

Memorandum on the Second Russian-Indian Network Universities Meeting (October, 4 - 10, 2017 Moscow - Tomsk)

National Research Tomsk state university as the Coordinator of the Russian-Indian Network (RIN) from the Russian side together with Moscow state university by M.V. Lomonosov and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay with the assistance and support of the Embassy of the Republic of India in the Russian Federation initiated the organization of the Second Russian-Indian Network Universities Meeting in autumn 2017.

The Second Russian-Indian Network Universities Meeting marked the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation. As a result, the Meeting was held at Moscow state university by M.V. Lomonosov (October, 4-7) and at Tomsk state university (October, 8-10).

The Meeting was aimed at establishing direct contacts among researchers and relevant managers in order to promote cooperation development among the universities of Russian and India for strengthening their educational, scientific and cultural interaction. In addition, it was pointed at seeking the opportunity for discussing further Russian-Indian cooperation in the spheres of education, science and technologies.

The participants of the Second RIN Meeting got the opportunity to familiarize not only with the leading universities of Moscow and Saint-Petersburg but also with the universities of the Asian part of Russia. Therefore, holding the Meeting in two different parts of Russia - the European and the Asian ones - gain special meaning. The universities of Moscow and Saint-Petersburg are well-known around the world and occupy rather high positions in international universities' rankings. The universities of the Asian part of Russia are less known abroad; however, they possess huge potential for mutually beneficial cooperation. For instance, Tomsk state university occupies 323rd position in QS University Ranking 2017, Novosibirsk state technical university is included in Times Higher Education BRICS and Emerging Economies Rankings.

The following representatives of the Indian RIN members took part in the Second Russian-Indian Network Universities Meeting:

Professor Uday B. Desai, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad;

Professor Rajiv Onkar Dusane, Vice-Chancellor for International Relations, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Indian Counterpart);

Professor Ashok Kumar Mishra, Dean Academic Research, Indian Institute of Technology Madras;

Professor Sandeep Sen, Department of Computer Science and Engineering & Dean (Faculty), Indian Institute of Technology Delhi;

Associate Professor Sagar Mitra,
Department of Energy Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
(Indian Counterpart);

Professor Neeraj Misra, Dean of Academic Affairs, Indian Institute of Technology
Kanpur;

Dr Asif Ekbal, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering/
Associate Dean, Research and Development, Indian Institute of Technology Patna;

Associate Professor Mohd Ashraf Iqbal, Department of Civil Engineering, Indian
Institute of Technology Roorkee;

Representatives of almost all Russian RIN members took part in the Second Russian-
Indian Network Universities Meeting.

During the Second RIN Meeting the participants familiarized with the achievements
and the level of International Relations development at the universities - RIN members as
well as visited a number of Russian universities including Peoples' Friendship University of
Russia, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, National University of Science and
Technology MISiS, Moscow State University by M.V. Lomonosov, National Research
Tomsk State University, National Research Tomsk Polytechnic University, Tomsk State
University of Control Systems and Radioelectronics and Siberian State Medical University.

The representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of India in the Russian Federation
also took part in the Second Russian-Indian Network Universities Meeting. In particular, the
Ambassador of India, His Excellence Mr Pankaj Saran took part in the Moscow part of the
Meeting. Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Balasubramanian Gangadharan and Counselor for
Science and Technology Mr Saurabh Kumar took part in Tomsk part of the Meeting.

During the Second Russian-Indian Network Meeting the following decisions were
taken:

- the Statute of the Russian-Indian Network was initialed by approbation of all the
representatives of the RIN members present. Afterwards the Statute should be sent to all the
Rectors of the RIN Members for the signature;

- it was offered to make a list of research spheres cooperation in which may be mutually
beneficial for both sides. In particular, a number of such research spheres was outlined
including Big Data, Detectors and Sensors, Energy, Smart materials, Urban planning and
development, Climate change and Environmental Protection⁴

- it was decided to promote the creation of a number of joint research groups (from 1 to
5) that could hold their meetings approximately in March - May of the following year. The
representatives of Indian RIN members offered to hold such meetings at their universities
(IIT Delhi and IIT Hyderabad);

- it was suggested that there is urgent need to bring to the notice the need for creating
the fund for financing joint research projects in addition to the active involvement of existing
financial instruments for academic mobility and research support from both Russian and
Indian sides;

- the opportunity of holding a large-scale scientific event during the following year was discussed;

- the idea of holding one joint educational event devoted to the personalization of higher education and new technologies in education was expressed;

- it was offered to announce joining of the RIN conditional on the availability of the applying university to contribute effectively to the development of Russian-Indian relations in the spheres of higher education, science and technologies. Therefore, it was suggested that the relevant procedure should be elaborated;

- 5 applications were submitted by Russian universities for joining Russian-Indian Network that will be then assessed and approved after the establishment of the relevant procedure;

- the attention of the participants was drawn to the fact that the persons responsible for the maintenance of the RIN official web-site from both Russian and Indian sides should be appointed;

- it was offered to hold the Third Russian-Indian Network Meeting the next year in one of the Indian Institutes of Technology;

In conclusion, the participants of the Meeting expressed their gratitude to the Russian side for the organization of the event and expressed their wish to proceed with the cooperation within the Russian-Indian Network.