

**MINUTES OF THE 16th MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
HELD ON 24TH FEBRUARY, 2012 AT 3:00 P.M. AT NIFT (HO) NEW DELHI**

Present:

1. Shri Venu Srinivasan - Chairperson
2. Shri N.K.Singh, M.P
3. Smt. Saroj Pandey, M.P.
4. Smt. Deepa Dasmunshi, M.P.
5. Dr. Rajan .S. Katoch, FA & AS, Ministry of Textiles
6. Smt. Monika.S.Garg, DG-NIFT & Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles
7. Smt. Rajshree Pathy, Director, Rajshree Spinning Mills Ltd.,
8. Shri. Sunil Sethi, President, FDCI
9. Smt. Kavita Bhartia, M/s. Ogaan, New Delhi.

The following members were granted leave of absence:

1. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development
2. Sh. A Sakthivel, Chairman, M/s Poppys Knitwear Pvt. Ltd.
3. Sh. Prashant Agarwal, Managing Director, Bombay Rayon Fashions Ltd.,
4. Sh. Premal Udani, Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council, M/s Kaytee Corporation Limited
5. Sh. Dilip B. Jiwrajka, Managing Director, Alok Industries Ltd., Mumbai

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1601

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 15TH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG) OF NIFT HELD ON 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT 2:30 P.M. AT UDYOG BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

The minutes of the 15th meeting of the Board held on 29th September, 2011 had been circulated to all the members of the Committee. No changes or modifications were proposed. The minutes were therefore confirmed without any modification.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1602

ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON LAST MINUTES OF THE BOG MEETING HELD ON 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2011

While taking note of the Action Taken Report on the decisions of the previous meeting, the Board advised NIFT to bring out a Paper on the viability of the new Centres and the measures that are required to make them viable.

On the Comprehensive Status Paper on various MoUs entered into with foreign institutions circulated to all BOG Members, the Board was informed that a detailed exercise of revisiting the MoUs was done in 2011. During the visits of various NIFT delegations to these institutes, it was found that some of them did not have adequate infrastructure to train our students and some were imparting education in a medium other than English. Hence criteria were evolved for rating of the institutes. This was followed by matching the courses to identify the ones for which NIFT students could be sent. This was further followed by curriculum

mapping to see the most suitable semester for student exchange. As an outcome of this exercise, it was decided to discontinue 8 MoUs and to redefine the scope of alliance in 6 cases. The Board expressed concern that very few foreign students are visiting NIFT. Further, the Board emphasized the need for faculty exchange. It was informed that NIFT faculty has been advised to send their resume to foreign institutes and they should try to get offers for teaching from them. The Board advised NIFT to revisit the MoUs once again with the objective that two-way exchange of students and faculty must happen under these MoUs. The dormant MoUs must be discontinued and the focus should be on MoUs that are worthwhile. It was emphasized by DG-NIFT that such MoUs offer tremendous exposure to NIFT students and hence MoUs which are fruitful for NIFT should not be discontinued. However, NIFT will be required to devise customized tailor-made course to attract foreign students, especially in the areas of traditional Arts and Crafts. This exercise of revisiting the MoUs is to be completed within a period of 4 months and a status note is to be placed before the BoG. The Board directed that Institute should be cautious while entering into MoUs in future.

The Board appreciated the efforts made to enter into an alliance with FIT and further advised that NIFT's dual degree arrangement with FIT should be used for brand building. .

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1603

RATIFICATION AND TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 18TH MEETING OF F&AC OF NIFT HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY, 2012

The Board ratified and took note of the minutes of the 18th meeting of F&AC held on 10th February, 2012.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1604

RATIFICATION AND TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 15TH & 16TH MEETING OF SENATE HELD ON 26TH DECEMBER, 2011 & 13TH FEBRUARY, 2012

The Board ratified and took note of the minutes of the 15th and 16th meeting of the Senate held on 26th December, 2011 and 13th February, 2012 respectively.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1605

RATIFICATION AND TAKING NOTE OF THE MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING OF AAC OF NIFT HELD ON 13TH FEBRUARY, 2012

The Board ratified and took note of the minutes of the 8th meeting of AAC held on 13th February, 2012.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1606

PROPOSAL FOR REVISED ESTIMATE 2011-12 & BUDGET ESTIMATE 2012-13 (REVENUE)

The Board considered and approved the Revised Revenue Estimate for the financial year 2011-12 and Budget Revenue Estimates for 2012-13. The Board appreciated the austerity measures resulting in reduced revenue expenditure and also the increase in income. The Board noticed that the revenues of old NIFT Centres like Chennai and Kolkata are on the lower side. The Board was informed that these Centres run only 6 courses. The Board desired that a white paper on each Centre be prepared.

