



**Minutes of the 18th meeting of the Annual General Body Meeting of the ITU-APT
Foundation of India (IAFI)**

16th September 2021 at 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

18th meeting of the Annual General Body Meeting of the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) was held on 16th September 2021 at 12:30 p.m. as a virtual meeting on Zoom Platform.

The Chairman Mr. TR Dua called the house to order for roll call at 12.30 PM and noted that the required quorum was not there to conduct the meeting. He therefore adjourned the meeting for 30 Minutes.

Following Members were present at the meeting:

1. Shri Tilak Raj Dua, Chairman.
2. Shri RN Aggarwal, Co-Chairman
3. Shri Bharat B Bhatia, President
4. Shri HC Soni, Treasurer
5. Shri SN Gupta, Secretary General
6. Shri RK Mishra, Vice President
7. Shri Rakesh Mehrotra, Vice President
8. Shri Pawan Garg, Vice President
9. Shri Vimal Wakhlu, Vice President
10. Shri SS Motilal, Executive Member
11. Shri BK Mitra, Executive Member
12. Shri Jitendra Singh, Executive Member
13. Ashok Sharma, Member
14. Shri Vijay Gupta, Member
15. Shri Suresh Gupta, Member
16. Shri Arun Khanna, Member
17. Shri SP Purwar, Member
18. Shri Arif Khan, Member
19. Shri Aloknath De, Member
20. Shri BS Chauhan, Member
21. Shri Kuldeep Goyal, Member
22. Shri MP Singhal, Member
23. Shri Vishnu Gupta, Member
24. Shri HS Sharma, Member
25. Shri Bashir Patel, Member
26. Shri Sudhir Gupta, Member
27. Shri Ashu GOIP, Member
28. Shri Sahib Saxena, Member

After passing of a further 30 minutes, the chairman reconvened the meeting at the same place and members present in the meeting were considered as the quorum.

Following agenda of the AGM was placed before the reconvened meeting:

- 1. Chairperson's Message;**
- 2. To consider the Annual Report of the work of the society during the past year (FY 2020-21) by the President.**
- 3. To consider the Statement of Accounts of the society for the financial year 2020-21 as approved by the Executive Council.**
- 4. To appoint the auditors and fix their remuneration.**
- 5. To transact such other business as the EC may deem necessary of which notice under direction of the EC shall have been given to the Governing Body.**

The AGM thereafter adopted the agenda and the meeting was held according to the agenda

AGENDA ITEM 1: Chairperson's message

Mr. Tilak Raj Dua, Chairman presented his message to the Foundation. He mentioned that he was hoping that to meet many of the members in person for this AGM but due to Covid-19, we had to conduct this year meeting also as a virtual meeting. However, the virtual format has enabled all of us to participate in the AGM from the safety of our homes. He extended his warm gratitude and thanks to the members for their trust and confidence to push ourselves, past challenges and complexities, to deliver consistent values for you year after year.

His full message is enclosed as attachment to these minutes

AGENDA ITEM 2 : Annual Report of the work of the society during the past year (FY 2020-21) by the President.

The Annual Report of the work of the society during the past year (FY 2020-21) was presented by Mr Bharat Bhatia, President of the Foundation.

He mentioned that the year 20-21 was the landmark year for IAFI as it led to the maximum growth of IAFI as an organization. Although Covid 19 was prevalent in the whole world it did not cut down the efforts of productivity that IAFI produced. During this year IAFI became a sector member of the ITU-R and an Affiliate member of the APT.

During the year, the contributions of IAFI to the work of ITU and APT increased manifold. The size of the foundation also grew with the addition of three new corporate members. He also mentioned that membership fees of the society was restructured with a focus on long term memberships.

He also summarised the activities of the foundation. The following are the salient points from the President's Report:

- a. IAFI obtained the Sector membership of ITU-R in addition to the current sector membership of ITU-T and ITU-D.
- b. This year IAFI became an Affiliate member of the APT, with the approval of the department of Telecom.
- c. IAFI has a total of 12 corporate members which includes three new members Telesat, Sterlite and Hughes. Also we have total 93 individual members out of which 86 are long term members.
- d. During this year, IAFI submitted we have sent 20 contribution to ITU and 6 .contributions to the APT.
- e. IAFI organized following eight events during FY 2020-21.
 - i. Welcome-Event in honor of Ms. DEEPA TYAGI, Sr. DDG of the Telecom Engineering Center (TEC) on Thursday, March 4,2021 at Zoom Meeting.
 - ii. Interactive Discussion on use of NGSO Satellite Technology for Connecting the Unconnected on Wednesday, December 2,2020 at Airmeet.
 - iii. Industry Reception and Interaction VCC With Dr. Rajkumar Upadhyay , New ED C-Dot on Friday, November 20,2020 at Zoom Meeting.
 - iv. 17th Annual General Meeting of ITU-APT Foundation of India on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at Zoom Meeting.
 - v. Entry of Indian Private Sector into Satcom Services on Thursday, September 10,2020 at Airmeet.
 - vi. National Workshop on New Wi-Fi Spectrum in 6GHz on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at Zoom Meeting.
 - vii. WTSID 2020 Virtual Conversation on UNO's 2030 Sustainable Developments Goals On 18th May 2020 at Zoom Meeting.
 - viii. FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR WTSA-20 On 8th April 2020 at Zoom Meeting.

