



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY

(An Autonomous and statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India)

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NBA/Tech/EC/9/14/36/20-21

Date: 18 April, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Constitution of an Expert Committee on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) - regarding

Ref: Office Memorandum no. CS-C12017/44/2020-CS-III dated 13/04/2020

In exercise of powers conferred under Sub Section (2) of Section 13 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 read with Rule 11 of Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 and as per Office Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, an Expert Committee is constituted to work on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) and related matters, as under

1.	Shri. C. Achalender Reddy, IFS, Member AHTEG	Chairman
2.	Dr. Manisha Shridhar, Regional Advisor, WHO (SEARO)	Member
3.	The Director (Biodiversity and Biosafety), MoEF&CC	Member
4.	The Director or his representative of Wildlife Institute of India	Member
5.	The Director or his representative of Botanical Survey of India	Member
6.	The Director or his representative of Zoological Survey of India	Member
7.	The Joint Secretary or his representative of Department of Biotechnology	Member
8.	The Joint Secretary or his representative of Ministry of Agriculture	Member
9.	The Joint Secretary or his representative of Department of Science and Technology	Member
10.	The Joint Secretary or his representative of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Member
11.	Representative of BCIL	Member
12.	Dr. S. Prabha Nair, Legal consultant	Member
13.	Shri. J. Justin Mohan, Secretary, NBA	Convenor

2. Terms of Reference of the Committee shall be as under:-

- a) To suggest an appropriate terminology that would reflect DSI and related subject matter.
 - b) To advise on the scope of DSI that can be regulated under ABS laws, based on the subject matter grouping referred in the proposal.
 - c) To understand the challenges and feasibility of assessing traceability of DSI and DSI based products and processes.
 - d) To contribute to developing India's position on DSI in the AHTEG meetings and for COP 15.
3. The tenure of the Committee shall be for a period of one year from the date of its constitution.
4. The NBA may amend the ToRs, if required, with the approval of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
5. The guidelines for the Committee shall be as referred to in Annexure – I.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.



(J Justin Mohan)
Secretary, NBA

To

1. The Chairman and Members of the Committee
2. Mrs. B. V. Umadevi, Additional secretary, MoEFCC
3. Private Secretary to Chairman, NBA
4. Administrative Officer, NBA
5. Accounts officer, NBA
6. Guard File

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are issued for proper conduct of the meeting to achieve the expected outcomes.

1. The committees are being constituted mainly to advise NBA on technical, techno-legal, administrative, scientific, statutory and miscellaneous matters. The role of the committee is more or less similar to that of 'Amicus Curiae' in the Court of Law.
2. The Chairman / Secretary, NBA are empowered to invite/seek opinion of experts/special invitees, academicians and others as they deem fit.
3. The Chairman and members are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting at the fixed venue and time. The NBA will arrange transport from Airport / Railway station / bus stand to and from the venue of the meeting.
4. The travel cost by Air (Air India - economy class) / train (AC-II Tier) / road mileage etc., incurred by the Chairman and the members / invitees will be reimbursed on production of the tickets / boarding pass along with bills in the prescribed format provided by NBA/SBB. The lodging and boarding will be provided by the NBA.
5. As per the directions issued by the Ministry of Finance vide O.M. no. No.19024/ 2212017-E. IV, dated 19th July, 2017, the Members are required to purchase the ticket from three authorized travel agents viz. M/s Balmer Lawrie & Company limited (BLCL), M/s Ashok Travels & Tours (ATT) and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), or tickets may be booked directly from the Airlines.
6. As per OM. No. 19047/10/2016-E-IV dt 12/4/2017 issued by Ministry of Finance, non-official members alone are entitled to draw sitting fees for attending the meetings of the Expert Committee. The definition of Non-official members as per OM are as follows: "*For the purpose of grant of sitting fee only such persons are to be considered as Non-Officials who are not employed in any institution / organisation / body funded by the Central Government*".
7. The committee is requested to submit the report to the Ministry duly authenticated by all the members. In order to finalize and submit the report, a lump sum of Rs.5,000/- will be paid to the Chairman to meet the postal

expenses, mobile, internet charges and cost of secretarial assistance at his place of stay on request. For payment of lump sum, a self-declared certificate to the effect that the expenditure has been incurred for the above purpose has to be furnished by the Chairman.

8. The committee is requested to kindly go through the subject area and refer BD Act 2002 and Rules made thereunder, relevant laws, scientific articles, and books, browse internet to facilitate lively and useful discussion on the subject.
9. The Chairman and members shall exchange notes and views on the subject matter to be discussed during the meeting / field visit. Given the sensitivity and nature of deliberation of the Committee, members are requested not to engage in nay bilateral discussion with non-members regarding the subject matter.

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