a UN recognized 501 (C) 3 non-profit, based on CA, USA, which has taken up the responsibility to oversee the implementation of the two Women Empowerment Centers in Uttarakhand. They will send IWSF & UMA periodic reports.
- e) **Disaster Relief:** 130 affected Children receive free tuition & supper from the volunteers of the local non-profit 'A P Neil Armstrong Team' in Guntur District. They held a health camp for the children and adults. IWSF has contacted Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, etc. in India to help the affected families – replacing burnt vehicles, sewing machines, etc. destroyed in the fire. The organizations in India directly interact with the beneficiaries and resolve these matters as they see fit.

IWSF is in touch with several organizations in US and India regarding the relief work to help the victims of the recent floods seriously affecting thousands in the coastal parts of India. Will update the Board periodically.

- 6. **2016 Board Meetings Planned:** Starting at 2.00 PM (all Saturdays)
 - (i) Apr. 9, 2016
 - (ii) July 2, 2016
 - (iii) Oct. 15, 2016
 - (iv) Dec. 10, 2016
- 7. The Board discussed and recommended replacing better equipment (such as moped instead of bicycles, for travel - rather than simply replacing what was lost) for those affected in a disaster. IWSF has reached out to local organizations to directly interact with the affected and do the needful. Unless ready to contribute funds towards better equipments, IWSF cannot enforce these worthy suggestions at this time. The donors and beneficiaries shall decide among themselves based on factors such as (i) the funds the donors can raise, (ii) recipients' ability to use, (iii) ability to maintain these newer ones, etc.
- 8. With no further points for discussion, the Acting Chair adjourned the meeting at 2.40 PM.

Dec. 6, 2015 Draft Prepared by: M S Viji MD, President to be presented at the next Board meeting.