### Minutes of the Management Advisory Committee Meeting of National Centre for Catalysis Research held at IITM Chennai on October 16, 2015

The following members attended the meeting:

1. Prof. G D Yadav - Chairman

2. Prof. B C Ranu

3. Dr. Lakshmi Narashimhan

4. Prof. K Shanthi

5. Dr. R Brakaspathy - Member Secretary

Other members could not attend.

The following Project investigators were present.

1. Prof. B Viswanathan
2. Prof. P Selvam
3. Dr. S Sivasanker
4. Dr. Krishanamurthi
5. Prof. Ranga Rao
6. Prof. Anju Chadha

Prof. Inderpal Singh, Head, Dept of Chemistry also participated in the meeting. Prof. Baskar Ramamurthi, Director of IITM participated briefly in the discussion.

The meeting started with a welcome remarks by Member Secertary, Dr. Brakaspathy. The Chairman, Prof. G D Yadav remarked that the Centre has made good progess in terms of publications, human resource development and suggested that the outcome with industries could have been more. DR. Lakshmi Narashimhan remarked that outcome of the centre in terms of industrial research was very good, and significant value addition has been done . He also opined that technology development is an ambitious goal. The other members also remarked about the output/outcome of the centre, its future plan etc.

Prof. B Viswanathan presented the overall work done during the last 9 years, and detailed work done during the last one year. It is noticed that 63 publications, 4 books and 3 Patents have come out and 9 students have completed PhD degree during the last one year. Orientation program for students have been conducted, and more MOUs have been signed with different universities. Several projects covering frontier areas of catalysis have been carried out , and two industrial projects have also been started.

After the presentation was over, the committee had detailed discussion with the project team about their plan for the future. Prof. Baskar Ramamurthi, Director and Prof. Inderpal Singh was also present during the discussion. Prof. Ramamurthi informed that IIT do not earmark a certain number of PhD students to a Centre or Department, and the student has a choice to choose the guide. He suggested involvement of more faculty members from other departments who are interested in the area of catalysis to be a part of the Centre to get more PhD students for the Centre He also informed that the IIT would not be funding Centres, and the interested faculty members should join and find support from other sources.

Dr. Brakaspathy mentioned that support to the Centre beyond 10 years was not possible by SERB, and the Centre should look for other sources for support.

Prof. Inderpal Singh offered to help the centre in getting more faculty, and coordinate the meeting with faculty members.

The following are the recommendations:

1. The Centre should identify core faculty ( minimum 5) from across departments who are committed to the Centre
2. Since the duration will be over in another year, the Centre should consolidate the activities, and plan sustainability after the duration was over.
3. The centre may explore dual degree program in the area of catalysis
4. The centre should appoint adjunct faculty from other institutions
5. There should be regular interaction among the faculty and adjunct faculty members. The Head, Chemistry Dept will coordinate the interaction.
6. The committee recommended to reappropriate the savings available under other “heads” to “salary”

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.