

REPORT ON GOOD GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP HELD ON 13-02-2015 AT
NITK SURATHKAL

A one day workshop on “**Good Governance for Enhancing the Capabilities of Technical Education Institutions in India**” was conducted at NITK, Surathkal on 13th February 2015 so as to enlighten all the departments of NITK on Good Governance and preparation of Institute Governance Guidelines Documents.

The one day workshop deliberated on the following key issues related to governance:

1. Principles of governance and management
2. The role of members of the governing body, including the principles of good behavior and the need to avoid conflicts of interest.
3. The definition of primary accountabilities and the governing body’s approach to them.
4. Key attributes of governing bodies
5. Effectiveness and performance review of governing bodies.
6. Regulatory Compliance.

About 200 members including faculty members and administrative staff participated in the workshop. Three presentations were made by the following experts:

1. Mr. Laxminarayan Hegde,
Head Legal and Company Secretary,
VOLVO (India)
Bangalore
2. Mr. P. Niranjana
Vice - President & Head – Nuclear &
Special Bridges, L&T Construction,
Chennai
3. Prof. Ashok Misra,
Former Director, IIT, Mumbai

In his talk on Corporate Governance practices followed in VOLVO (India), Mr. Laxminarayana Hegde highlighted fundamentals of Good Governance, People, Process and Monitoring system, Roles and Responsibilities, culture and values. NITK is the only Academic Preferred Partner (APP) of the AB VOLVO Group, Sweden in India. He presented a comparison between Corporate and Academic Governance and highlighted the VOLVO way of ensuring Trust and effective governance.

In his presentation, Mr. P. Niranjana of L&T Construction, Chennai emphasized that Good Governance is all about maintaining balance of accountability among key stakeholders. L&T is an important MoU Partner of NITK where a unique collaborative Master's programme in '*Construction Technology and Management*' has been launched with active involvement of L&T engineers and NITK faculty members. He also covered topics like Role of Organization Head, 3-Tier Governance Structure, Role of Board of Directors, Implementation and Monitoring, L&T Code of Conduct, & L&T Pledge.

In his address Prof. Ashok Mishra, former Director, IIT Bombay emphasized need for a clear and well laid out vision and mission which defines the future road map of an Institution and all the key stakeholders should live by the said vision and mission. Prof. Ashok Mishra also shared some of the challenges he faced during his tenure as Director, IIT, Bombay for a period of about eight years and his current role as Chairman, BoG, IIT, Roorkee and member of the BoG, IIT Delhi. Some of the important highlights of his talk are as follows:

- Director should live by the mission of the Institute and work as it's CEO. He should be bold enough to take new initiatives and in ensuring maximum delegation of powers to the Deans and HODs. He should be a master of change management.
- Impact of Good Governance will be reflected five to ten years after it's adoption in an Institute.
- Expanding on the role of Deans and HODs, he emphasized that they are the biggest assets to the Director. He emphasized the importance of out of box thinking in matters such as curriculum development and Research project acquisition and management.
- He emphasized the role of strategy framing and planning at all levels.
- He laid stress on adopting rigorous recruitment procedures to improve the quality of faculty recruitment. He suggested active interaction with Alumni serving as faculty members in major Universities outside the country in order to identify key thrust areas for R&D work and identifying the right type of incoming talent.
- He laid importance on the Institute adopting a research focus with due importance to improvement in Administrative and financial systems to support high value research activities.
- He emphasized the role of new infrastructure creation and maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- He said that faculty members should regularly evaluate the quality of B. Tech, M. Tech and PhD programmes. New courses should be added regularly and existing courses should be modified to keep

them current in view of rapid development in Science and Technology.

- He said that faculty members should have the will to excel and should do their best irrespective of circumstances.
- Emphasizing the need for positive thinking he asked staff members to work towards building an Institute that would be superior to the IITs. This would allow the Institute to attract high quality students who traditionally have sought admission in IITs.
- Elaborating on the role of Institutional autonomy he said that Institutes such as NITs have a great deal of autonomy and academic freedom. He said that the Administrators of the Institute should be very conversant with statutes and Institute rules. This would allow the administrators to properly leverage available autonomy to the well being of the Institute.
- He suggested that the Institute must identify a few domains in which it could make it's international mark.
- He said that efforts must be continuously put in to recruit the best faculty and admit high quality students at all levels. Efforts must be put in to continuously improve student placement. Innovations at all levels must be encouraged. We must bench mark ourselves with superior Institutes and strive to make our Institutional presence felt nationally and internationally.
- He said that Institutional achievements must be correctly communicated to all stakeholders and society. This will give due visibility to the Institute which in turn will help to attract the best talent at all levels to the Institute.

The workshop concluded with a highly interactive panel discussion with the above experts and Director NITK as panelist. Questions were asked to the Panelists regarding Governance practices followed in the IITs visa – vis the NITs and the Role of BoG in bringing transparency and accountability.

Coordinator
TEQIP-II