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DFG Office, New Delhi

New Delhi, 19th May 2009

Minutes of Meeting

1. Round table discussion for the setting up of a „German Science- and Innovation House“ (DWIH) Delhi on 14th May 2009

Place: DFG Office India, Meeting Room German House (2, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi)

Meeting started at : 14 hrs.

Meeting ended at : 17 hrs.

Participants: see attachment

Attachments: DFG-Presentation of Project plan as well as of possible Functions- and Organisation structure of DWIH Delhi

TOP 1. Introduction

Dr. Fischer greeted the participants and explained the purpose of the round table discussion from the perspective of DFG:

- The Delhi based German organisations should have timely opportunity, to express their interests in DWIH Delhi and informally, provide information about possible participation or non-participation as the case maybe.
- Defining the elements of possible functions of DWIH Delhi within the spectrum of all locally based German organisations.

After being approved, the minutes of the meeting would be forwarded through DFG Headquarters in Bonn to the Alliance of German Science Organisations, AA and BMBF.

There are no additions to the agenda.

Mr. Fischer discussed briefly the stand of the Alliance – AG, FO and BMBF to the DWIHs in the world. Mr. Wirth confirmed this information and underlined the high priority the setting up of DWIH has from the point of view of the FO. He pointed out that the federation has already set aside a sum of 3 Million Euros in the 2009 budget of FO for the setting up of all 5 DWIHs. The FO is supposed to have projected a similar sum in the budgets of 2010 and 2011.

Mr. Fischer explained the key points of the project plan – as verified by DFG in alliance with other interested organisations in the meeting of 27th March 2009 - for the setting up of DWIH Delhi. He added, that the DFG's grants requisition for the financing of the DWIH set up plan has been sent to the FO.

The following points of the project plan were discussed in the meeting:

- Location of DWIH Delhi:

- On enquiry from Ms. Gorawantschy, Mr. Fischer told about the efforts of the DFG, to expeditiously identify an appropriate property in the proximity of the present „German House“. The objective is to lease a property and to revamp it through renovation for long term use.
- Thanks to the survey by BS Delhi, DAAD and MPG since the beginning of 2009 some properties have already been visited by DFG (Delhi office as well as Headquarters Bonn). The search is however turning out to be difficult as the housing market is still over heated. The inspected sites are: TERI University Annex, properties in Vasant Vihar (residential area), defence colony

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(commercial area) as well as the former Japanese cultural institute. The search would be continued through the summer by DFG.

- „Variable Geometry“ of the participating organisations:
 - o On enquiry from Dr. Chandra, Mr. Fischer explained, that the DFG is proposing to keep the number of participants variable, so that an organisation is allowed a right to exit from the consortium any time or to enter the consortium after the beginning of the „Operating phase“ as the case may be. The same applies to the joint activities of the DWIH, which must not always be executed by all the participating organisations. Nevertheless it is important for the setting up of the DWIH, that a majority of „important“ organisations are involved as participants in the consortium right from the start of the „Operating Phase“. Research oriented Universities and representatives of Industries (for eg. Associations) are also supposed to be a part of this.

Differentiation of value addition of a DWIH Delhi through the formation of a „professional office consortium“

- o Ms. Schlottmann posed a question on the term „professional office consortium“ and requested for a definition of value addition of such a community. Ms. Hillger emphasised, that the value addition of the functions of a DWIH must be made clear from the start. Mr. Dreyer referred to the areas of conflict in the projected crossover between the institutional autonomy of participating organisations on the one hand and a joint program portfolio on the other hand.

Further discussion of this point was postponed to TOP2.

- Role and function of the „Board of Directors“ (BoD)
 - o On enquiry from Mr. Dreyer Mr. Fischer explained that this board is planned as a local „supervisory board“, which manages the operational matters of the DWIH. All the participating institutions of the DWIH Delhi should be members of this board, similar to the individual departments of Max Planck Institutes. The Board of Directors should be under the control of a „Program Director“, who should handle the administrative affairs and should, jointly with the BoD, develop an operations – portfolio and marketing concept.
- Sustainable Financing of the DWIH Delhi:
 - o Dr. Wirth pointed that the funds have been provided only for the start up phase. The sustained financing of the DWIH Delhi must – as with the DWIHs in other locations – be ensured by the participating organisations as well as through project funds.

Finally, it was noted that the project plan will be accepted by all participating organisations in its proposed form as a basis for the set up of the DWIH Delhi. Only the term „professional office consortium“ is to be defined. (s.u. TOP2)

TOP 2 Potential functions of DWIH Delhi, formulation of the elements of function and organisation concepts

Mr. Fischer elaborated a proposal developed by DFG for function and organisation concepts of the DWIH Delhi (s. Attachment „Presentation“ serial nr. 5.1. and 5.2.)

