

# **Minutes of General Body Meeting (GBM) of The Robotics Society (TRS) Held on 19<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2020 (online)**

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome Address
2. Address by the President, TRS
3. Approval of minutes of previous GBM
4. Presentation of report of activities: Secretary
5. Ratification of decisions taken by Governing Council
6. Presentation of statement of accounts: Treasurer
7. Discussion on
  - a. TRS news letter
  - b. Membership and database
  - c. Creation of Standardization Cells in TRS
  - d. TRS activities for 2020-21
  - e. AIR 2021
  - f. Election of new Governing council.
7. Any other matter with the approval of the chair

The General Body Meeting (GBM) of The Robotics Society was held on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2020. Prof. T. Asokan (Secretary) welcomed the members present. Prof. Santanu Chaudhury (President) delivered the presidential address and emphasized the importance of having regular activities of the TRS and requested all members to actively participate in TRS programs.

## **Important discussion points and decisions.**

1. Prof. T. Asokan (Secretary) presented the previous GBM meeting minutes and the decisions. The minutes of earlier GBM were circulated over email and the members approved the minutes of the GBM. The minutes of the previous GBM is available on TRS website.
2. Prof. T. Asokan (Secretary) presented a report on the activities of the society in the last one year and provided the current status of the membership. The report is enclosed as Annexure 1.
3. Prof. Mohd Suhaib (Treasurer) presented the statement of last one year accounts and the general body approved the same (Annexure 2).
4. Secretary presented the decisions taken by the TRS GC during the governing council meetings (13<sup>th</sup> April, 3<sup>rd</sup> June in 2020). Some of the major decisions are:
  - a. TRS Governing council has decided to accept the 50% or more of the profit generated in AIR 2017 (IIT Delhi) and AIR 2019 (IIT Madras) as contribution to TRS from the organizing Institutes.
  - b. It was decided that TRS will extend financial support to conferences/workshops organized by Institutes on behalf of TRS. An MoU will be signed by the organisers and TRS for this purpose, detailing the support provided by TRS and the profit sharing method.
  - c. TRS will organise online seminar series, primarily for the benefit of TRS members. Some of the seminars will be made open to public to publicise the activities of TRS to a larger audience and to attract more members.

- d. TRS will collaborate with the Technology Innovation Hubs (TIH) for skill development and extension activities related to Robotics.
5. Validity of the student members (B.Tech, M.Tech and PhD) will be capped at 5 years. All the student memberships issued more than 5 years ago will be terminated. They will be given an option to convert to full membership, failing which the memberships will be cancelled.
6. In order to smoothen the process of membership management, it was decided to go for an online portal for membership. Dr. Buddhadeb Pradhan volunteered to create online members portal. A sub-committee of Dr. Shital Chiddarwar, Mr. Rajeevlochana and Dr. Buddhadeb Pradhan has been created to implement the same.
7. Proposal for a Journal by the Society: A sub-committee to be formed to look into the feasibility.
8. Three Student chapters (of erstwhile RSI): Punj Robotics (IIT Ropar), Army Institute of Technology (Pune) and NIT Calicut will have to fill up new Student Chapter form and reapply. Their older student chapter number (if it existed) can be assigned or it can be considered as new entries.
9. A proposal to let student chapter have a validity of 5 years was proposed. At the end of the term, their performance can be checked and then be continued.
10. Newsletters in 2019 (2 editions were released). In 2020, the first edition of newsletter will be finalized in next 1-2 weeks.
11. Standardisation cell in TRS: Prof. Saha suggested working in coordination with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for creation of a standardisation cell in TRS to develop/suggest standards for robotic systems. Secretary informed that currently Prof. S Ohol (COEP Pune) and Prof. Vinod (PSG Tech Coimbatore) are members of the BIS PGD 18 committee. The proposal to form a sub-committee/panel within BIS for robotics related activities, spearheaded by TRS, will be discussed further with BIS and suitable action will be initiated.
12. It was proposed to organize a Grand Challenge, open to students, by TRS. The competition could be Robotics hackathon. It can be publicised to the Student Chapters and also open to others. Prize money will be provided by TRS. A committee comprising Dr. Debanik Roy, Prof. Ohol, Dr. Srijan Bhattacharya, Dr. Saravana Perumal, and Prof. Vinay Patel has been formed to plan and conduct this event.
13. Prof. Saha requested for Rs. 100,000/- per annum for running the TRS offices at IIT Madras and IIT Delhi. This will be equally shared between IITM and IITD for staff and other expenses. GBM approved this request.
14. AIR 2021- Prof. Ashish Dutta informed that the website for AIR 2021 is ready and can be accessed at <http://www.advancesinrobotics.com/2021/>. Organizing Committee to be formed.
15. After a debate on to host AIR2021 offline (physical conference) or online, it was decided that the conference can be made completely online as the Covid pandemic has caused lot of travel and logistic restrictions. Changes to be made on the website accordingly.
16. Election of new Governing Council.
  - a. During AIR2017, a new Governing Council (GC) was created for the duration July 2017 to June 2020.
  - b. Secretary informed the need for electing a new Governing Council and explained the rules/regulations for the same.

