

The general body meeting of the Robotics Society of India (RSI) was held at IIT Madras campus on 18th July 2016¹

August 07, 2016

Prof. Subir Kumar Saha (Treasurer, RSI) who conducted the meeting on behalf of the Secretary, RSI (Prof. Ashish Dutta) welcomed the members and the invitees.

First, the minutes of the last RSI GBM held on 3rd July, 2015 at BITS Pilani Goa Campus were read out and confirmed.

1. The members were then informed about the current status of RSI as follows:
 - i. Total members : 572
 - ii. Bank AC details: Balance as on 13.7.16 is Rs. 7,27,836/-
 - iii. Received Rs. 1,36,704/- as profit (50%) from BITs Goa campus for AIR 2015.
 - iv. Workshops Supported: 4 (NIT Calicut, Hindustan Univ, IIT Ropar, Kolaghat Engg. College)
 - v. One student chapter started at IIT Ropar
 - vi. One Newsletter published in April 2016

2. Registration process:

The registration for the RSI has been attempted for the second time. The first application was unsuccessful as there was an objection from the Department of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India, after about two years of request. The earlier CA could not get the information about the objection. Hence, a different experienced CA's help is sought this time. The society's name as suggested by the CA is Robotics Society (India) and will be registered in Delhi (to simplify the registration process). This however will not restrict the all-India operation. The charge Rs. 1,50,000/- by the CA was approved.

3. The five-year membership (Regular membership) was converted to Life Membership. All existing regular members would be automatically made Life-members. However, for the new applicants from July 19, 2016 the fees were increased to Rs. 4,000. All other conditions for Regular membership remained same.
4. The student membership fee for B. Tech is Rs. 500, M. Tech/MS and PhD is Rs. 1000. The membership is valid throughout their course of study.
5. Life regular membership, an existing corporate member would be converted to Life member. There will no change of fee for the future Life Corporate Members (Rs. 50,000/- only). The corporate members have a provision of two free registration in RSI-organized AIR conferences and annual workshops.
6. Student Chapters can be encouraged to be started in different engineering colleges. The terms of the student chapters are same as discussed in an earlier GBM [At least two faculty members and five student members for a period of 6 months].
7. It was decided that RSI would arrange for financial support for experts to visit the student chapters (institute) to give talks/lectures at least once in three years.

¹ The minutes were initially drafted by Mr. Rajeevlochana C.G.

8. RSI would be supporting conferences/workshops in the following three manners:
 - a) Organized by RSI: Advances in Robotics (AIR) and Robotics Workshop held alternate year around July.
 - b) Technical Sponsorship by RSI (With Money): Workshop/conference organizers can use RSI logo. RSI may help in connecting to the experts for lectures/sessions. An amount of upto Rs. 20,000 can be given to the organizers by RSI. A Utilization Certificate (UC) has to be submitted by the organizers for the given amount.
 - c) Technical Sponsorship by RSI (Without Money): Workshop/conference organizers can use RSI logo. RSI may help in connecting to the experts for lectures/sessions.
9. For the RSI members, a minimum of 10% discount in the registration fee for RSI organized and technically sponsored (with money) events (conference/workshop) has to be provided by the event organizers.
10. Robository (information about Roboticists, lab and companies in India) on RSI website is to be taken offline. At a later stage, a mechanism would be proposed to make entries on RSI website. A team comprising of Prof. Santanu Chaudhury, Mr. Alok Mukherjee, Dr. Sandipan Bandhopadhaya and Mr. Rajeevlochana Chittawadigi will decide on the mechanism of entry within one year (i.e., they will report in the next year's GBM).
11. RSI newsletter is not getting prepared and printed on a regular basis. It was decided that a coordinator for the newsletter will be decided every year in the GBM and the coordinator will target one institute per issue for robotics research in their institute or nearby institutes. The frequency of the newsletter was decided to be two per year. The newsletter coordinator for 2016-17 was chosen as Prof. P. M. Pathak (IIT Roorkee). The first issue will be edited by Prof. Asokan T (IIT Madras) and for second issue, it will be Dr. Gaurav Pandey (IIT Kanpur).
12. For AIR2017 conference, a new chair was suggested and added. Dr. Debanik Roy (BRNS/BARC) as R&D Liaison Chair. All the members were invited to be a part of the conference by submitting paper and helping in organizing it.
13. The tenure of the current RSI office bearers is from July 2014 to June 2017. In the next GBM at IIT Delhi, new elections would be conducted for the new set of office bearers.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks followed by the workshop dinner.

(S.K. Saha)
Treasurer, RSI (on behalf of Secretary, RSI)