

No. L-14018/3/2015-HRD
Government of India
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
Department of Electronics and Information Technology
(HRD Division)

Electronics Niketan,
6, C.G.O. Complex,
New Delhi-110003

Dated: 21.04.2015

Subject: Minutes of first meeting of the Project Review & Steering Group (PRSG) for the 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States/UTs for Skill Development in ESDM Sector and 'Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India' – reg.

The minutes of the first meeting of the Project Review and Steering Group (PRSG) to review the two schemes viz. (i) 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States/UTs for Skill Development in ESDM Sector' and (ii) Scheme for 'Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India' was held on 27.03.2015 at 12:00 noon in Conference Hall No. 4062 (4th floor), Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003 are enclosed for information.

2. This issues with the approval of Chairman.

Encl: As above


(P. Victor Albuquerque)

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To

1. Secretary, Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2nd Floor, Shivaji Stadium Annexe, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, Near Connaught Place, New Delhi – 110001
2. Ms. Anuradha Mitra, Joint Secretary & Financial Adviser, DeitY
3. Shri Jai Prakash Rai, Director General, National Skill Development Agency, Kaushal Bhavan, B-2, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar No.95, New Delhi 110005
4. Ms. Sandhya Salwan, Director(AT), Directorate General Of Employment & Training, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi- 110001
5. Shri Dilip Chenoy, CEO, National Skill Development Corporation, Block A, Clarion Collection, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110016
6. Shri N.K. Mohapatra, CEO, Electronics Sector Skill Council of India, 422, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020
7. Lt Gen (Dr) SP Kochhar, CEO, Telecom Sector Skill Council, 2nd Floor, Plot No. 105, Sector-44, Gurgaon-122003
8. Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma, Managing Director, NIELIT
9. Shri A.K. Arora, Scientist 'F' & HOD(HRD), DeitY
10. Shri S.K. Vyas, Scientist 'D', HRD Div., DeitY – Member Secretary

Representatives of State Implementing Agency:-

1. Ms. Maulishree, CEO, ICT Skill Development Society, Department of Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science and Technology, Government of Karnataka, VI Floor, 5 Stage, M.S.Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore – 560001
2. Shri G.S. Priyadarshi, Managing Director, UP Electronics Corporation Limited, 10 Ashok Marg, Lucknow – 226001
3. Dr. G. Subba Rao, MD & CEO, Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation, Skill Development Centre (APSSDC), Govt. Polytechnic, Vijayawada, District Krishna, Andhra Pradesh-520008

4. Shri Sujiv Nair, CEO, Telengana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK), Uptown Cyberabad Building, Plot No. 532, A-Block, 1st Floor, Ayyappa Society, Madhapur, Hyderabad, Telengana - 500081
5. Shri Mohd. Akbar Wani, CEO, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA) Department of Information Technology, Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
6. Dr. Reju MT, IAS, CEO (ASAP), Additional Skill Acquisition Programme Secretariat, Higher Education Department, Government of Kerala, 3rd Floor, Trans Towers, Vazhuthacaud, Thriuvananthapuram-695014, Kerala.
7. Shri Raj Kamal Choudhary, Vice-Chairman cum Member Secretary, Society for Promotion of IT Industry in Punjab (SPITIP), Department of Information Technology, SCO 193-195, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh
8. Shri R. P. Gupta, Joint Secretary, Research Development & Training Cell, PO- Aamwala, Dehradun (IRDT, Dehradun), Uttarakhand - 248001

Copy for kind information to:

1. Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary (e-Infra/e-Learning), DeitY - Chairman, PRSG



F.No. L-14018/3/2015-HRD
Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY)
HRD Division

Subject: Minutes of the first Project Review & Steering Group (PRSG) for the two Schemes viz. (i) 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States/UTs for Skill Development in ESDM Sector and (ii) 'Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India'