After discussion, the GBM approved the continuation of the current GC for another term of three years with the inclusion of 4 additional members in place of those who completed 6 years as members.

    - i. Prof. G C Nandi, IIIT Allahabad
    - ii. Prof. Ekta Singla, IIT Ropar
    - iii. Dr Vinod B , PSG College of Technology Coimbatore
    - iv. Dr Budhadeb Pradhan, NIT Jamshedpur

The new GC is given below:

**President**

[Prof. Santanu Chaudhury](#)

Director, IIT Jodhpur and Professor (Electrical Engg)  
IIT Delhi, Delhi, India

**Vice-President(Academic)**

[Prof. Subir K. Saha](#)

Dept. of Mechanical Engg.  
IIT Delhi, Delhi, India

**Vice-President(R&D and Industry)**

[Dr. Debanik Roy](#)

BRNS/BARC, Mumbai, India

**Treasurer**

[Prof. Mohammed Suhaib](#)

Dept. of Mechanical Engg.  
Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi, India

**Secretary**

[Prof. T. Asokan](#)

Dept. of Engineering Design  
IIT Madras, Chennai, India

**Membership**

[Dr. Shital Chiddarwar](#)

Dept. of Mechanical Engg.  
VNIT Nagpur, Nagpur, India

**Editor (Newsletter)**

[Dr. Sudheer A. P.](#)

Dept. of Mechanical Engg.  
NIT Calicut, Kozhikode, Kerala, India

**Student Activity Coordinators**

[Dr. Pushparaj M. Pathak](#)

Dept. of Mechanical Engg.  
IIT Roorkee, Roorkee, India

**Web Coordinator**

[Mr. Rajeevlochana G. Chittawadigi](#)

Dept. of Mechanical Engg.  
Amrita Viswa Vidyapeetham University, Bangalore,  
India

[Dr. Shantipal S. Ohol](#)

Dept. of Mechanical Engg.  
College of Engineering, Pune, India

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**Additional Members**

Mr. Manjit Singh (BARC Retired)  
Prof. Ashish Dutta (IIT Kanpur)  
Prof. Shibata Tomohiro (Kyushu Inst. of Tech., Japan)  
Prof. G C Nandi, IIIT Allahabad

Prof. Ekta Singla, IIT Ropar  
Prof. B Vinod, PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore  
Dr Budhadeb Pradhan, NIT Jamshedpur  
Mr. Amudhan A. N. (NIT Calicut)  
Mr Ashish Majithiya (Nirma University)

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17. Any other matters

- i. TRS journal: Prof. Santanu suggested for exploration of TRS publishing a journal in association with reputed publishers. It was suggested to have a committee to look into this possibility.
- ii. Mr. Rajeevlochana mentioned that the TRS will be having its 10<sup>th</sup> year in 2021. It will be good to announce the journal during the 10<sup>th</sup> year celebration.
- iii. Dr Shibata suggested having a special issue in Advanced Robotics journal to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was welcomed by all and Prof. Shibata volunteered to explore further.
- iv. It was suggested to have online webinar series for undergraduate students. It was decided to have a series on ROS. Dr Suril Shah volunteered to coordinate this activity.
- v. Prof. Ashish Singla offered to share his teaching videos through TRS platform for the benefit of students. This was accepted by the members.

Without any further matters to discuss, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks. The list of attendees of the online meeting is enclosed as Annexure 3.

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## **Annexure 1: Report on Activities for the Period 2019-2020**

This report presents the current status on the membership of the society and the activities carried out in the last one year.

The total number of members (student as well as lifetime members) as on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 is 1342.

For the last one year we were engaging proactively with the robotics community and our sustained publicity efforts, we have added **234** members (Both Life time & Student), **one** corporate member and **three student chapters**.

Currently we have eight Student Chapters (TRS-SC) and three Corporate Members (TRS-CM). They are:

### **TRS-SC**

1. **College of Engg, Pune, Maharashtra.**
2. **N.B.K.R. Institute of Science & Technology, Vidyanagar, Nellur Dist, Andhra Pradesh**
3. **RCC Institute of Information Technology, Beliaghata, Kolkata, West Bengal**
4. **Amrutvahini College of Engineering, Amrutnagar, Sangamner, Maharashtra**
5. **JSPM'S Rajarshi Shahu College of Engineering, Pune, Maharashtra**
6. **Muthayammal Engineering College, Namakkal Dist, Tamil Nadu**
7. **BVM Engineering College, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Gujarat**
8. **Karunya Institute of Technology & Sciences, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**

### **TRS-CM**

1. **AKGEC Skills**
2. **The Hi-Tech Robotics Systems Ltd**
3. **Schunk**

Few more are in the pipeline.

