

## **Minutes of the PSSI General Body Meeting held on 2nd December, 2013 at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar**

The 28<sup>th</sup> GBM of PSSI was organized at KIIT University, Bhubaneswar on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 during the Plasma-2013

Dr Daniel Raju (secretary), Dr. S Mukherjee (Vice President), and Ms. Ranjana Manchanda (Treasurer) were present on the podium. The Vice president welcomed the members present and initiated the proceedings.

- (A) The Secretary described the activities of PSSI in the last year. The following points were mentioned.
- 1) PSSI Life members from increased from 900 to 1127 during the period Dec 2012 to Dec 2013.
  - 2) Total student members in the year 17
  - 3) The PSSI conference abstract management system was successfully introduced from this year. All the abstract submission, approval and sanction letters was done online. This will be used for all future PSSI conference.
  - 4) Due to past issues, It was decided that PSSI conference abstracts will be managed by IPR, under the purview of the Scientific Programme Committee for PSSI conferences.
  - 5) It was also informed to the members that strict deadlines for abstract submission will be followed from now on.
  - 6) Information regarding the organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC-PSSI-2013 which was organized at CEERI-Pilani was given by the Secretary.
  - 7) He also mentioned that since PSSI has sufficient funds, members are requested to conduct topical conferences, meetings, workshop for which PSSI can offer partial financial assistance, mainly for TA for student attendees
  - 8) The next PSSI meeting, ie, Plasma-2014 will be held at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, and the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, ie, Plasma-2015 will be held at SINP, Kolkata.
  - 1) An application to host the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, ie, Plasma-2016 was submitted by Dr. Shanmugha Velayudham of Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore. This was approved by the GBM
  - 2) An application to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in the series PSC-PSSI-2014, was submitted by Dr. Arun Sarma of VIT University, Chennai. This was approved by the GBM
- (B) The Treasurer Ms. Ranjan Manchanda presented the financial aspects of the Society. The Balance sheet for the year 2012-13 was presented and accepted by the GBM
- (C) Other items that were discussed in the GBM are as follows. ;
1. Dr. S Mukherjee suggested that PSSI should give award for oral presentations also.
  2. A book entitled "Basic Plasma Physics", written by Dr Basudev Ghosh, Dep't of Physics, Jadavpur University was released and the 1<sup>st</sup> copy was presented to Prof Bimla Buti.
  3. As time for oral presentation is very short there is no scope for any scientific discussion during that time, so it was requested to increase time for oral presentation and posters. It

was also suggested that if possible posters should be kept for longer time so that presenter and interested participants can have more time for discussion.

4. Dr Ramasubramaniyam commented about the declining quality of the posters and suggested that some kind of standardization of poster considering quality should be implemented, especially with the increasing number of posters and their decreasing quality.
5. Suggestion of reducing 3 oral presentations from 4 oral presentation to have more time for scientific discussion.
6. Program schedule should be modified so that posters and oral presentation can be given more time.
7. It was suggested by Dr Mukherjee that if poster session is kept in the morning, posters can be displayed for the whole day and so more discussion can be possible.
8. Discussion about parallel session for accommodation of more posters for longer time was also discussed.
9. The relatively short poster sessions do not give the judges enough time to judge the all the posters properly.
10. It was suggested by Dr Mani to consider Oral presentation depending upon the poster presentation. Though many members (Dr Kundu, IPR and others) found it difficult to prepare oral presentation from the poster in short notice. But suggestion can be considered.
11. Dr Nandkumar from Kottayam was in favor of parallel session as it was agreed upon by the GBM at Pondicherry to give it a try. Since the number of topics covered by PSSI conference and number of participants has increased over the years, the option of conducting parallel session should be considered. Professor Robin Pal suggested that instead of GBM, organizer should be able to take the decision regarding parallel session depending upon the resources that the organizer has in managing parallel sessions. However, he also remarked if parallel sessions will find appropriate number of audiences.
12. Prof Buti noted that participation from "Space Plasma " is limited, so organizer must find more participation for posters, oral and invited talks in this area.
13. Dr. Ravi Kumar suggested that Dr Sukthisama Ghosh can help in bringing more participation for Space Plasma.
14. Scientific organizing committee can decide about increasing the time, number of oral presentation and modifying the schedule.
15. Dr. K Nandakumar, Convener of Plasma 2014, made a short presentation regarding the preparations for the upcoming Plasma 2014 at Kottayam, Kerala.
16. As no award was given for Buti Award this year, it was suggested that the PhD supervisor of the participant must take responsibility of the quality of his/her student's presentation and get the participant well prepared for it, especially for quality of presentation and efficient time management during the presentation.
17. It is seen that participants of the Plasma conference do not inform the LOC well in advance regarding their accommodation / travel plans as well as food priorities. Participants are requested to do so well in advance so that the LOC can do the needful in making the conference a memorable one.

18. In reference of a complaint about the oral presentation time reduction at last moment by one of the oral participants, Dr. Ravi Kumar informed the GB that the information regarding the reduced time was passed on to the participants well in advance and the participants should have managed their time appropriately
19. Dr Joydeep Ghosh insisted that considering the idea of motivating student, Buti award must be given to the best available presenter, for which the response was that if the committee feels that none of the presentations were up to the mark, it was difficult to give award.
20. Prof Buti commented that she would like to give a talk on how to give a good scientific presentation.
21. Ms Ranjini, PSSI councilor, VECC, Kolkata, who created a miniature PSSI logo etched on silicon wafer using ion beam gave a short presentation of that and her efforts were appreciated by the GBM .
22. Dr Mukherjee then gave the concluding remarks and thanked the members present for the GBM.