The 1st meeting of the Project Review and Steering Group (PRSG) to review the two Schemes viz. (i) 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States/UTs for Skill Development in ESDM Sector' (**Scheme-1**) and (ii) Scheme for 'Skill Development in ESDM for Digital India' (**Scheme-2**) was held at 12:00 noon on 27.03.2015 under the chairmanship of Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary, DeitY. The list of participants is placed at **Annexure**.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the participants and members of PRSG and emphasised on the speedy achievements of the targets as envisaged in the two Schemes. He indicated that this being the first meeting of the PRSG of the two schemes, it would be important to identify and remove bottlenecks, if any, in the implementation of the two Schemes. He also highlighted that both the Schemes provide for incentivising the good performing states/UTs who are able to achieve their target by allotting additional targets. With these opening remarks he invited the PMU to present the status of the Scheme.

3. Mr. Mohit Jain, Senior Consultant, PMU presented the brief about the Physical and Financial parameters of both the schemes along with key differences between the schemes. He informed that the Scheme-1 is being implemented by 8 states and so far a total of 6487 students (130 students passed) have been enrolled as against the first year target of 18,000 candidates to be trained. As regards Scheme-2, so far details of 10 States/UTs along with the names of their nominated SIAs have been received and the response from 18 States/UTs is awaited (other 4 states viz. Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Uttarakhand which are allotted additional targets in Scheme-2 are already a part of Scheme-1). It was informed that the Expert Committee had earlier approved 24 courses on 30.9.2014 and another list of 22 courses (one earlier course split into two course) is under its consideration. He further informed that the Scheme Guidelines for Scheme-1 have been modified in the light of experience gained and inputs received from the various implementing agencies. The modified Guidelines in respect of both the schemes along with the Common Template for Certificate has been submitted for approval of the Expert Committee.

4. The PRSG noted that the Scheme-1 was notified on 31.10.2013 and the formalities for selection of the States were completed in June 2014. Further, the Scheme guidelines and the first list of 24 courses to be covered under the Scheme were approved on 30.9.2014. Subsequently, due to bifurcation issues of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, there was delay in nominations of SIAs and their signing of MoUs was completed in February, 2015. Thereafter, the Chairman invited SIAs and the three Key Implementing Agencies (KIAs) viz. ESSCI, TSSC and NIELIT to discuss their status, concerns and the impediments faced, etc. A brief summary of the deliberations and the recommendations made by PRSG are brought out in the succeeding section.

5. PRSG deliberations and recommendations:

- i) The PRSG felt that there is a need to speed up the implementation and recommended the following:
- a) The 3 KIAs (ESSCI/NIELIT /TSSC) need to take immediate necessary steps to achieve the targets in both the Schemes. DeitY may write to their CEOs to expedite the same.
 - b) W.r.t. Scheme-1, DeitY may write to the Chief Secretaries of all the 8 states to direct the SIAs for speedy actions for achieving the set targets
 - c) W.r.t. Scheme-2 DeitY may write to the Chief Secretaries of the 18 States/UTs from where the nominations of the SIAs are not yet received. A letter may also be sent to other States/UTs for directing the designated SIAs for speedy actions for achieving the set targets under the Scheme. It was also recommended that the respective States/UTs and their SIAs need to be invited in the subsequent meetings of the PRSG.
 - d) The PMU needs to create necessary awareness about various implementation aspects among the SIAs especially in respect of Scheme-2. Once nominations of all/most of the SIAs are available, a meeting of the SIAs could be organized by PMU to appraise them about the Scheme parameters, implementation aspects, adopting best practices and clarify doubts, if any.



