Minutes of the First Meeting of Implementation and Monitoring Committee for MOOCs Content  
Chaired by Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT, Madras  
Held on 6th April 2015 at Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi

First meeting of the Implementation and Monitoring and Committee for MOOCs Content was held on 6th April 2015 under the chairmanship of Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT, Madras and the list of members present in the meeting at Annexure I is given at the end of this Summary.

Chairman initiated the discussions on Terms of Reference of the Committee. The following are the summary of discussions & decisions thereon:

* Ministry is keen to provide MOOCs to leverage/particularly address gap in Higher Education Sector in India as huge gap exists in all disciplines.
* Various offers of MOOCs are currently operational across the world, namely, Coursera, edX,, Udacity, Google, FutureLearn to suggest a few, enabling students to access content freely. Most of them administer the programme with a declaration of honour code by participants,
* The present Committee can coopt members or form sub-committees as per requirements of the Committee, and Committee would like to have its meetings in Delhi as most of the members are from Delhi and the surrounding area.
* SWAYAM Platform committee chaired by Prof. S. V. Raghavan will address the issues of provision of requisite hardware and software platform to provide very high concurrency, and provision of requisite tools to operate smoothly various MOOCs offerings. Till such time as the platform becomes available, MOOCs may continue to be offered on alternative platforms adopted by various institutions.
* It may not be feasible to dynamically shift and use multiple platforms for MOOCs operations – For, example, NPTEL is offered on Google platform and IITB is offering courses on edX running on Amazon, and dynamic exchange of platforms may not be feasible. However, given the cluster and the software tools most versions of MOOC courses prepared under the ongoing programmes will be shifted with technical assistance from CDAC and other software groups to the Swayam Platform when needed.
* Wide variations in curricula exist across the universities, which needs to be taken into account while offering MOOCs to students.
* In lieu of face-to-face learning by students, MOOCs employs online forums and moderated discussions with sufficient number of mentors who have the subject expertise. This will also permit courses with slight variations from the proposed syllabus of the University to be skillfully adopted by the teachers of those Universities. Also equivalence of credits to be assigned to learners taking online examinations must be carefully examined so as to derive due benefits of efforts put in while learning e-Content.
* As the technologies for offering MOOCs is changing rapidly, the platform is required to be constanly upgraded to meet the changing requirements
* It has been mentioned that IIT Madras was proposing to partner with Anna University for experimentation with MOOCs to cater to the requirements of its 550 affiliated colleges as per the curriculum of the University. The results of the experiment will be made available to the Committee as soon as it is conducted.
* Paramedical/Para clinical/skill development courses require due attention for development using MOOCs with specific practical orientation which could be provided at identified model hospitals.
* As per the current statistics of learners/students, arts and humanities’ streams have maximum enrolment of 47% in comparison with engineering (17%) and accordingly due importance for preparation and delivery of MOOCs in these disciplines needs to be given.
* Efforts need to be put in for involving maximum number of universities and faculty members to prepare and offer MOOCs in order to bridge the gap existing in the Higher Education Sector as aspirants are more and educational opportunities are less.
* The members of the Committee from respective domains are requested to identify faculty and courses that can be offered in the short term, and inform the Committee within two weeks, for working out time schedule for the development and delivery of MOOCs in the respective areas. A mail in this regard will be sent to all members.
* Chairmen of UGC and AICTE would be approached for necessary steps to encourage recognition and provision of credits for MOOCs in the relevant areas. UGC would also be invited to nominate a person knowledgeable about the vocational e-learning courses developed by UGC.
* There are several issues of self sustenance in the offering of MOOCs, such as upgradation of course content, conduct of examination and award of certification with due credits. Initially, new MOOC course will have to be funded in project mode for development of the self-sustaining models in this regard.
* Data integrity to be maintained and ownership of content and IPR should be with the Ministry/professor and institutions offering the course.
* For language transcription and dubbing, empanelment of appropriate agencies has to be done to have them on board.
* Next meeting of the committee has been fixed for 4th May 2015.
* The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

DRAFT

F. No. Dated:

TO Chairman AICTE and Chairman UGC from the Chairman of the National MOOCs Committee.

As you are aware, Ministry of Human Resource Development, through its Mission on National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology would like to develop and deliver Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in Education Sector. In this regard, a Committee has been constituted for Implementation and Monitoring of MOOCs Content under my chairmanship. One of the objectives of the endeavour is to conduct proctored online examination, recognition of the courses offered in MOOCs format and award of due credits based on the performance of the candidate in the examination.

In this regard, I would like to invite suggestions on the above and also request you to depute appropriate officer to assist the committee in this direction.

It is requested for an early response on the above.

With

Yours sincerely,

To

Dr. Avinash S. Pant  
Chairman, AICTE   
7TH FLOOR, CHANDERLOK BUILDING , JANPATH , NEW DELHI-110001

To

Prof. Ved Prakash  
Chairman, UGC  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110 002