The Board enquired about the status of fee increase in NIFT. The Board was informed that in the BoG meeting dated 26/11/2010, the fee was increased in the Academic Year 2011-12. It is to be increased every two years as per the earlier decisions of the Board taken in the meetings dated 2nd April 2008 and 26th November 2010. Therefore, the review shall be done for the fees for 2013-14.

Board decided that the fee from students, which is the major revenue component of the Institute, should meet the revenue expenditure. Keeping in view this, the Board advised that F&AC of NIFT should calibrate the student fee based on the Supreme Court judgment on determination of fee in professional institutions. The Board also advised that in this process, the fee charged by private fashion institutes like Pearl and Srishty may also be found out as the level of fee should be market determined. As a means to increase revenue generation, the Board advised NIFT to explore the possibility of offering tailor made programmes for the Industry/Business Houses, following the IIM model where they are offering various Management Development Programmes to Industry/Business Houses.

The Board further directed that NIFT should make efforts to arrange educational loans for its students without collateral security. If Axis Bank with whom the Institute is currently parking its funds is not willing to offer such loans, the tie-up with them should be reviewed. The Board suggested that Banks like ICICI and SBI etc. which have more spread and reach may be approached for this purpose.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1607

PROPOSAL FOR RE 2011-12 & BE 2012-13 (CAPITAL)

The Board considered and approved the Capital Budget for the financial year 2011-12 and Budget Estimate for the Financial Year 2012-13. The Board noted that a good work has been done by the present DG in the funds utilization in the recent past which was not being handled properly earlier.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1608

PROPOSAL FOR UTILIZATION OF THE OBC QUOTA FUNDS AND EXTENSION OF TIME

The Board considered and approved the proposal for extension of time for utilization of OBC Quota Fund up to F.Y. 2014-15. The Board also granted "in principle approval" for Hyderabad project for construction of academic block, Auditorium with service and display hall, development work and other facilities with the project cost restricted to the savings from OBC Quota Funds.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1609

ESTIMATE FOR FIRE PROTECTION WORKS IN NIFT CAMPUS, BANGALORE

The Board considered and approved the proposal for fire protection works in NIFT Bangalore Campus and approved the construction of overhead tank for Rs. 68,05,747/- (plus Add. Contingencies charges plus 4% VAT plus 1 % Labour Cess) and procurement & installation of firefighting equipment of Rs. 59,52,000/- (plus additional Contingencies charges plus 4% VAT plus 1 % Labour Cess) out of the savings of the projects earlier sanctioned to CPWD in the Centre.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1610

DRAFT STATUTES OF NIFT

The Board was informed the finalization of the Statutes has been delayed considerably basically for the reason that observations/suggestions were forwarded by Ministry of Textiles and Ministry of Law, the two Ministries involved in the framing of Statutes, on the Statutes approved by the BOG on various occasions. Examination and reconsidering the Statutes, keeping in view of these references from the Ministry had kept the process on hold. Keeping in view the various observations/suggestions made by the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Textiles, and also the functional requirements of the Institute, a thorough review of the draft Statutes have now been undertaken. The revised draft Statutes accordingly prepared was sent to these Ministries for preliminary views and the draft Statutes incorporates their views/suggestions as well. The major features of the draft Statutes were brought to the notice of the Board.

The Board considered and approved the draft Statutes and approved sending it to Ministry of Textiles for seeking the consent of the "Visitor", i.e., the President of India

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1611

POLICY FOR OPENING NEW NIFT CENTRES AND STATUS OF PENDING REQUESTS OF STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR OPENING NEW NIFT CENTRES

The Board considered the policy for opening new NIFT Centres and status of pending requests of State Governments for opening new NIFT Centres and noted that the State Governments are yet to provide written comments on the draft policy prepared by the Committee. The Board desired that another opportunity may be given to the State Governments to give their comments and the matter may be again placed before the Board with the formal report of the Committee highlighting the viability aspect.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1612

PENDING PROPOSALS FOR ESTABLISHING NEW NIFT CAMPUSES

The issues related to the pending proposals for establishing new NIFT Campuses was considered at length by the Board. The BoG again expressed concerns on opening of new Centre before making the existing ones financially viable. At the same time, the Board also considered the fact that opening of a new Centre at Panchkula in Haryana can reduce the pressure on Delhi Centre and decongest it. After elaborate discussions, BoG decided to constitute a sub-committee of Shri Sunil Sethi and Ms. Kavita Bhartia to look into the requirement of the Centre and feasibility of opening a new NIFT Centre at Panchkula. The BoG also desired that the State Government should send Viability Study Report to enable BoG to take a considered decision.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1613

RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE 3 STANDING COMMITTEES OF BOG

The Board considered and approved the re-constitution of the 3 Standing Committees of the Board viz. Establishment Committee, Finance and Audit Committee and Academic Affairs Committee and the frequency and quorum for the meetings of the said Committees. In addition to the proposed nominations to the Standing Committees, the Board also nominated Smt. Rajshree Pathy to the F& AC.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1614

ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE POST OF DG-NIFT TO MS. MONIKA.S.GARG, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

The Board considered and approved the assignment of the additional charge of the post of DG-NIFT to Ms. Monika S. Garg, Joint Secretary, w.e.f. 13.10.2010 to 12.01.12 and also for extension of this appointment for a further period of 6 months beyond 12.1.12 or till the regular incumbent joins, whichever is earlier.

