

Record of Recommendations/Decisions Adopted by the Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) at its Twelfth Meeting held in Gaziantep, Turkey on 07-08 December 2011

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A. Opening of the Meeting (Agenda item A)

1. The Private Sector Consultative Board (PSCB) reviewed the status of the Associate Members of the IJSG and suggested that the PSCB should have more Associate Members to include exporters, importers, traders, market experts, manufacturers and NGOs to make the Board more effective. The Board further suggested that request letters may be sent from the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the PSCB to all prospective Associate Members, particularly in consuming countries to join as Associate Members (**Agenda item A4**).
2. The Board noted the position of renewal of Associate Membership. The PSCB decided to send letters of request to all Associate Members to renew their membership on time (**Agenda item A4**).
3. The Board noted the financial statement of the PSCB (**Agenda item A5**).

B. Discussion on Ideas and Recommendations made in the PSCB Meeting (Agenda item B)

a) Sharing of information generated including technologies developed by R&D Institutions on jute and jute goods and related matters

4. The Board noted with satisfaction the successful holding of Seminars/Workshops in Nepal, Malaysia, Pakistan, Myanmar and Syria and participation of IJSG as a Golden Fibre partner in the International Symposium on Kenaf and Allied Fibres held in China in 2007. The IJSG was also a co-sponsor in organising a) the International Symposium on Jute and Allied Fibres Production, Utilisation and Marketing in Kolkata, India in January 2008 and b) the International Symposium on Renewable Feedstock for Bio-fuel and Bio-based Products in Austin, USA in August 2010. The Board requested the IJSG Secretariat to hold similar Seminars/Workshops in suitable countries like Australia/Indonesia/Vietnam/Thailand/Russian Federation/Uzbekistan to promote sharing of information on R&D activities as well as on development of technologies apart from the drive on new membership for IJSG.
5. The Board also requested the concerned Associate Members to send the reports of any study undertaken by their respective R&D Institutions/Organisations/Associations to the IJSG Secretariat so that the Secretariat could inform all the Associate Members of these reports/studies.
6. The Board requested the Associate Members to assist the IJSG Secretariat in holding a Seminar/Workshop in a suitable country interested in the matter.

b) Tariff and non-tariff barriers relating to jute and jute products

7. The Board decided to take necessary steps to compile a database of tariffs on Jute and Jute products and non-tariff barriers as well as logistic barriers relating to Jute and Jute products in different producing and importing countries. The Board requested all Associate Members to submit information in this regard to the IJSG Secretariat for compilation.
8. The Board recommended that the IJSG Council may appeal to all importing countries to suitably remove/reduce tariffs and to remove non-tariff barriers on Jute, Jute products, Jute machinery and spares.

c) Strategy for promotion of marketing of technical textiles including jute geo-textiles

9. The Board noted with satisfaction the initiative taken by the IJSG Secretariat in implementing a project on jute geo-textiles involving Bangladesh, India and UK.

d) Improvement of processing machinery and Productivity

10. The Board noted the comments of the delegates and expressed the necessity to appropriately address the issue of improvement of jute processing machinery for increasing productivity and producing quality products.

e) Training on Enzyme Production and Application for jute mill personnel of Pakistan

11. The Board noted the comments of the delegates and suggested to drop the idea for the time being as PJMA appears to be no longer interested in the matter.

f) Cooperation with buyers'/consumers' organisation

12. The Board noted the comments of the delegates and emphasized on the necessity of increasing cooperation among the buyers' and consumers' organisations.

g) Promotional activities including Disposal Protocol for Jute Products

13. The Board appreciated the initiative taken by the IJSG Secretariat in taking up a project on this issue.

h) Training of Jute Mills personnel

14. The Board appreciated the initiative taken by the IJSG in organizing Training Programmes for Jute Mill personnel of various countries in Dhaka.
15. The Board also appreciated the organisation of a 10 day training programme for Jute Entrepreneurs/ Exporters/ Artisans/ Designers on Design and Product Development of Jute Diversified Product (JDP) especially the Jute Bags during October 24, 2011 to November 2, 2011 at the IJSG Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh conducted by the faculties of National Centre for Design and Product Development (NCDPD), India.

16. The Board noted the initiative taken by IJSG to (a) organise a similar training program in Chennai, India during 16-23 December 2011 in collaboration with National Jute Board (NJB) & NCDPD, India and (b) to organise a training program to develop skills of the rural women in producing jute based handicraft products in collaboration with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), Dhaka.

17. The Board noted the comments of the delegates and decided that similar training programmes may be organised in future for the skill development of jute mills personnel of Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal and other countries. The necessary funds for organizing the training programmes may be provided by the IJSG or may partly be provided from the PSCB fund and partly by the interested Associations/Mills.

i) Improvement of the Fibre Quality and Fibre Yield

18. The board noted the comments of the delegates and emphasized on the necessity of improvement of fibre quality and yield of fibres.

j) Overall Strategy for the Jute Sector

19. The board appreciated the strategy being followed by the IJSG.

C. Consideration of Recommendations of the Tenth meeting of the PSCB to be submitted to the Council of the IJSG.

20. The Board recommended that the IJSG council may appeal to all importing countries to suitably remove/reduce tariffs and to remove non-tariff barriers on Jute, Jute products, Jute machinery and spares.

D. Date(s) of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Private Sector Consultative Board

21. The Board suggested to hold the Thirteenth PSCB meeting in USA/Australia/Myanmar/Pakistan/Thailand and authorized the Chairman to fix a suitable date of the Thirteenth PSCB meeting in consultation with Vice-Chairmen and the Secretary General of the IJSG (**Agenda item F**).

F. Adoption of the Record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Tenth Meeting of the PSCB

22. The Board authorized Mr. Md Siddiqur Rahman, Consultant (Operations) and Secretary, PSCB to finalise the record of Recommendations/Decisions of the Twelfth meeting of the PSCB which will be circulated at the Fourteenth Session of the Council of IJSG. (**Agenda item G**).