

Minutes of the Third Advisory Committee Meeting of H.K. Sherwani Centre
for Deccan Studies held on 28th May 2014 at 11.00 a.m.
at VIP Guest House, MANUU

The meeting was attended by the following members:

1. Prof. Mohammad Miyan – Vice Chancellor, MANUU
2. Dr. Khwaja M. Shahid – P.V.C., MANUU
3. Prof. Abdus Sattar Dalvi – Member
4. Prof. V. Ramakrishna – Member
5. Prof. K.R. Iqbal Ahmed – Member
6. Prof. Kancha Ilaiah – Special Invitee
7. Mr. Mir Ayoob Ali Khan – Special Invitee
8. Dr. Salma Ahmed Farooqui – Honorary Director / Member Convenor

The Vice Chancellor, who is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting by welcoming all the invitees. Thereafter, he asked the Honorary Director Dr. Salma Ahmed Farooqui to present the agenda of the meeting.

Salma Ahmed Farooqui first thanked all the honourable members for making it possible to attend the meeting. She went on to give a brief of the journey undertaken by the Centre for Deccan Studies from 2012 to 2014. She spoke about the establishment, mandate, available staff, grant received, activities and financial statement of the Centre in the last two years.

Regarding the issue of recurring grants to be received by the Centre, the Vice Chancellor provided the input that the Centre will receive a recurring grant from MANUU on an annual basis to carry on with its activities. The Vice Chancellor also asked the other members if they would like to suggest other means of funding. The members were of the view it is best if the University provides the recurring budget annually and agreed to his idea.

The Honorary Director, Salma Ahmed Farooqui also made it clear that the Centre had identified niche areas of study divided into 3 broad areas of Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities which can be taken up by the Centre in the coming years. The undisputed focus would be on unexplored research areas. As part of the financial statement, she also gave information about the significance of the major research study *A Cartographic Profile of the Deccan* undertaken by the Centre. She informed that two book reviews have been done already by the Head, Dept of History, Pondicherry University and Head, centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad. Both of which are very positive and encouraging. In response to this, Prof. Ramakrishna and the Vice Chancellor felt that more publicity of the book should be done and more reviews of the book should be published.

The bottom of the page contains several handwritten signatures and dates. On the left, there is a signature that appears to be 'Salma Ahmed Farooqui' and another signature below it. In the center, there is a date '29/5' and a small number '1'. On the right, there is a signature 'Salma Ahmed Farooqui' and a date '30/5/14'.

The Honorary Director also informed that the book is put up for sale at three book stores and so far 60 copies have been sold and the money collected is deposited in the MANUU account. The members were happy to note that AIU had invited the Centre to contribute an article on Deccan Studies: Emerging Themes in Indian Higher Education System. The copies of the article were circulated.

The Honorary Director of the Centre then presented the Plan of Action for 2014-15.

Regarding the ASPS-MANUU Visiting Scholar Fellowship the Honorary Director reiterated the vision of the Vice Chancellor in establishing an international collaboration with the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) for a Travel cum Research Grant titled ASPS/MANUU VISITING SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP. The members were informed about the constitution of the Standing Selection Committee (SSC) and the process by way of which the scholar was selected for this year. The selected candidate for this year is Dr. Karen Ruffle, Asst. Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Toronto who would be working on a specific theme in the domain of Indo-Persian Relations/Indo-Persian Culture of the Deccan. Prof. V. Ramakrishna suggested that the topic should be worked out specifically with regard to the scholar. The Honorary Director informed him that it will be done as soon as the scholar is issued a formal letter by the Chairman of the Selection Committee. The selected visiting scholar will be attached to the H.K. Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies for a period of six months at the end of which he/she will submit a monograph to MANUU and ASPS. The Committee was happy to note the development.

Regarding the second point of the POA, the Honorary Director informed the Committee members that an awareness meeting on Conservation Challenges: A Case Study of Qutb Shahi Tombs is scheduled on 3rd June 2014. Ratish Nanda, Project Director, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, New Delhi will give a case presentation on the Qutb Shahis Tombs restoration project. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

Regarding the third point of the POA, the Honorary Director informed that a proposal was sent to UGC through the Vice Chancellor's office regarding UGC's scheme on Innovation Universities for which H.K. Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies had applied under the Category (b) Innovative Research Programmes: with special emphasis on inter-disciplinary research as per the UGC scheme. If the Centre receives these funds this will be extra funding. The Vice Chancellor once again clarified that the Centre is not totally dependent on UGC for its working capital to conduct its activities and the university will provide this.

