

Minutes of PRSG Meeting held on 24th August 2013 at IIT Madras

Title of the project: Novel Educational/Pedagogical application on Aakash platform

Date: 24/08/2013

Time: 15.30 – 16.00

Venue: IC&SR, IIT Madras

Committee Members:

Timothy A Gonsalves, IIT Mandi

Uday B Desai, IIT Hyderabad (co-opted)¹

Rajat Moona (through Video Conference), C- DAC, Pune

G. Venkatesh (through Video Conference), IIT Madras and Sasken

Project Coordinator:

Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras

Project Staff:

Gayathri Gurumurthy, IITM

Smrithi Vijayakumar, IITM

I. Presentation

The objective of the project is to create an educational ecosystem and creating a team of skilled people to build high quality educational content and software tools to deliver the content and manage learning process ported on Aakash.

- Gayathri Gurumurthy of IITM presented on updates from Application development labs set up as the AADLs across at IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Mandi, IIT Guwahati and IIT Madras.
- The discussions threw light on the set of applications that can be ported on Aakash that are at different stages of development at the 5 labs.
- Similarly a list of applications being developed at the various AADLs was also presented such as
 - The interactive e book application being developed at IITM and a demo of the same was given to the committee members.
 - Other applications from IIT such as the exam management application, collaborative learning app, peer review app were also presented and discussed.
 - Port Magic –Application for teaching electronics, IITK
 - Functional literacy, functional aid and communication aid being developed for disabled users by IITK
 - Online Repository of Picture library, talking keyboard and Aakash Bani being developed for visual and motor disability by IITKGP
 - Applications like Doubt buster, eBalckboard, Note mania, Aakash Ayurveda by students at IIT Mandi
 - Applications such as Speak2Learn, Formula App ,Library book reminder app, Mess calorie calculator, Note taker by IIT Guwahati

¹In view of his relevant expertise, Prof. Uday B. Desai (Director, IIT-Hyderabad and Professor, Electrical Engg) was co-opted.

- The presentation also included the status of student training at the respective AADLs. 1,000 students have been trained so far from all AADLs put together, post which interested students are being involved in application development
- Also covered was collaboration with private e learning companies and their areas of work.
- **Accounts of the current usage of funds were presented.**

Out of the total funds of Rs 5.00 crores sanctioned, a mobilisation advance of Rs 150 lakhs was obtained and a sum of Rs. 133.08 lakhs (including commitments in August and expenditure till July 2013) was spent. The AADLs at IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Mandi, and IIT Guwahati have run out of funds and have requested release of more funds.

- IIT Kanpur - Total funds agreed for AADL is Rs.75 lakhs and Rs.18.75 Lakhs was disbursed.
- IIT Mandi - Total funds agreed for AADL is Rs.50 lakhs and Rs.12.50 Lakhs was disbursed.
- IIT Guwahati - Total funds agreed for AADL is Rs.55 lakhs and Rs.28.75 Lakhs was disbursed including commitment.
- IIT Kharagpur - Total funds agreed for AADL is Rs.70 lakhs and Rs.32.50 Lakhs was disbursed including commitment.

II. Discussions

- While presenting on the Exam Management Application developed at IIT Madras, as a step towards improving the efficiency of the application, Prof Moona suggested that the encryption-decryption technology and bandwidth requirement involved in the app must be reviewed. Likewise the need to have greater clarity on the technical aspects of administering the exam through the tool was emphasised.
- Dr Uday stressed on the need to involve outside resources – dedicated teachers from regional institutes etc – to develop the content to be ported on Aakash.
- The requirement now should be to focus on developing content, given that the AADLs have developed several applications was brought forth. The idea to put up the apps in the market as an incentive mechanism to attract greater student participation was suggested.

III. Recommendations

Since the balance fund for the project was Rs 16.92 Lakhs and next release of funds have been requested by the IITs, it is recommended that Rs 1.5 Crore be immediately released.

– signed –
 Prof. T.A. Gonsalves
 Chair, PRSG
 10/9/2013