



EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

OF

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY

HELD ON VIA VIDEO LINK

20th JULY 2020, AT 1200 HRS. NIO HEADQUARTERS, KARACHI

MINUTES OF MEETING

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**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY KARACHI**

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MINUTES OF MEETING

The Eighth Meeting of Board of Governors of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) was held on 20th July 2020 at 1200 hrs. via Video Link at the Conference Room of NIO Headquarter, Karachi. The meeting was chaired by Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Science & Technology in his capacity as Chairman (Chair) of the BoG. The list of members attending this meeting is attached as Annex-I.

Proceedings of the meeting began with the permission of the Honorable Federal Minister. Director General NIO, Dr. Hina Saeed Baig (DG NIO) recited verses from the Holy Quran, starting the proceeding of the meeting and presented the Agenda for the meeting of BoG. A summary of deliberations held on various agenda items and the decisions taken thereon are as under:

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF SEVENTH MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON DECEMBER 21, 2017.

DG NIO informed BoG members that copy of the Minutes of Seventh BoG meeting was circulated amongst the members after the Seventh meeting. The same was included as part of the working paper for the current meeting. No observations/comments were received.

Decision: The Chair advised the BoG members to review the minutes of the Seventh BoG again since the meeting is taking place after a wide gap of two and half years and submit their observations /comments, if any, within a week. No comments were received. Therefore, minutes of the 7th Meeting held on 20th July, 2020 are considered confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DG NIO briefed the members on each issue discussed in the seventh meeting of the BoG.

i) Regarding the issue of “Reviving the shrimp farm facilities”, DG NIO intimated that two cycles of this project have been completed and NIO is currently in a position to offer technical support to entrepreneur and other interested parties. Chair also emphasized to Explore Public-Private partnership.

Decision: The Chair instructed the DG NIO to prepare a presentation on the PC1 of the Shrimp Hatchery Project and present it to the Chair within 3 weeks. FPCCI members showed interest and NIO will try to explore this opportunity.

ii) DG NIO informed the member that NIO has resubmitted the PC1 for acquiring Oceanographic research vessel with joint efforts of Hydrography Department, Pakistan Navy.

Decision: The Chair advised DG NIO to resubmit PC1 after merging it with CPEC objectives under CPEC flagship program.

iii) DG NIO informed the members that MoFA was requested to seek consent and support of Chinese counterparts through diplomatic channel for proposal of “Reactivation of Pakistan Antarctic Program” for which renewal of MoU was required. The meeting to sign MoU was to be held in China in February 2020 but due to Covid-19 Pandemic, the signing was postponed.

Decision: NIO to send MoU document to MoST in two-weeks time to finalize the decision.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF NIO SINCE 7th MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

i) DG NIO apprised the members on the following research activities of NIO since the last BoG meeting.

NIO with other stakeholders presented the current situation of Sea water intrusion along the Pakistan Coast specially at Shadi Khor area, to the Chief Water Planning Commission on December 26,

2017. Chief Water Planning Commission supported and approved the project plan and forwarded the proposal for the CDWP meeting.

Decision: The Chair commented that it is an important project that must be pursued.

ii) DG NIO informed the members that nomination of NIO members for contesting for United Nations Commission for Limits of the Continental Shelf (UNCLCS) seat for the term 2022-2027, is important for Pakistan.

Decision: The Chair agreed with it and suggested that NIO should send the ministry a document mentioning the current membership status of NIOs on International forums. The Chair further suggested to prepare a 5-column table showing the current and future plan on which forum NIO must join, reason for joining, present nominations and benefits expected from joining the forum.

iii) International Collaborative Projects:

DG NIO apprised the members that the Geophysical team of NIO participated in the **(a)** first ever China Pakistan International Oceanographic Expedition on “Makran Trench Integrated Research Expedition in Northern Indian Ocean on R/V *Shiyan 3*”. This expedition was organized by the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and National Institute of Oceanography, Pakistan from 12th January to 3rd February 2018. This was followed by **(b)** another cruise that the China Pakistan Joint Marine Scientific Expedition conducted during 19th December 2018 to 4th February 2019 in the Makran Offshore Region. China Pakistan Joint Marine Scientific Expedition is supported by China Geological Survey (CGS), National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) of Pakistan and Pakistan Navy (PN). It was financed and organized by CGS and implemented by Guangzhou Marine Geological Survey (GMGS) and executed on R/V *Hai Yang Di Zhi Shi Hao*. The objectives of the joint marine expedition were to carry out the reconnaissance of natural gas hydrate in the offshore areas of Pakistan” in order to obtain the indicators of natural gas hydrate by using multi-survey methods including geophysics, geology. **(c)**Third expedition for exploration of oil and gas in off-shore area of Pakistan was conducted. International China-Pakistan Joint Marine scientific Expedition is supported by China Geological Survey (CGS), National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Pakistan Navy (PN), Pakistan Petroleum

Limited (PPL) and Bahria University of Pakistan. It was financed and organized by CGS, and executed by R/V “HAI YANG DI ZHI JIU HAO No. 9 ” during the 15 December, 2019 to 20 February, 2020 in EEZ area of Pakistan.

