

Minutes of the AMM General Body Meeting (GBM) held on February 25, 2011

The AMM GBM took place at the K. L. University, Vijayawada (on the sidelines of the conference ICMBD 2011). The meeting was attended by the following persons:

1. Dr. B.V. A. Rao
2. Dr. A. Srinath
3. Prof. K. Gupta
4. Prof. Arun Misra
5. Prof. G. L. Dutta (Observer)
6. Dr. J. S. Rao
7. Prof. T. S. Mruthyunjaya
8. Prof. S. K. Saha
9. Dr. Sandipan Bandyopadhyay
10. Prof. J. P. Modak
11. Dr. G. D. Mehta
12. Mr. S. Lukhande

In the absence of the AMM President Prof. C. Amarnath, the Vice-President of AMM, Prof. Subir Kumar Saha, chaired the meeting.

The following items were discussed in the meeting.

1. Financial support from AMM to students willing to attend AMM-sponsored events: The members welcomed the idea, and suggested that for the next four years, the following process be followed:
 - a. Financial support up to Rs. 5000/- per student per event, payable against supporting documents, certified by the head of their parent institution, at actual. This may include the registration fees, expenses towards travel and stay.
 - b. Up to 5 students to be supported in a calendar year, or up to a total expenditure of Rs. 25,000/- in a calendar year.
 - c. Students should be registered full-time at recognised institutions, and should produce a letter from the parent institute certifying the lack of native funds.
 - d. The AMM Secretariat would decide about the allocation of such funds based on the applications received, and would formulate more detailed rules as and when necessary.
 - e. The details may be reviewed after 4 years from the inception of the scheme.
2. National leg for the Mechanism Olympiad: In order to allow Indian students to participate in the international stage of the event, we need to have a competition at the national level. Members, in particular Dr. J. S. Rao, suggested that a senior person, such as Prof. C. Amarnath, be requested to formulate the details of this event on behalf of AMM. The national leg should start as soon as possible.
3. Allocation of NaCoMM 2013: Based on the request of IIT Roorkee (IITR) during NaCoMM 2009 and February 2011, it has been decided to allocate the NaCoMM 2013 to IITR. A formal notification can be sent to IITR upon the receipt of a letter of intent from their side.
4. Allocation of IPRoMM 2012: Prof. B.V.A. Rao has staked a claim on this event on behalf of VIT, Vellore. The AMM Secretariat can approve a formal request from VIT as and when received, as at this point of time there is no other taker for the same.

5. Basis for allocation of NaCoMM and IPRoMM in the future: In view of increased interest in the community to organise these events, it has been decided to frame some guidelines for allocation. The following have been suggested:
 - a. The events should be rotated in a geographic manner, i.e., north, east, west and south (NEWS) zones of India, the events being held in sequence.
 - b. Institutes and zones who have not organised these events before should get priority over others who have.
 - c. The prospective organisers would need to submit their letter of intent along with a detailed proposal to the AMM Secretariat well in advance of the current event, such that the next organiser can be identified and announced during the current event itself.
 - d. These guidelines would be followed strictly from NaCoMM 2015 and IPRoMM 2014.
6. Organisation of Asian MMS Conference in India: It has been suggested that in 2013/2015, Asian MMS can be merged with NaCoMM 2013/15. It is up to IITR to decide about the same in 2013.
7. Increase of AMM seed-money for NaCoMM/IPRoMM/AMM-sponsored events: The seed-grant from AMM for these events have remained fixed at Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 5,000/- for many years now. IPRoMM 2010 was given Rs. 10,000/- as it was organised more as a conference than a workshop. It has now been decided that:
 - a. AMM seed money would be given in the form of a loan (i.e., fully refundable), and not a sponsorship.
 - b. The amount given for any AMM-sponsored event would be up to Rs. 25,000/- as per the request of the organiser.
 - c. Irrespective of a loan request from AMM, if any event is organised under AMM/IFTToMM patronage (i.e., the logos are used, and/or the event advertised through the AMM bulletin/website, and/or AMM/IFTToMM providing contacts/source persons etc.), the financial details would need to be shared with AMM. In addition to the refund of the loan, the organising body of the event would transfer 40% of the profits made through the event, if any, to AMM. AMM would use these funds for the purpose of providing support to student participants etc. Starting with NaCoMM 2011, AMM/IFTToMM would sponsor events in India only under these conditions.

Members raised a few discussion points after going through the main agenda items.

1. Dr. J. S. Rao moved a resolution that “All past office-bearers of AMM, e.g., Presidents/Vice-Presidents/Secretaries, must transmit to the present AMM Secretariat all AMM-related documents/e-materials”. This is motivated at solving a long-standing problem faced by AMM: the old registration documents, members' database, proceedings of AMM events are all apparently not traceable. The present Secretariat has been able to reconstruct parts of it with the help of many members. However, many members are still out of reach as the address database for old members went out of sync many years back.
2. Prof. T. S. Mruthyunjaya observed that in order to improve the overall standard of mechanisms study and practise in the country, one needs to first help the teachers to improve upon their delivery of the subject in a better manner to the students. Towards this end, he volunteered to organise some teachers' training workshops, with the help of AMM. Members welcomed this proposal, and requested Prof. Mruthyunjaya to lead this activity with assured AMM support.

3. Prof. S. K. Saha proposed that if AMM can join hands with the Vibration Society of India which publishes “Advances in Vibration Engineering” so that AMM can publish good mechanisms related papers. In this regard, Dr. J. S. Rao, the Chief Editor of the journal was asked to comment. Even though he was positive, he wanted the opinion of his other editors. AMM members also deliberated on the pros and cons for a long time, and while many members wanted Prof. Saha and AMM to look positively at the same, some others had serious reservations about the proposal.

The meeting ended with the Secretary thanking the members for their time.