



ARIAS SOCIETY

Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society

(An Autonomous Body under Govt. of Assam)

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Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Project Guidance Council (PGC) and the Governing Body (GB) of the ARIAS Society Held on 8th May, 2017 at 3.00 PM in the Conference hall of the Chief Secretary, Assam.

The joint meeting of the Project Guidance Council (PGC) and the Governing Body of ARIAS Society was chaired by Shri V. K. Pipersenia, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam & President, PGC, ARIAS Society in the presence of Shri K.K. Mittal, IAS, APC & Chairman, GB, ARIAS Society and the members of PGC & GB and other Senior Officials of the Govt. of Assam. The list of officials who attended the meeting is annexed at **Appendix-1**.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam & President, PGC, ARIAS Society welcomed all the members & officers present and requested the State Project Director (SPD), ARIAS Society to proceed as per the Agenda. The SPD gave item wise presentation on the Agenda Items for discussion. After detailed deliberations, the following decisions have been taken in the meeting:

Item No: 1

(A) Approval of the Minutes of the 19th Project Guidance Council (PGC) meeting of ARIAS Society :

The Minutes of the 19th PGC Meeting held on 26.08.2013 was circulated to all the members of the PGC vide memo No: AACP/AF/PGC/336/2013/73, dated 10th Sept. 2013. No comments/ observation on the minutes have been received. The PGC confirmed the minutes of the 19th PGC Meeting.

(B) Approval of the Minutes of the 29th Governing Body (GB) meeting of ARIAS Society:

The Minutes of the 29th G.B Meeting held on 30.01.2016 was circulated to all the members of the Governing Body of ARIAS Society vide memo No: ARIASS/GB/23/2016/206-212-A, dated 11th February 2016. No comments/ observation on the minutes have been received. The GB confirmed minutes of the 29th GB Meeting.

Item No: 2

Review and approval of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 19th PGC Meeting and the 29th GB Meeting:

The ATR on the Minutes of the 19th PGC Meeting and the 29th GB Meeting has been reviewed and approved by the joint meeting of the GB and the PGC.

Item No: 3

Apprising the current status of preparation of the proposed World Bank financed 'Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project' (APART) and 'Assam Citizen Centric Service Delivery Project' (ACCSDP):

A presentation has been made on the matter. The PGC and GB noted the current status of the proposed World Bank aided APART and ACCSDP.

Item No: 4

Approval to the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) and the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) of the World Bank financed 'Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project' (APART) along with the Legal Agreements to be signed by the State Govt., Govt. of India and the World Bank:

The joint meeting of the PGC & the GB has been apprised that the Project Information Document (PID) for APART was approved by the last GB meeting. Concerned directorates/agencies of the line departments associated with APART have prepared the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) in coordination with the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of ARIAS Society. The PCU has consolidated the PIPs into a comprehensive PIP. The

World Bank, after series of consultations with PCU and various directorates/agencies of the line departments of APART has prepared the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) for APART.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to “increase value-added and improve resilience of selected agriculture value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in targeted districts of Assam”. The Key Project Indicators as per the PAD will be: (a) Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services (number), of which female (percentage); Value add measured by: (b) Increase in quality as measured by price premium of commodities sold by beneficiaries in the selected value chains; (c) Share of selected commodities sold through new marketing channels; Resilience measured by: (d) Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology (gender disaggregated). The total estimated project cost is about US\$262.44 million and will be funded by an IBRD (World Bank) loan (US\$200.0 million), the GoA contribution (US\$50.0 million), and beneficiary contributions (US\$ 11.6 million). Indicative summary of the project costs are:

Project Components	Project cost		IBRD Financing		IBRD Financing %	% of Total Project Cost
	INR Rs. Cr.	USD Million	INR Rs. Cr.	USD Million		
A: Enabling Agri. Enterprise Development	250.89	36.90	163.74	24.08	76.21%	14.06%
B: Facilitate Agro Cluster Development	506.55	74.49	393.73	57.90		28.38%
C: Market Led Production and Resilience Enhancement	905.80	133.21	705.98	103.82		50.76%
D: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning	120.90	17.84	96.74	14.20		6.80%
Total	1784.14	262.44	1360.19	200.00		100.00%

World Bank has sent the PAD along with the Legal Agreements on 1st Feb. 2017, to the DEA, Ministry of Finance, Gol and invited for negotiation of the Project. The DEA vide letter of 1st May 2017 has sought certain clarifications/modifications and same is being replied by the ARIAS Society.

The joint meeting of the PGC and the GB approved the PIP and the PAD along with the Legal Agreements for APART, subject to approval by the State Govt. and decided that in case any changes to the PIP/PAD are required pursuant to the review by the Gol/World Bank, the Chairman, GB may approve the same, subject to concurrence by the World Bank and the Govt. of Assam/India, and apprise the President, PGC. The President of the PGC instructed the APC and the SPD to follow-up the matter relating to negotiation of APART with the Govt. of India.

Item No: 5

Approval of the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for the World Bank financed Assam Citizen-Centric Service Delivery Project (ACCSDP) (under Admn. Reforms & Training Department, GoA)

The joint meeting of the PGC & the GB has been apprised that the last GB meeting approved the PAD for ACCSDP and State Cabinet has also approved the same. ARIAS Society in consultations with the World Bank and the agencies involved in ACCSDP has prepared the Project Implementation Plan (PIP). The primary objective of ACCSDP is to improve access and strengthen accountability in the delivery of select public services under the Assam Right to Public Services (RTPS) Act 2012. On the demand side, the project will facilitate awareness of citizens for accessing & delivery of services under the Act, and on the supply side, will facilitate re-engineering of the procedures & processes for providing the services in select departments.

The World Bank has submitted the PAD for the ACCSDP to the DEA and the Bank requested the DEA to fix Negotiation date for the project. The DEA referred the matter to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Gol). The negotiation meeting for the project with the World Bank and the Gol was held on 12th April 2017 and the project is being placed before the World Bank’s Board on 26th May 2017.

The joint meeting of the PGC and the GB approved the PIP for ACCSDP subject to approval by the World Bank and decided that in case any changes to the PIP are required pursuant to the review by the World Bank, the Chairman, GB may approve the same, subject to concurrence by World Bank and Govt. of India, and apprise the President, PGC.

Item No: 6

Approval to the proposed amendments in the Memorandum of Association (MoA), Rules of Business (RoB) and Bye Laws of the ARIAS Society:

The joint meeting of the PGC & GB has been apprised that the MoA, RoB and Bylaws of the ARIAS Society were last amended in the year 2012. However, it is now considered that the MoA, RoB and Bylaws need further