The following points were discussed in this regard:

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- The abstract idea of an office community, which works independently as well carries out joint activities simulatenously, is not enough according to Ms. Schlottmann. The basic idea of establishing value addition through cooperation in „form“ and „content“ (Elaboration see „Presentation“, serial no. 5.1) remains unclear in this respect, as the locally based organisations in Delhi are already working in close cooperation.
- Ms. Ebeling affirmed the high interest of GTZ in participation in DWIH and announced the participation of personnel of GTZ (field of projects). However, GTZ could make any definitive confirmation regarding space requirements only on the basis of concrete cost planing.
- Ms. Bannach, Ms. Gorawantschy and Mr. Christ consider joint activies significant, only if these are defined in advance during medium term planing. In this context, Ms. Hillger suggested initiating survey in Germany beforehand for determining the requirements in order to identify meaningful interfaces.
- Mr. Chirst proposed to undertake a Cost-Benefit Analysis well in advance for the DWIH Delhi. Each Organisation should obviously decide for itself, whether the additional costs for participation are justified in comparison to the still undefined value addition. Mr. Wirth pointed out the financial advantages of a DWIH: every organisation based in Delhi should expect economization through the utilisation of common personnel / space in this manner.
- Mr Staschenuk suggested, to incorporate different „calculation examples“ in the needsanalysis for illustrating the potential extra costs.

Mr. Fischer suggested the setting up of a workgroup for differentiation of the functions concept till the next round table discussion. The following persons have agreed for cooperation on this: Mr. Christ, Ms. Ebeling, Mr. Fischer, Mr. Kahle, Ms. Schlottmann, a representative of the political foundations would be named by Mr. Bauer in the next 14 days.

It was further agreed, that Mr. Fischer and Mr. Kahle have a discussion soon with Ms. Hochstettler (currently BS of Switzerland, designated Head of SwissHouse Bangalore), to obtain more information from the swiss experiences, regarding the function plan and longterm financing for the setting up of DWIH Delhi.

[Note: In the mean time the discussion with Ms. Hochstettler was scheduled for 18.5]

TOP 3. Potential Partners of a DWIH Delhi

Mr. Fischer elaborated on a proposal compiled by the DFG for the determination of space-requirement of DWIH Delhi (s. Attachment „Presentation“ serial nr. 6). He requested the participants of the meeting for a „Tour de Table“ for evaluation of potential participation in DWIH Delhi.

On behalf of their organisations all the participants expressed interest to be considered in the needs analysis being done by DFG Headoffice in July 2009. However, they requested for a detailed breakdown of the expected costs.

In detail:

- Ms. Kumari expressed the interest of FU by personnel representation in DWIH.
- Ms. Schlottmann affirmed the interest on behalf of DAAD in entering DWIH.
- Ms. Ebeling confirmed the high interest of GTZ in participation in DWIH and announced participation of personnel of GTZ (projects). However, any definitive

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confirmation regarding space requirements could be made only on the basis of concrete cost planing.

- Mr. Kahle confirmed the interest of MPG in DWIH by representation of own personnel.
- Mr. Christ elucidated the currently favorable situation of DIHK as users of „German House“. So currently there is no need for personnel participation in a DWIH Delhi. However, he does not exclude a close cooperation for eg. through the further utilisation of the premises of DWIH Delhi.
- Mr. Christ, Mr. Bauer and Mr. Ginsbach would be interested in the common usage of a „lecture hall“. Mr. Ginsbach emphasised the fact that a proximity of DWIH to the German School could be very useful. At present the German School is planning the implementation of a „preparatory course“.
- Mr. Wirth agreed to send the minutes of the meeting on the topic „preparatory course“ to the participants of the round table meeting.
- Ms. Chandra stated for the AvH that the foundation wants to place its „Ambassador Scientists“ in DWIH in all 5 countries. This applies to New Delhi also.
- Ms. Hillger evinced the interest of SAI in entering DWIH, but pointed out that due to its limited budget the SAI positions itself on the commitment of the University of Heidelberg. The university has stated its high interest in participation, so that the SAI could possibly act for the university. However, till now the rector’s office has not taken any formal decision to that effect. Mr Bauer pointed to the April visit of the Mayor of Heidelberg to Delhi and suggested, that all Heidelberg institutions (incl. the „Heidelberg Club“) are taking up a joint initiative for participation in DWIH.
- Ms. Gorawantschy considered the idea of a DWIH Delhi as very positive for KAS. There could be a series of possible content overlapping. A participation of personnel is at present not planned, nonetheless, they might consider close cooperation and occasional utilisation of the premises for seminar.
- Mr. Dreyer expressed the interest of MMB/Goethe Institute on coopeation on projects. For instance, he could think of a part of language class being conducted in the DWIH.

TOP 4. Conclusions and Prospects

Mr. Fischer once again summarised the most important outcomes of the meeting. A consensus was reached on the following points:

- DFG Project plan for setting up of DWIH Delhi
- For defining the functions concept of the DWIH – especially in view of the „professional office consortium“ – a work group has been formed, which would be meeting for the first time in the second week of August.
- The long term financing of the DWIH Delhi must be clarified soon in Germany (Alliance, AA, BMBF) by the member organisations. The consortium of the Alliance should be requested, to communicate a proposal for solution with respect to this issue to the organisations in Delhi soon.
- For calculation of the extra costs the DFG was requested to define the values in the needs analysis starting July 2009, on the basis of which the potential partitcating organisations could plan their financial expenses.

Consensus was achieved, that only those representatives would be invited for the 2nd round table meeting, whose organisations express participation in DWIH Delhi formally to DFG as a result of the needs analysis of the DFG.

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All other organisations would be informed of further developments bi annually – either in plenary meetings or in writing.