There was a detailed discussion on the achievements of the Foundation and its office bearers:

Dr. R K Mehrotra proposed that the AGM pass a Resolution honouring the President Mr, Bhatia for his contributions and taking the IAFI to greater heights. The proposal was seconded by shri Motial and shri Wakhlu and supported by all members. It was so approved unanimously.

Responding to the Resolution, Sh. Bhatia said that the success of IAFI Is due to the combined efforts of many members including Mr Soni, the treasurer, Mr. Satya Gupta, the secretary general as well as the office staff of Aarush, Ashish and newly

joined, Alka, who is managing the website. He also thanked Mr. T R Dua, Mr. R N Agarwal and shri N k Goyal, shri Wakhlu, shri Motial and Dr. R K Mehrotra for their continued guidance and support.

AGENDA ITEM 3 : Statement of Accounts of the society for the financial year 2020-21 as approved by the Executive Council.

The statement of accounts were presented for the year 2020-21 by Mr. HC Soni, Treasurer of IAFI.

Some members suggested that the bulk of the saved funds of the society could be kept in smart saving cum fixed deposit with automatic sweep facility, which may be drawn upon whenever needed. The suggestion was agreed and would be further discussed with the bankers.

There were no further comments

The statement of accounts was unanimously approved by the AGM

AGENDA ITEM 4 : Appointment of the auditors and their remuneration:

AGM decided to reappoint M/S Sethi Agarwal & Associates (Chartered Accountants), Sector 22 Dwarka, New Delhi as the auditors at the same remuneration as last year. Viz. Rs. 72000 per year plus GST at 18%, paid quarterly.

AGENDA ITEM 5 : Such other business as the EC may deem necessary of which notice under direction of the EC shall have been given to the Governing Body.

There was no such other business.

SPEECH FOR CHAIRMAN
18TH AGM OF ITU-APT FOUNDATION OF INDIA
SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 (THURSDAY)

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen! Good Afternoon to all of you!

Today, as we convene 18th Annual General Meeting of ITU-APT Foundation of India, I warmly welcome each one of you.



1. When I addressed you last year, I was hoping that I would be able to meet many of you in person for this AGM. The long tail of the second wave and the possibility of a third wave indeed calls for caution. With the vaccination drive gaining momentum, let us hope that full normalcy gets restored within this year.
2. It is the second year in a row that I miss the intimacy and warmth of face-to-face interaction with you. However, virtual format has enabled all of us to participate in the AGM from the safety of our homes. I would like to extend my warm gratitude and thanks to the members for their trust and confidence to push ourselves, past challenges and complexities, to deliver consistent values for you year after year.
3. As you all know, the ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political society and has been working in India with the prime objective of active involvement of telecom sector in the activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT).
4. It was founded almost 18 years ago by a small group of telecom professionals and experts with long experience in the Telecom sector created an institutional mechanism to enable participation of Indian telecommunication fraternity on a much wider scale in the activities of ITU and APT. That idea and the ensuing efforts resulted in the establishment of ITU-APT Foundation of India. The Foundation has today on its roll more than 100 members comprising senior Government officials, Telecom, IT and Broadcasting professionals, corporate organizations, and associates.
5. **Over the years, ITU-APT Foundation of India has demonstrated its abilities and have been recognized by the ITU as Regional Telecom Organization. The year that has gone by been an exciting and quite eventful for the whole telecom sector in general and ITU-APT foundation in particular**, even amidst the Pandemic COVID-19 which had thrown out huge challenges and has taught us many life lessons. Even during those challenging times, ITU-APT foundation continued to evolve and work for the sector. It has earned many first to its credit for which we are very thankful to all our dedicated members for their continued support and excellent contributions towards growth of ITU-APT and also the telecom sector in India. I am glad to announce that today we are well recognized on global level by organization's constant growth and hard working.

