

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the NSDI Executive Committee (NSDI-EC) held on 30th November, 2010 at NSDI, New Delhi.

1. The 4th NSDI Executive Committee (NSDI-EC) meeting was held on 30th November, 2009 at NSDI, New Delhi at 11:30 AM, under the co-chairmanship of Shri Swarna Subba Rao, Surveyor General of India and Dr V Jayaraman, Director NRSC. The following members/invitees were present:-

- i. Dr. P Nag, Director, NATMO
- ii. P K Tripathi , JS(Mitigation), NDMA
- iii. Dr Vandana Sharma, DDG, NIC
- iv. V Parameswaran DDG, Computer Centre, MOSPI
- v. Dr A P Singh, Dy. Registrar General (MAP), ORGI
- vi. Yogesh Paithankar, Director, CWC
- vii. L R Meena, DDG, IMD
- viii. Krishna Gopal, programmer, CGWB
- ix. Cmdr KM Nair National Hydrographic Office
- x. G P ObiReddy, Sr. Scientist and I/C GIS section, NBSSLUP
- xi. S K Bohra Sr. Geologist, GSI, New Delhi
- xii. M L Srivastava, Jt. Director, FSI Dehradun
- xiii. Anand Kumar , Sr. Env. Engineer , CPCB
- xiv. Dr R Nagaraja, Group Director, NRSC Data Centre
- xv. Dr Y V S Murthy, Head GID/USGIG, NRSC
- xvi. Ms. Smriti K Upadhyay, Env. Engineer CPCB
- xvii. S L Bodat, Director , Computer centre, MOSPI, sec-10 R K Puram
- xviii. Dr Bhoop Singh, Director, DST
- xix. PS Acharya, Scientist-F, DST
- xx. OP Gaba, Scientist-C ,DST
- xxi. S K Lalwani, Head (Projects) CDC
- xxii. Nirmalendu Kumar, Dy. Director NSDI
- xxiii. Lt Col A K Bhandari, OSD, NSDI
- xxiv. Maj Gen (Dr) R Siva Kumar, CEO, NSDI- Member Secretary

2. CEO, NSDI, while welcoming the members of the EC congratulated Shri Swarna Subba Rao, who assumed the charge of Surveyor General of India, in August 2010. Chairman mentioned that Survey of India in collaboration with Department of Space is embarking on 1:10,000 scale mapping and NSDI will play a major role in this endeavour. Dr.V.Jayaraman, Director, NRSC and Co-Chairman, NSDI-EC noted that it is only the 4th EC meeting in the last 4 years and suggested to hold the EC meetings frequently in order to resolve the issues, if any for accelerating the progress/penetration of NSDI among its stakeholders and users.

3. CEO, NSDI and Member Secretary, EC gave a detailed presentation on the progress made by NSDI since EC-3 on various activities given as under:
 - Up gradation of NSDI Geo-Portal.
 - NSDI-9 on G-Governance
 - 2nd meeting of National Spatial Data Committee (NSDC)
 - Nodal Officer meets
 - Research fellowship from Nottingham University.
 - Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
 - Content Standard

CEO, NSDI also mentioned that revised Map Policy- 2010 is in the advanced stage of finalization. He also stated that the Working Group on Cost Recovery and Payment Gateway met and is in the process of finalizing their report. He requested the Working Group of Outreach and Communication to hold their meeting quickly and finalize their report.

4. He then presented the detailed action taken report on the decisions taken during 2nd NSDC meeting and NSDI-EC meeting. CEO, NSDI also informed the EC of the efforts being made to increase the penetration of NSDI and in this context, he mentioned the proposed structure and funding mechanism of a State Geospatial Data Council (SGDC) and measures to be taken for strengthening of NSDI. He requested the members to give their views/suggestions.
5. Shri Nirmalendu Kumar, DD NSDI, gave a brief presentation on NSDI Content Standard Draft Version 2.0. The members gave suggestions for next version of the draft. It was suggested by Dr.V.Jayaraman, Director, NRSC that the member institutions could go through the Contents Standards document carefully and provide specific inputs on their areas of interest, including ongoing efforts for such standardization in order to consolidate and bring out a more coherent document for further discussion.
6. Lt. Col. Ajay Bhandari gave a brief presentation on the details of upcoming NSDI-10. CEO, NSDI requested agencies to send atleast two officers in addition to Nodal Officer to attend NSDI-10. The Nodal Officer should make a presentation highlighting the work done/progress made by them in creation of metadata , operationalization of NSDI node and other NSDI related activities.
7. The committee was informed that the recent advertisement for the four technical posts of NSDI received a lukewarm response. There was a very active discussion on it and it was felt that recruitment rules should be amended to attract the best talent and it should have all the provisions to fill the post including direct recruitment and on contract basis. Presently, NSDI lacks a career growth for its incumbent and new recruitment rules must take care of it.

8. Shri S K Lalwani of Consultancy Development Centre (CDC) of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) gave a detailed presentation on the preparation of an Aspirational document for NSDI. Surveyor General of India stated that NSDI should limit itself to its mandate of maintenance and updation of metadata and dissemination of geo-spatial products and exempt itself from any value addition exercises, which is intensive of domain knowledge and expertise.
Dr V Jayaraman mentioned that the technology is growing by leaps and bounds and the Aspirational document must envision and cater for it. He echoed the voice of younger generations, who is very technology savvy and we should try to assess and fulfill their aspirations. It was opined that a realistic assessment of the requirements of various existing and would be users of the geospatial data is the starting point and CDC must go deep into it.
9. The CEO, NSDI informed that NSDC took the decision to complete the uploading of metadata by all the nodal agencies of NSDI within six months and the progress made so far is not satisfactory. He requested all the members to expedite the creation of metadata and utilize the funds given by DST for this task. He requested that metadata prepared be sent even it is partly completed.
10. Shri Yogesh Paithankar of CWC raised the issue of discrepancy in Administrative Boundaries prepared by different agencies. Dr Prithvish Nag informed that NATMO has been assigned the task of maintenance of central repository of administrative units in near real time mode. Surveyor General stated that Survey of India is having digital database of village boundaries district wise and are available on payment.

11. Decisions

After deliberations, the following decisions were taken.

- a) Next version of draft content standard will be prepared and presented during NSDI-10.
- b) To fill the vacant posts at NSDI, suitable amendments to the Recruitment Rules will be carried out to attract the best talent and it should have all provisions to fill the post including direct recruitment and on contract basis.
- c) All the nodal agencies of NSDI will strive to convert analogue spatial data into digital format and will create metadata of these datasets. NSDI/DST will provide the necessary support if required.
- d) All agencies will present their activities related to SDI during NSDI-10. This may also cover the metadata creation and operationalization of NSDI node.
- e) All Chairman of the working groups are also requested to present their activities during NSDI-10.

- f) All agencies are requested to include NSDI as an item of agenda during their periodic Senior Officers Conferences, seminars etc. NSDI officers will participate if invited.
- g) The next meeting shall be conducted by NATMO during the month of April.

12. Meeting ended with vote of thanks.

(Dr. R. Siva Kumar)
Member Secretary, NSDI-EC