- ii) The implementing agencies indicated that as per current Scheme Guidelines, employability is kept as minimum of 70% of the pass-out candidates for 100% fee reimbursement to training provider; and per candidate employed for below 70% employment. It was indicated this is delaying the fund release to Training Partners and thus discouraging them. The Committee felt that a bare minimum amount towards the cost of training needs to be assured for the Training Partners to sustain their activities. Keeping this in view, the Committee recommended that 50% training fees of the pass-out candidates should be released to the Training Partners immediately after the Assessment and the remaining amount to be released subject to meeting the employment criterion of 70% of the pass-out candidates. Necessary amendment in the guidelines may be carried out.
- iii) With regard to the issue of applicability of the Service Tax, it was noted that ESSCI and TSSC, their Assessors and Training Partners are exempted from Service Tax as per Service Tax Notification no. 13/2013 dated 10th September 2013. MD, NIELIT informed that they are pursuing with the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance for providing exemption to NIELIT for Service Tax. The Committee noted that the matter for seeking exemption from Service Tax for the two schemes needs to be pursued with Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. It was recommended that DeitY may take up the matter appropriately for suitable solution. It was further recommended that till such time, the training fee as well as the Registration-cum-Assessment fee as approved under the Scheme may be treated as inclusive of all taxes and no amount, over and above the prescribed limits at each level, as indicated in the Scheme, shall be payable by DeitY.
- iv) The Committee recommended that the checking up of duplicity of STAR beneficiaries should be done at each level and the final verification would be done at the PMU-Level. It was recommended that the PMU would obtain the database of STAR beneficiaries from NSDC and it would be made available to all stakeholders viz. Key Implementing Agencies (KIAs)- ESSCI, TSSC, NIELIT and the SIAs. The KIAs would need to share the database with their respective TPs so that the TPs could ensure that no duplicity happens at their level. Every stakeholder in the chain would verify the duplicity of candidates with respect to STAR database. Further, the Training Partners would also obtain an undertaking to this effect from the respective trainees.
- v) Scheme mandates training for 60% General and 40% Reserved category candidates (15% SC, 7.5% ST, 17.5% EWS). However it was brought to notice that all States do not have SC or ST in the desired ratio. It was recommended that overall ratio of General vs Reserved Category should be maintained in the Schemes for each level and if sufficient number of candidates are not available in any category, then with due approval from respective SIA, they may be filled up with candidates from SC/ST/EWS in that order, as applicable.
- vi) It was brought to notice that in the light of experience gained and inputs received from the various implementing agencies, modified Scheme Guidelines are under submission to Expert Committee. It was informed that as per the modified guidelines, the students/trainees need to pay the prescribed examination/assessment fees to the TP for every attempt and they would be eligible to obtain the refund for one time only, upon his/her successful certification and the necessary amount due to him/her would be transferred to his account through DBT. However, TSSC indicated that as per initial Scheme Guidelines it was indicated that "Assistance for 100% Registration-cum-Certification fee per candidate who appears in the exams (for the first time) to be reimbursed to NIELIT/SSC recognized agency". It was indicated that as a significant number of students have already registered as per the existing guidelines, it would be difficult to seek or collect such a fee from the enrolled candidates. The Committee noted the same and recommended the following:
- All students enrolled in Scheme-1 till 31st March 2015 would be reimbursed for first time attempt, as per initial guidelines.
 - W.e.f. 1.4.2015, all students enrolled in Scheme-1 or Scheme-2, would need to follow the modified guidelines as notified by DeitY. Under these guidelines, the students/trainees would need to pay the prescribed examination/assessment fees to the TP for every attempt and they would be eligible to obtain the refund for one time only, upon his/her successful certification. Necessary modifications may be carried out in the Scheme Guidelines accordingly
 - The PRSG was apprised that based on the recommendations made by a review meeting held on 20th February 2015 chaired by Dr. Ajay Kumar, the approval for assigning the activity of reimbursement of Registration-cum-Certification Fee to NIELIT-PMU was obtained and

accordingly an amount of Rs. 2.16 crore towards the first year's requirements has been released to NIELIT for the Scheme-1.

