Minutes of the General Body Meeting of the Robotics Society of India (RSI) held at IIT Delhi on 6th July 2014.

List of participants as attached.

Secretary RSI welcomed all the members present.

1. First the minutes of the last RSI GBM held at Pune in July 2013 was read out for confirmation. As there were no corrections the minutes were confirmed.
2. The activities of RSI during the last year was then presented:

RSI activities during the last one year was then presented by the secretary, RSI:

- AIR 2013 was held in R&D (Engs), Pune from 4-6th July, 2013. We received 108 papers from which 59 were selected for oral or poster presentation. Each paper was reviewed by at least three reviewers. The proceedings has been published by ACM digital library.

- One Newsletter was published in Aug 2013 with a focus on AIR 2013. Unfortunately we have missed the Dec 2013 Newsletter due to shortage of articles.

- Members: Present strength of RSI is 280 members.

- Several members of RSI visited Korea in December 2013 to participate in the Workshop on Robotics held jointly by the Korean Robotics Society (KROS) and Korean ministry of Science and Technology. The Indian side was funded by DST. Discussions were held with members of the KROS and it was felt that signing an MOU for future collaboration would be in the interest of both the societies. An MOU was subsequently signed between KROS and RSI. RSI is technically sponsoring the International Conference organised by KROS in Malaysia, Ubiquitous Robotics and Ambient Intelligence 2014 from 12-15 Nov 2014. Members of RSI will serve as PC members in the URAI conference and help in review of papers. Similarly members of KROS will serve on the PC committee of RSI conference : AIR 2015.

- AIR 2015 as planned in the last GBM will be held in BITs Pilani Goa, Campus .

- A presentation was made by Prof. Ashish Dutta to DST PAC on Robotics and Manufacturing on 30th May 2014 at BITS Pilani Goa Campus. The objective of the presentation was to inform DST about the formation of the robotics society and try to identify areas of collaboration. Members of the PAC felt that RSI could organise summer schools under the DST SERB summer school program. Relevant part of the RSI-DST minutes of the meeting is given in Appendix – 1.

- Dr. Prabir Pal and Dr. Ashish Dutta visited BITS Pilani Goa Campus on 30th May and did a survey of facilities available for AIR 2015. The facilities available are :

- Auditorium of 1500 capacity
- Hostel mess with 1000 capacity
- Hotels nearby in the range of Rs 3,000 and Hostels can be used by students.
- Area for CII exhibition
- Request for funds to be sent by BITs to various agencies like BRNS, DST, etc. It was felt that RSI can provide the forms with relevant budget details so that BITs can forward to the relevant agencies.

3. After the report was presented Prof. Santanu Chaudhury, Vice President, RSI conducted the meeting as per the agenda items for the GBM.

(a) Other items as carried over from the earlier GBM in Pune: opening region wise centres of RSI (western region, eastern region, northern region, southern region). The main focus of the centres will be to hold lecture, workshop, and competitions in their respective regions.

It was agreed that we should have region wise centres only after registration of RSI is completed. However it was agreed that we need to hold workshops/design studios etc in different parts of the country to popularise RSI. Shri Alok Mukherjee proposed to hold a workshop on systems integration regarding robotics systems, in Pune in Dec.

(b) Allow industries to post their advertisements in RSI website (quite a few other robotics societies like RSJ etc follow this)

It was also felt that we should not go ahead with this as RSI is still not registered.

(c) Support student competitions by sponsoring/arranging lectures, etc.

In order to encourage students to take more interest in Robotics competitions, and in RSI, etc. it was decided that we should allow the formation of student chapters in institutes. The basic requirements would be :

1. Each chapter should be guided by a faculty member who has been a RSI member for at least 6 months.
2. Each chapter should have RSI student members.
3. RSI will not provide any financial support but will help in arranging lectures etc.
4. RSI logo may be used by student chapters.
5. Student chapters would have to sign an MOU with RSI stating that RSI is not responsible for any damage/loss that the institute/students may suffer due to the activities of the RSI centre.

(d) Have an executive committee with members who are individually responsible for a particular focus area: newsletter publication, international relations, student activities, memberships, etc.

This proposal was agreed to and it was agreed to hold the elections along with that of the other regular office bearers.

(e) Information about RSI Registration.

The Chartered Accountant informed that RSI registration application has been held up as clearances have still not been received from all the states, as this is a National Society. He however stated that he has been informed that the registration would be completed within two months.

(f) Dr. P.K. Pal was requested to act as the election office for the new set of office bearers. Elections were then conducted as per the RSI constitution. The elected member for the term 2014 -2017 were.

President: Shri Manjit Singh,

Vice President (Academic) L: Prof. Santanu Chaudhury

Vice President (Industry Govt . Lab): Shri Alok Mukherjee

Secretary: Prof. Ashish Dutta

Treasurer: Prof. Subir Kumar Saha

Editor of New letter: Prof. Shyamanta Hazarika

Membership activities In charge: Prof. Mohamed Suhaib

Student activities in charge : Prof. P.M. Pathak

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to all members.

(Prof. Ashish Dutta)

Secretary RSI

APPENDIX – 1

As sent by Dr. P.K. Pal (member PAC - DST):

On the 2nd day, Professor Ashish Dutta, Secretary, **Robotics Society of India (RSI)** made a brief presentation to the PAC about the activities of the society. In his presentation, he informed that the RSI was formed on the 10th July, 2011 with the objective of encouraging active interaction between the researchers in the area of robotics not only in India but across the globe. The Society is also a member of the Asian Robotics Societies Union and has been playing a major role by interacting with CII in the area of robotics. There are several activities it does regularly which includes organization of workshops in specific areas. Annual International Conferences on Robotics with the next one being organized in the year 2015 titled "Advances in Robotics". It also brings out newsletter and organizes Technical Symposiums.

The PAC members applauded the efforts of the Society in bringing together researchers in the area of robotics and wanted the RSI to build and maintain a database of robotics researchers in India. Professor Nandi informed the RSI official about the SERB School on Robotics being organised at IIIT, Allahabad from 6th June, 2014. The Member Secretary of the PAC also informed them about getting support for the Society under professional bodies' scheme of SERB as well as for the international conferences and workshops under the Seminar Symposia Scheme. The PAC recommended that the Society officials should interact more closely with the Member Secretary of this PAC to take the objectives forward.