6. **I would like to particularly mention about a noteworthy achievement which have really brought ITU-APT brand to the greater heights. ITU-APT Foundation of India was already a Sector Member in the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) and in ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T). It's a pleasure to update you again that the foundation is now a sector member of the ITU Radio Sector (ITU-R) and also received APT Affiliate membership and starting working in both sectors. It is really an honor to the foundation.**
7. Giving back to the community has been a guiding principle of our association since the inception. Through various Committees comprising of experts, ITU-APT foundation has been very active and has taken several initiatives to contribute to the policy formulation, implementation, regulatory framework and other government plans on issues concerning the Telecom sector development, digital India, standardization, spectrum, regional harmonization and so on.
8. Our individual membership has continued to grow stronger & stronger in these years. However, we still need to work together and very hard, to get more corporate members. Undoubtedly the individual members have always been the backbone of our foundation.
9. The dedication and hard work done by the Executive Council and the secretariat for smooth working of the foundation with limited resources is highly commendable. Our EC and weekly meetings are taking place in new office which is way to moving ahead our new implement and more actively working, now we have international level of website with full detailing of ITU and APT meetings and contribution. The organization is keep trying to deliver its best and still we have to find innovative ways to increase our activities in new areas. In this regard we should focus to connect with more Corporate, MSMEs and stakeholders. Ready to welcome all telecom association who are not connected with us and individual members from government and private sectors, however, new Corporate joined us in this year and our total number of members are simultaneously increasing where we are equally believe to deliver the best in return.
10. **As I reflect on the period since last AGM, ITU-APT bounced-back quickly, adjusted to the new realities, reorganised its functioning, keeping in mind the need to prepare the foundation for new post-pandemic world. The foundation reinvented itself once again and has emerged stronger, and success in such trying circumstances has led to a higher level of confidence from membership and the Government.**
11. **I say it with immense pride that during last year, a year that has been extraordinary in every sense, ITU-APT has conducted various events and programmes successfully on most relevant topics/ issues and tried to cover all related aspects such as (5G, 6GHz Wi-Fi, WRC preparatory workshop, NGSO Satellite Technology etc) for development of the telecom sector to harness the expertise of its members and contribute in development of a robust communications eco-system in the country. These programmes/ events had to**

be in Online mode due to continued impact of pandemic COVID-19, however, they also have been as successful as the previous programmes due to whole-hearted support from membership and the Government. Some of the programmes/ event that had been conducted in previous year are:

- i. Preparatory Workshop For WRC-23 - outcomes of APG23-2 on 23-Jun-2021
- ii. Celebrating World Telecommunication & Information Society Day (WTISD) 2021 on 17-May-2021
- iii. Artificial Intelligence - Opportunities and Challenges on 8-Apr-2021
- iv. First Preparatory Workshop on WRC-23 on 1-Apr-2021
- v. Welcoming Ms Deepa Tyagi as Head-TEC, on 4-Mar-2021
- vi. Interactive discussion on use of NGSO satellite technology for connecting the unconnected, held on 2-Dec-2020
- vii. Interaction with Dr. Rajkumar Upadhyay, ED, C-DoT on 20-Nov-2020
- viii. And various other meetings and discussions with Industry and Government

12. This coming year, ITU-APT Foundation plans to bring to you the most talked about topics i.e. **6G (beyond 5G), Wi-Fi 6, 5G and its use cases, broadband using Satellite Communications etc**

13. Economies across the globe are booming, and I strongly believe that India will be amongst one of the fastest growing economies. Given the fact that businesses are investing in their expansion plans and consumer sentiments are encouraging, the prospects for Indian telecommunications sector are also positive.

14. I would like to congratulate entire team of ITU-APT Foundation of India, for successfully coordinating this year the **“First” preparatory workshop for WRC-2023**, to exchange ideas and facilitate understanding of the key agenda items and issues that will be considered by the WRC-23 and to support national preparations for this global level conference. Being an important event from a Spectrum Management perspective, preparations for WRC-23 have already started and ITU-APT foundation of India plays a very key role in coordinating for consensus building and representing National as well as Regional requirements to ITU.

15. In addition to the terrestrial use of spectrum for IMT applications, ITU-APT foundation is also focussed on the growth of Satellite Communications in the country, because of its various advantages over terrestrial communication networks as far as providing services in remote and far flung areas is concerned. In such areas, Broadband through Satellite plays a very critical role. **We at ITU-APT foundation of India, are very committed to the progress and awareness of Satellite Communications in the country and opening of the same for private sector to bridge the digital divide for connecting the unconnected.**

16. In order to match with the pace and paradigm technological shift it is important that the association also start deliberating on new age subject matter of concerns such as small cells, in-building solutions, data security, cyber security, edge

computing data centres, 6G, including the creation of robust digital communications infrastructure.

17. **My heartfelt thank and gratitude for the dedication and hard work by the Executive Council and the committed secretariat at the foundation, who continue to strive through a difficult period and played a key role in building a strong, world-class organization.** Their efforts in addressing the current situation under testing times is exemplary and a source of inspiration.

18. Towards the end, I would also like to thank all functionaries for their continued support in all our endeavours, **Co-Chairman Shri R. N. Agarwal, Vice Chairman: Shri N. K. Goyal, President Shri Bharat Bhatia, Treasurer, Shri H C Soni, Secretary General, Shri S N Gupta and other members of the Executive Council,** for their hard work, support and immense encouragement.

19. We are fortunate to have all support from members, various partners, Government, whether through smooth sailing or turbulent times. I assure my full cooperation and support in all the future activities of the Foundation and the members.

Please stay safe and healthy. Hopefully the pandemic will be behind us soon, and we will have the opportunity to meet again face to face.

T. R. Dua

Chairman, ITU-APT Foundation of India
