# Minutes of the First General Body Meeting of the Robotics Society of India (RSI)

July 20, 2011

Dr. Ashish Dutta welcomed everyone and briefly explained the need for a robotics society in India and the informal discussions that were held in the last few months regarding society formation (as a non profit organization).

1.  The names of the society members were proposed and were accepted by everyone. The office bearers are:

President: Shri. Manjit Singh, BARC
Vice President (academic) : Prof. Santanu Chaudhury , IIT Delhi
Vice President (R&D/Industry): Shri. Alok Mukherjee, DRDO.
Treasurer: Prof. Subir K. Saha, IIT Delhi
Secretary: Dr. Ashish Dutta, IIT Kanpur

2.   All the office bearers were then requested to share their views/advice about how to make the society a very dynamics and vibrant society.

President: Shri Manjit Singh
Shri. Manjit Singh could not attend the meeting due to personal engagements in the USA, but sent his message congratulating the formation of the society. His message was kindly read out by Prof. Santanu Chaudhury. (The complete message is given at the end of the minutes of the meeting)

Vice President (Academic): Prof. Santanu Chaudhury

Prof. Chaudhury stressed the need to consider not only engineering institutes but also the schools and colleges for spreading robotics education in a proper way. He felt that annual events should be organised once a year along with the BARC summer school as a national event. An attempt should be made to organize a national conference. He cited the example of Computer Society of India that supports the organisers for several conferences.

Vice President (R&D/Industry): Shri. Alok Mukherjee
Shri. Mukerjee stressed the need to plug in the users perspective also while planning activities for the Robotics Society of India (RSI). DRDO has direct interaction with end users such as the army, navy, air force etc. who require the use of autonomous robots for various applications such as demining, surveillance, and use in hazardous applications. He further stressed the need to take on-board the academics, researchers, industry and users in organising joint conferences in India, that could also

include persons from overseas. Several DRDO units are engaged in developing units for the end users and he stressed the need to standardise the robotics components and also reduce duplication in robotics research by sharing and updating.

Treasurer: Prof. Subir K. Saha

Prof. Saha explained the fee structure and the rationale behind taking five years subscription. He felt that one of the main focuses should be to reduce the amount of paper work involved for our day to day functioning. Hence, he explained the logic of 5 year memberships. The general body meeting approved the

subscription charges for members etc.

3.    The main objectives of the Robotics Society of India would be to:

a.)    Encourage interaction between robotics researches in India (academic/R&D Labs/industry).
b.)    Hold joint workshops and conferences at the national level.
c.)    Associate with other organizations involved in Robotics like IEEE, ASME etc.
d.)    Publish a newsletter, proceeding, Journals (at a later stage).

4.    Dr. Kolin Paul suggested forming a steering committee consisting of one young faculty (not himself!), 2 Ph. D students and one more member possibly from R&D/Industry to frame the rules and regulations of the society etc. All the members approved the concept. Hence, in due course of time additional members will be inducted.

5.    Dr. Manivannan expressed his view that members could be considered as advisor members; however others felt that advisors members are more suitable for conferences and not societies. Members also expressed their opinion that all the information should be put in a website for everyone to view.

6.    Rules and regulation: It was suggested that a committee would look into the framing of the rules and regulation of the society. Several rules and regulation framework of other societies e.g., Association for Machines and Mechanisms, etc would be consulted to put together a set of rules for our society.

7.    News letter: One newsletter in hard copy per year was suggested as a staring option. The news letter could be published during a national conference or workshop in robotics.

8.    Website: Rs 3000/- per year was approved for a website creation/maintenance for the Robotics Society of India.

9.  Logo: Members would be requested to suggest the design of a new logo for the RSI. Mr. Hemanta from BARC was given the responsibility to collate all the designs submitted. The last date for receiving the logo would be 10th Sept., 2011. A separate email requesting everyone to submit logos to Hemanta (hemanta_s@yahoo.com) will be sent to all members shortly.

10.  A savings bank account would be opened in IIT Delhi.  Prof. S. Chaudhury and Prof. S.K. Saha will be the signatories of the bank account to be opened in the name of Robotics Society of India.

11.  Membership structure: The proposed fees structure was also approved by the members, while most felt that students memberships should also be encouraged. It was agreed that B.Tech and M.Tech students should have a single time membership of Rs 500/- for the duration of their course, while for research scholars etc (PhD students) it should be Rs 1000/-.
Individual members from academics/R&D: Rs 2,500/- for 5 years.
Industry members: Rs 5000/- for 5 years.
Corporate members: Rs 50,000/- for 5 years for 5 representatives.

12.  Soft copies of ID cards for society members would be given once the fees are received.

13.  Annual budget of Rs 10,000/- per year was approved for secretarial help in day to day office work for the society.

14.  Asian Robotics Society Union: It was felt that RSI should join the Asian Robotics Society Union (ARSU). There is no charge for joining the ARSU.


Dr. Dutta concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their cooperation.



 List of persons who attended the first GBM on 10th July, 2011:

Prof. S. K. Saha, IIT Delhi

Mr. Sarngadharam P.V, BARC

Mr. Anaren  P. Das, BARC

Mr. Abhishek Jaju, BARC

Mr. Surendra Singh Saini, BARC

Mr. Ushnish Sarkar, BARC

Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, IITB

Dr. P.J. Narayanan, IIT Hyderabad

Prof. Santanu Chaudhray, IIT Delhi

Mr. Alok Mukerjee, DRDO, Pune

Mr. Hemanta Kumar Swain

Mr. Meher Tabassum, DRHR, BARC

Mr. Bani Hazra, R&D EE DRDO, Pune

Dr. G. Arawanuthan, RC ND, BARC, Mumbai

Prof. Rajeev Lachana C.G, IIT Delhi

Mr. Avinash Kumar, PCET, Mohali , Punjab

Mr. Arun Dyal Udai, IIT Delhi

Dr. Shivesh Kumar, NITK Surathkal

Dr. Sagar Signhal, IIIT Hyderabad

Dr. Vinay Gupta, IEC- CET, Noida

Dr. E. Vijay Prakash, IIT- H

Mr. Gaurav Agrawal, IIT Delhi

Mr. Manish Chauhan IIT Delhi

Dr. Siddhartha Jaitly ITMU

Dr. Anuj  Nandanwar, IIITM, Gwalior

Dr. Anupam Shukla, IIITM, Gwalior

Dr. Sanjeev Sharma, IIITM, Gwalior

Dr. Soumie Sarkar, IIT Delhi

Dr. Entesharm Hassan , IIT Delhi

Dr. Amit Agrawal , IIT Delhi

Dr. I.N. Kar, IIT Delhi

Dr. Kolin Paul, IIT Delhi

Dr. Ayesha Choudhary, IIT Delhi

Dr. K.S. Nagla, NIT Jalandher

Dr. K.S. Venkatesh, IIT Kanpur

Dr. K. Madhava Kushne, IIT- Hydreabad

Dr. M. Manivannan, IIT, Madras

Dr. A. Dutta, IIT, Kanpur