The Board placed on record their appreciation for the remarkable job done by Ms. Monika S. Garg as DG-NIFT. The Board recalled the significant systemic improvements and policy interventions initiated by her in the various critical areas of the Institute like Student Affairs, Faculty Issues, Finance & Audit matters, Infrastructure Projects etc. These initiatives have led to enhanced transparency and consistency in decision making, uniformity in application of rules and procedures and better financial management of the Institute. The various construction projects of the Institutes have also been put on track. The Chairperson, Board suggested that considering the commendable efforts and achievements of Ms. Monika.S.Garg as DG-NIFT, her name should be recommended for the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration. This proposal was seconded by Shri N.K. Singh and unanimously adopted by the Board.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1615

STATUS OF ADMISSIONS – 2011-12 AND APPROVAL FOR THE PROCESS OF ADMISSIONS- 2012-13 & ADMISSION POLICY

The Board noted the status of Admissions for 2011-12 and considered and approved the process of Admission for 2012-13, Continuation of Examination Agency AIMA for 2012-13, Sliding Scale, Common merit list for admissions and new Admission Policy of NIFT as recommended by the Senate.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1616

PROPOSAL FOR CREATION OF ENDOWMENT FUND POLICY

The Board considered and approved the Endowment Fund Policy of the NIFT alongwith the proposed manner of utilization of the fund and constitution of the Committee for utilization and management of the funds as brought out in the agenda notes.

Further, the Board considered the F&AC recommendations for increasing the size of the Endowment Fund to Rs.200 crore and for continuation of the matching grant from the Ministry till the corpus reaches that level, considering the increase in the number of NIFT centers, from 7 to 15. The Board opined that this is required if NIFT is to achieve long-term financial viability. The Board directed that MoT be requested accordingly.

The Board also directed that the Budget for utilizing the funds in 2012-13 be put up.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1617

STATUS OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The status of construction works in NIFT Centres was noted by the Board. The Board advised that new courses should start at Mumbai centre along with completion of the new building.

The Board instructed that the buildings and architecture of NIFT should invariably reflect the status of NIFT as an Institute of Fashion. Mr. Sunil Sethi, Ms. Kavita Bharti and Ms. Rajshree Pathy volunteered themselves for any activities associated with the revamp/beautification of the NIFT Centres and also to be the part of the Committees for selection of Architects for designing NIFT campus/buildings. The Board advised that efforts should be made for improving the look of Delhi Centre.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1618

POLICY FOR FACULTY CAPACITY BUILDING

The Board was informed that orienting the faculty with fast paced changes in fashion technology and industry is a challenging task and a vital aspect in the growth of the Institute. Accordingly, a detailed Policy for Faculty Capacity Building has been prepared and this has been approved and recommended by the Senate. The Board considered and approved the Policy for Faculty Capacity Building.

The Board advised that NIFT should try to initiate talented students of NIFT into teaching and if Recruitment Rules are required to be changed for this, appropriate changes may be considered.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1619

2ND ORDINANCE OF NIFT

The Board was informed that the First Ordinance of NIFT was approved by the BOG in April 2007 and the same has been published in the official gazette on 30th January 2012. Since 2007, there have been changes in academics and academic administration within the institute and therefore the 2nd Ordinance has been prepared to replace the existing Ordinances. The Board was further informed that the 2nd draft Ordinance was placed before the Senate in its 16th meeting which approved with changes subject to legal vetting. This has subsequently been vetted by the NIFT's Legal Counsel and the changes suggested by the Senate have also been incorporated in the final draft. The 2nd Ordinance of NIFT was considered and approved by the Board.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1620

PLACEMENT STATUS OF NIFT STUDENTS AFTER FIRST ROUND OF PLACEMENT 2012

The placement status of NIFT students after first round of Placement 2012 was noted by the Board.

DG informed BOG that 845 students have been placed in the first round of placement-2012 against the total number of 735 placements in 2011, which is 15 per cent more as of now. BOG also took note of the efforts made in this academic year to achieve those results such as greater interaction with the industry, involving industry in the curriculum review, doing fashion industry interaction and industry meets at various Centres. However, BOG directed that NIFT should take the necessary steps to reach a reasonable placement level.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1621

ANY OTHER ITEM WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

A proposal suggested by Mr. Sunil Sethi of involving Feroze Gujral, who was desirous of lending her books and literature for the library, was welcomed by the Board and needed encouragement.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.