

# PROTOCOL OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE INDIA-SLOVENIA JOINT WORKING GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

New Delhi, 19th November 2014

The fourth meeting of the India-Slovenia Joint Working Group on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (JWG), established in pursuance of the Article 5 of the Agreement, signed at New Delhi on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1995, between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on scientific and technological cooperation, was held in New Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The Indian and Slovenian delegations were headed by Dr. Arabinda Mitra, Adviser and Head of International Bilateral Cooperation, Department of Science & Technology of the Republic of India and Mag. Darka Tea Glažar, Head, International Cooperation and European Affairs Department, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MESS) of the Republic of Slovenia, respectively. The list of participants is as given in **Annex I**. The agenda adopted for the meeting is at **Annex II**.

## 1. Opening session

Dr. Arabinda Mitra welcomed the Slovenian delegation and introduced the members of the Indian delegation. He expressed the satisfaction of the Indian side that the fourth meeting of the JWG was taking place in New Delhi in order to discuss mutual cooperation in the field of Science and Technology and the implementation of the Programme of Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology, for the duration 2014-2016.

Mag. Darka Tea Glažar thanked the Indian side for the efforts made for the preparation of this meeting and introduced the members of the Slovenian delegation. She expressed her satisfaction that bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology between both countries in recent years deepen which is evident also by the number of mutually adopted bilateral projects. She pointed out that there are also many opportunities for new areas of cooperation.

## 2. Exchange of information on Science, Technology and Innovation Policies

The Parties informed each other about the latest developments in the R&D sector, technology issues and innovation policies in their respective countries. The experience stemming from bilateral and international cooperation (including participation in international R&D programmes) of the two countries was exchanged. Both Parties expressed their confidence that the implementation of the Programme of Cooperation for the years 2014-2016 (POC) will contribute significantly to the development of beneficial links between S&T institutions, universities and scientists of both countries. Members of the JWG made presentations highlighting activities of their respective organizations especially in context of the areas of mutual interest.

### 3. Status and review of on-going bilateral cooperation

Both sides made comments and highlighted the on-going bilateral cooperation. Dr. Gurinder Jit Ranhawa shared the experience under ongoing bilateral collaborative project between the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources of the Republic of India and National Institute of Biology of the Republic of Slovenia.

### 4. Consideration of new joint activities

The JWG stated that fifty-three (53) project proposals were received at the Slovenian side and forty-nine (49) project proposals on Indian side according to the call for proposals launched simultaneously in both countries in March 2014. Proposals commonly received by both sides only were considered by the JWG.

JWG took into consideration evaluation reports on the proposals and approved 13 project proposals for co-funding for the period of three years starting 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 (**Annex III**). Decision on 9 proposals was deferred as the evaluation process on these proposals in the area of chemical sciences was yet to be completed on Indian side (**Annex IV**). It was further decided that in addition to 13 approved projects, 3 more projects will be selected (from deferred projects) for co-funding through exchange of letters based on the evaluation reports from the two sides by the end of November. One short visit of up to a maximum of 10 days and one long visit up to a maximum of 1 month each year in each direction would be co-funded.

### 5. Administrative and Financial Terms

Following are the financial terms for the visits of the scientists to be undertaken under the approved projects determined on the basis of the Programme of Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Slovenia and India for the period 2015-2017:

5.1.1 The sending Party shall cover all related costs connected to the international travel to the location of the host institution, subsistence costs including lodging and boarding. The sending Party shall also be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists including medical care. In Slovenia medical insurance to Slovenian researchers is provided by the sending research organisations.

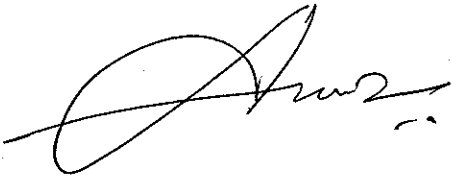
5.1.2 Both sides will give the logistical support to the visiting researchers.

6. Suggestions for Future Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology

In order to expand and intensify collaboration further JWG suggested the two sides should explore possibilities to organize joint workshops in indentified areas of mutual interest. To begin with, the two sides may work together to identify one or two areas on which such workshops may be organized – at least one in India and one in Slovenia. Both sides agreed to expand the cooperation to evolve joint projects of industrial interest involving right partner on either side.

6.1 The next JWG will be held in Ljubljana in 2016 to identify newer areas of cooperation and finalise next POC for the period 2017-19.

Done in New Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in two originals in English language, both texts being equally authentic.

<p>For the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India</p>  <p><b>(Dr. Arabinda Mitra)</b> Head of International Bilateral Cooperation Department of Science and Technology</p>	<p>For the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia</p>  <p><b>(Mag. Darka Tea Glazar)</b> Head of International Cooperation and European Affairs Department</p>
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