The Honorary Director informed the Committee about holding a two day conference/symposium on the theme of Liberal Arts in the Deccan on various aspects such as rhetoric, grammar, folk art, painting, sculpture, arithmetic, astronomy, music, logic, architectural and philosophical traditions related to the Deccan which the Centre wants to hold. She also informed that a proposal to this effect was sent to Nehru Memorial Museum and Library few months ago. Since they had exhausted their funding for this financial year, it was proposed by them to resend it for next year. If NMML finances the conference/symposium it has to be conducted only in Delhi. The Committee members were

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of the view that a conference/symposium on such an important theme should be conducted in MANUU. The Honorary Director then informed that the same proposal has been sent to Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) who showed interest in it but due to financial constraints they are unable to finance it this year. After deliberating in-depth on generating funds for this important conference, Mr. Ayoob Ali Khan suggested that in principle the Committee may agree to the proposal and it was decided that newer sources of funding should be explored and the Committee members agreed with this. Prof.V. Ramakrishna felt that since the theme is such an important one it should be held for at least three days in Hyderabad.

The next plan proposed was on holding a Talking Circle the proposal of which is sent to the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). The Director informed that the Centre wants to organise a One Day Talking Circle on the theme of Food, Nativism-Acculturation and Identity in the Deccan. The Talking Circle will address questions surrounding food-drink, food ways, cuisines of indigenous and foreigner groups and their relationship with formation of identity (individual, class, group, regional, ethnic, national etc) in the Deccan through the ages. The Deccan becomes a distinctive region to study both the concepts, although conflicting, of nativism and acculturation. The Honorary Director explained to the Committee members that the Talking Circle is a traditional way followed by Native Americans to informally create a platform for serious discussions. She also said that food forms the core of human society and through this talking circle the distinct identity of the Deccan will be highlighted. The Pro Vice Chancellor was of the view that geographical distinctiveness applies to all regions but it was clarified that Deccan developed its own distinct identity. The Vice Chancellor was appreciative of the idea of the Talking Circle and felt that it should be introduced in MANUU. Prof. Kancha Ilaiah said that the discussions of the Talking Circle should be recorded to be published. Prof.V. Ramakrishna asked the Centre to prepare a Think Paper on the theme.

The next point of the Plan of Action was on a book launch of a reprinted version of T.N. Devare's work *A Short History of Persian Literature at the Bahmani Courts*. Prof. A.S. Dalvi found this important and the Committee agreed to the launch of this book once it is reprinted.

Regarding the Translation of book from Urdu into English titled *The Development of Science and Technology during the Asaf Jahi Period* by Prof.S.A. Wahab the Committee felt that once the book is published in Urdu by a publisher, the Centre can consider bringing out the English version on the basis of the book reviews published and can acquire copyrights from the author and the publisher. The matter will be decided at a later date.

The Committee was appreciative of the fact that the Centre is in the process of making a glossary of terms used in different languages of the Deccan. It was noted that like *The Cartographic Profile of the Deccan* this would be the own work of the Centre.

The Director also informed that the Centre has started working on the theme of Endangered Languages of the Deccan. Since this project required mobilizing staff and resources it was put aside for the time being and will be taken up at a later date.

The Advisory Committee appreciated the work being done by BSNL in recreating Deccani architecture in the construction of the Centre for Deccan Studies.

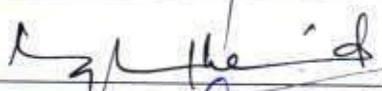
Mr. Ayoob Ali Khan proposed that in continuation of the awareness meeting being held on Conservation Challenges on 3rd June 2014 a conference can be held later on Conservation Architecture of the Deccan. Prof.K.R.Iqbal Ahmad suggested that a workshop of scholars can be held on different sources available in different languages of the Deccan.

Prof. Kancha Ilaiah suggested that the Centre has been doing piecemeal work and it should evolve a macro level project for itself. A historian's workshop can be conducted to decide on these matters.

Prof. Kancha Ilaiah suggested that the Centre for Deccan Studies can explore the possibility of having Scholars in Residence which is a UGC scheme. The Committee found this a good idea and the Vice Chancellor asked the Pro Vice Chancellor to make a note of it. Prof. Dalvi was of the view that a seminar should be held on Dakhni Language from the platform of the Centre and some fellowship can be instituted in the name of Deccani personalities.

In the closing remarks, the Vice Chancellor stated that the Centre of Deccan Studies is an independent entity and only one of its kind in the country. Other than the regular staff, Research Associates may be appointed intermittently depending on the nature of work and projects on a floating basis. This can be in the form of various levels of scholars/visiting fellows coming and getting attached to the Centre. The modalities can be worked out in this regard and expertise gained from such scholars can be compensated. He also felt that it should become a model in the country.

The block contains three handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature on the left is partially obscured and appears to be 'S. Dalvi'. The middle signature is dated '29/5' and is more stylized. The third signature on the right is a long, flowing cursive signature, likely belonging to the Vice Chancellor.

S.No	Members	Signature
1	Prof. Mohammad Miyan – Vice Chancellor, MANUU	
2	Dr. Khwaja M. Shahid – P.V.C, MANUU	
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