- vii) **Portal on Schemes:** The various features of Training Partner registration, Training partner processes, Student registration etc were appreciated by the PRSG. A few suggestions like having Industry Corner, provisions for DBT, etc were suggested by the members and the need to quickly enhance the portal for Scheme-2 for all the States/UTs, was indicated. It was recommended to formally host the Portal on .gov domain for better reach and impact. The Committee recommended that the portal could be named as www.skill-esdm.gov.in. It was recommended that NIELIT may take appropriate necessary action for obtaining necessary clearance from NIC for the said portal and also complete the enhancements as suggested by members at the earliest.
- viii) The Committee was apprised about the discussions held by DeitY (by IPHW & HRD Divisions) with Health Sector Skill Council and Automotive Skill Development Council with a view to include courses pertaining to Medical Electronics and Automotive Electronics. The Committee noted the same and recommended that the matter be pursued further to include relevant courses in Electronics from these two SSCs and also from any other SSC.
- ix) The Committee also reviewed the financial progress made by NIELIT-PMU. It was indicated by NIELIT that the first release of GIA of Rs. 40.00 lakh for the PMU activities under Scheme-1 has been utilized for carrying out various activities of PMU. The Committee noted the same and recommended the release of next installment of funds under Scheme-1 to the NIELIT-PMU subject to receipt of Utilisation Certificate.
- x) The PRSG recommended that a sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of HOD (HRD) comprising of two representative of HRD Division viz. Shri Sanjay Kumar Vyas, Scientist'D' & Shri P. Victor Albuquerque, Deputy Director(HRD); and two representatives of NIELIT (nominated by MD, NIELIT) viz. Shri Himanish Roy, Joint Director (Finance) and Ms. Vanita Yadav, Joint Director (E) be set-up for recommending detailed policy and operational guidelines for implementations of various functions (from time to time) for the role assigned to NIELIT as PMU under the two Schemes. This sub-committee will submit its recommendations to the Chairman, PRSG for approval and the same would be subsequently brought before the PRSG in its meetings from time to time.
- xi) The Committee also recommended the release of remaining 75% of the funds for the first year GIA to the respective SIAs under the Scheme-1 subject to receipt of Utilisation Certificate of the previous installment of GIA released to them.
6. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



List of participants in the PRSG meeting held on 27th March 2015

DeitY / PRSG members:-

1. Dr. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary , DeitY
2. Shri A.K. Arora, HOD HRD, DeitY
3. Dr. Ashwini Kumar Sharma, MD , NIELIT
4. Shri N.K.Mohapatra, CEO, Electronics Sector Skill Council of India(ESSCI)
5. Shri M.C. Kardam, Joint Director, DGE&T, M/o of Labour & Employment
6. Shri Shahbaz Khan, National Skill Development Corporation
7. Ms. Vishishta Sam, National Skill Development Agency
8. Shri Sanjay Kumar Vyas, Sc 'D', Joint Director, DeitY
9. Shri P. Victor Albuquerque, Deputy Director, DeitY

Participants from States:-

1. Dr. K. Lakshmi Narayana, IAS, Director, APSSDC [Andhra Pradesh]
2. Shri G. Subba Rao, MD & CEO, APSSDC [Andhra Pradesh]
3. Ms. Maulishree, CEO, ICT Skill Development Society, Deptt of IT, BT and S&T [Karnataka]
4. Shri Raj Kamal Chaudhuri, Secretary, IT [Punjab]
5. Shri Prabhjeet S Kukreja, Joint Director, Department of Information Technology [Punjab]
6. Shri Sujiv Nair, CEO,TASK [Telangana]
7. Shri Vishnu Mohan, Assistant Manager (CE&T), U.P. Electronics Corporation Limited [Uttar Pradesh]

Other Participants (NIELIT / TSSC / PMU):-

1. Ms. Vanita Yadav, Joint Director, NIELIT
2. Shri Prashant Gupta, Assistant Director (T), NIELIT
3. Shri Anurag Govind Rao, Assistant Director (T), NIELIT
4. Ms. Jayashree Mohanty, President, Luminous Infoways c/o NIELIT
5. Shri Indrajit Bhattacharya, Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC)
6. Major Gen. PN Monga (Retd), TSSC
7. Shri Shiv Kumar Pandey, TSSC
8. Shri Mohit Jain, Senior Consultant, PMU
9. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Consultant, PMU