Decision: NIO to share the information about the data reports of these three cruises and research activities finding with MoST in 3 days.

iv) PSDP projects:

DG NIO briefed the members about the PSDP project entitled **“Capacity Building for Tapping Marine Living Resource Potential of Pakistan Through Biological Oceanography-Phase 1 NIO”**. The DG also informed that a fully functional state-of-the-art biological oceanography laboratory and facilities have been developed at NIO.

DG also informed that under the PSDP New Scheme 2020-21 project submitted: **“Mapping of the Bio-Resources in the Maritime Area of Pakistan- Establishing Ocean Bio-geographical Information System for Pakistan”** it is Phase-II of the capacity building project completed several stages of approval. This project could not get the final approval due to financial constraints.

Decision: The Chair advised DG NIO to collaborate with Ministry of Maritime Affairs for the Bio-resource projects and suggested MoST that a member of Ministry of Maritime Affairs, should be a member of Board of Governors.

Since Marine Fisheries Department is now working under the Ministry of Maritime Affairs therefore, representation of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA) in BoG is already present.

v) R & D Activities

DG NIO further informed the members that an R&D project entitled **“Churna Island-Sub Tidal Ecological Survey and Habitat Mapping”**, is in progress with the aim to declare Churna Island as a Marine Protected Area (MPA). NIO is now gathering scientific data to support declaration of Churna Island as MPA. The total cost of the project is Rs. 20 million. In the past, NIO has contributed research data to Astola Island which has already been declared as MPA.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: REQUEST FOR UTILIZATION OF ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR VEHICLES FOR NIO EMPLOYEES

DG NIO put forward the case for replacement of approved Coaster funds to facilitate NIO staff. Board of Governors had approved two Coasters for NIO staff and officers. NIO has purchased one coaster. The funds for second Coaster have been allocated for current financial year 2020-2021. However, presently NIO is hiring 4x4 vehicles for its coastal field work. It is therefore, requested that permission may please be accorded to purchase one 4x4 and two multipurpose seven seaters.

Decision: BoG approved the request under the approved budget. NIO is instructed to acquire the vehicles one 4x4 and two seven seaters.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: APPROVAL FOR RATE OF MEDICAL ALLOWANCE AMENDMENT IN NIO'S MEDICAL ATTENDANCE RULES

DG, NIO informed the members about amendment in NIO's medical rules relating to medical allowance to its employees as and when enhanced by the Government of Pakistan.

The Board is therefore, requested to accord approval for implementation of the enhancement of Medical Allowance in NIO's Medical Attendance Rules as and when revised by the Government of Pakistan.

Decision: BoG Approved the enhancement of Medical Allowance in NIO's Medical Attendance Rules as and when revised by the Government of Pakistan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: PROMOTION AND UPGRADATION OF POSTS AT NIO.

The DG, NIO put forward cases of seven (7) Research Officers (BPS 17) presented in the working papers for promotion against three vacant posts of SRO (BPS 18). The promotion case has already been discussed and approved in the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) two years ago, but it is still pending because the DG NIO at the time of submission of the case, was changed to a caretaker position and was not authorized to forward such case. It is therefore requested to consider following officers for

promotion as a special case.

Recommendation for Promotion:

- i. Dr. Sanober Kehkashan Research Officer (BPS-17)
- ii. Dr. Tariq Mahmood Research Officer (BPS-17)
- iii. Dr. Ibrahim Zia Research Officer (BPS-17)

DG, NIO also apprised members about the promotion case of Mr. Waqar Ahmed, RO who was in China pursuing his on job (not on leave) Ph.D, and though he was senior but was not considered because of his unavailability in Pakistan.

Decision: BoG approved all cases of promotion as presented by DG NIO.

DG NIO informed the members that the case of upgradation of the posts of (i) Accounts Officer (BS 17) to (BPS 18) and (ii) Accountant (BPS 16) to (BPS 17) in NIO has already been discussed and documents are prepared. Therefore, it is requested to upgrade the above-mentioned posts of Accounts Officer (BPS 17) and Accountant (BPS 16) in NIO may be upgraded to BS-18 and BS-17 respectively.

Decision: This matter was also approved as per GoP rules.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Correspondence with Chinese Counter parts should be improved in future collaborations.
- b) NIO is a leading Institute and strategically it is important to strengthen the officers of NIO to develop their expertise in various fields.
- c) Sea water intrusion is a national level project the meeting of sea water intrusion cell should be held regularly.

Decision: Chair supported the three items and BoG members were of the same opinion.