TRS in association with other institutes organised many workshops and conferences. Technical sponsorship has been offered for the following conferences held/to be held:

1. "National conference on Robotics & Mechatronics-2020" on 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2020, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi.
2. First International conference "Robotics, Intelligent Automation and Control Technologies (RIACT 2020)" on between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 (Virtual) at VIT, Chennai.
3. The 28<sup>th</sup> IEEE International Conference on Robot & Human Interactive Communication (Ro-Man 2019) at Le Meridien, Windsor Place, New Delhi, India, India ( Oct 14-18, 2019)
4. International conference, RoSMa2020 in Dec 2020 at IITDM, Chennai- 127. Due to Covid-19, the conference is postponed to Dec 2021.
5. International Conference on Industrial Instrumentation & Control (I2C-2021), on 20<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021 at RCC Institute of Information Technology, Beliaghata, Kolkata.

## **Workshops**

AICTE Sponsored Faculty Development Program on “Robotics System Design: Fundamentals, Challenges and Applications”, jointly organized by IIT Ropar and The Robotics Society, during November 2-6, 2020.

Faculty Development Programme and Training on “Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and Control (RAIAC 2020),” Sponsored by TEQIP-III NIT Calicut and India-Korea Joint Network Centre for Robotics (IKJNCR) – IIT Delhi, at NIT Calicut, Kozhikode, Kerala, India

## **TRS News Letter**

TRS published two newsletters in the last year. Nov. 2019, and June 2019

## **Online Lecture Series**

Considering the lockdown due to Covid 19, TRS started a new initiative to have monthly webinars on robotics related topics.

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020: Robotics in the Times of Covid-19
2. On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020: Robotics in Healthcare

Overall, we could make a good impact in the last one year and hope to continue the momentum. Request the support from all the members to make TRS an active society.

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## Annexure 2: Statement of Accounts: 2019-2020

THE ROBOTIC SOCIETY					
RECEIPT & PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 2020					
Receipts	For the Year ended 31/03/2020 Amount (Rs.)	For the Year ended 31/03/2019 Amount (Rs.)	Payments	For the Year ended 31/03/2020 Amount (Rs.)	For the Year ended 31/03/2019 Amount (Rs.)
Op. Balance on 01.04.2019			Bank Charges	649.00	649.00
- Bank Account	3,82,677.00	58,326.00	Payment of GST		-
- Cash in Hand	-	-	Website Renewal Charges	12,348.57	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	3,82,677.00	58,326.00	Journal Expenses	26,130.00	-
			Support Expenses	25,000.00	-
Add: Receipts during the year			<b>Sub Total</b>	64,127.57	649.00
- Membership Fees (excluding GST)	3,61,360.00	3,25,000.00			
			<b>Closing Balances on 31.03.2020:</b>		
			- Bank Account	6,79,909.43	3,82,677.00
			- Cash in Hand	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,44,037.00</b>	<b>3,83,326.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,44,037.00</b>	<b>3,83,326.00</b>
				-	-
Subject to our Audit Report of Even Date					
<b>For K.S. GUPTA &amp; CO.,</b>					
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS,					
<b>P. K. GUPTA</b>					
<i>Partner</i>			<i>(President)</i>		<i>(Treasurer)</i>
M. NO. 085506					
FRN. 001180N					
DATE: 30/09/2020					
PLACE : NEW DELHI					
<b>UDIN:</b>					

### Annexure 3: List of Attendees of the Online GBM

Sl.No	Members Name	Sl.No	Members Name
1	J.Abinayasree	27	Kunal Nawasagare
2	Suril Shah	28	Amey
3	Ashish Dutta	29	Rajeevlochana Chittawadigi
4	N. Amudhan	30	Meher Madhu
5	Sudheer A P	31	Mohd. Suhaib
6	Pramod Kumar Thotapalli	32	Pranav Deosant
7	Ashish Singla	33	P.K.Mohanty
8	Ashish Thakkar	34	M.Madheswaran
9	Ashish Majithiya	35	P M Pathak
10	Asokan T	36	Shyamanta M Hazarika
11	Pradhan ca	37	Subir Kumar Saha
12	Chakravarthi Jada	38	Satoko Shibata
13	Debanik Roy	39	Senthil Kumar
14	Dinakarr J	40	Shital S. Chiddarwar
15	Santanu Chaudhury	41	Sivasankar G
16	D D Ray	42	Srijan Bhattacharya
17	Vignesh S G	43	Shantipal Ohol
18	Ekta	44	Saravana Perumaal S
19	G C Nandi	45	Sudarshan T S B
20	Kanagaraj ganesan	46	Surendra Singh Saini
21	Gowdaman R	47	R Thanigaivelan
22	Vinod	48	Vijay Dalla
23	Harishankar Singh Yadav	49	Vilas Shinde
24	Indhu E	50	Vineet Vashista
25	Ishwaariya	51	Vinay Patel
26	Jaydip Nandi	52	Vijay Kumar Gupta