

**Text of the proceedings of the Conference on the formation of International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes (IFFTI) held on 10 - 11 November, 1998 at NIFT Campus, New Delhi, India.**

The proceedings of the Conference commenced after a warm welcome to all the delegates by Executive Director, NIFT and Chief Co-ordinator of the Conference.

2. The need for having a Chairman of the Conference was deliberated by all the delegates present and it was recognised that it would be appropriate to have the Chairperson of the host Institute to be the Chairman of the Conference. The name of Mr. Shyamal Ghosh, Secretary (Textiles) and Chairman, NIFT was proposed by Mr. Edward Newton and seconded by Mr. Amnon Armoni, Mr Shyamal Ghosh was elected as Chairman of the Conference unanimously.

3. After taking over the Chair, Mr Shyamal Ghosh thanked the delegates for having reposed the confidence in him and expected to have a fruitful deliberation on the various issues.

4. The Chairman of the Conference suggested that there should be two or three Vice Chairmen to assist him in conducting the proceedings. Having regard to the role played by the Institutions and the personalities associated with these Institutions, in the preliminary talks held at New York in May, 1998 regarding the proposal on IFFTI, the delegates decided unanimously to elect the following as Vice Chairmen of this Conference:-

1. Prof. M. Renzulli - Fashion Institute of Technology, USA.
2. Mr. Amnon Armoni - Institut Francais, de la Mode, France
3. Prof. Edward Newton - The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
4. Prof. David Elson - The Nottingham Trent University, U.K.

Having regard to the fact that the formalities for the establishment of IFFTI will take some time more, it was decided that the persons elected in this Conference as Chairman and Vice Chairmen will continue to hold their offices till the next Annual Conference in 1999. The meeting also decided to co-opt the distinguished Representative of the Universidade Anhembi Morumbi, Brazil as Vice Chairmen till the Annual Conference considering that this Institution will be hosting the Conference in Brazil.

5. At the request of the Chairman, Ms. Anita Sahni, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee on the Delegates / Observers to the Conference,

presented the report of the Committee. (copy enclosed at Annexure-1). The Delegates endorsed the report, after clarification by the delegate from NIFT that the persons included as Delegates or Observers to the Conference were based on the communication received from the respective Member Institutions participating in the Conference. It was also clarified that in the event any issue was to be decided on the basis of voting, each participating institution would have only one vote.

6. The Chairman suggested that the Conference should consider the Conference Papers circulated by the Secretariat of the Conference, including the draft Action Plan for 1999 placed on the table at the time of the Meeting.

### **6.1 Background note on IFFTI - (FFTI/CONF/1/98)**

The Delegate from NIFT made a presentation of the document explaining the stages that were involved prior to the commencement of this Conference and the features of the Draft Agreement already made available to the delegates for consideration.

The Chairman requested the delegates to consider *ad seriatim* the issues listed in the Background note.

#### **1. Need for Establishment of IFFTI :**

- Based on the proceedings of the Plenary session held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1998 and the various informal sessions held with the delegates, the Chairman noted that there is unanimity on the establishment of IFFTI and accordingly the delegates unanimously decided to take steps to form IFFTI.

#### **2. Should there be a formal Agreement amongst the Member-Institutes interested / intending to set up the Foundation ?**

- After discussion on the subject, the delegates agreed that there should be a Formal Agreement amongst the participating institutions on the establishment of IFFTI. It was, however, noted that the Institutions could enter into such a Formal Agreement only after they secure the necessary approval / mandate from their appropriate authorities.
- The Delegate from NIFT informed the delegates in this context that the Draft Agreement which had already been circulated would be suitably modified incorporating the suggestions / decisions arrived in

this Conference for final decision by the appropriate authorities of the respective Institutions

**3. What is the legal framework of this Foundation and should it be on the model of any of the UN specialised bodies like FAO, UNIDO, WHO or International Commodity Organisations like IJO, INRO, ICO, etc.?**

The Delegate from NIFT explained the features and status of some of the International Bodies / Organisations like ITMF (International Textile Machinery Manufacturers Federation), ISA (International Silk Association), ITAF (International Textile and Apparel Federation) and stated that from the experience of functioning of these bodies there does not exist any particular legal complication for a body like IFFTI to be established. However, the organisation should function within the broad framework of the laws and regulations of the country where the Headquarters of the Organisation is proposed to be established. However, if any of the provisions of the proposed Agreement run counter to any of the laws and regulations of any of the member-participating Institutions, these should be deleted and a harmonious document adopted for operation.

On this basis, the delegates endorsed the proposal to have a suitable legal framework for the functioning of IFFTI.

**4. What is the Membership of the Foundation and which is the Supervising Body for conducting the affairs of this Foundation?**

After a detailed discussion on this subject, which gave opportunity for different view points to be put forward by the delegates, it was decided that the new Members with voting rights to IFFTI should be admitted based on the following criteria:

- The Institution invited to participate or seeking Membership should have a proven track record of providing excellent educational and related facilities for the student community in the areas of design, technology and business for the fashion related industry.
- The applications for new membership in the initial years of the foundation would have to be suitably recommended by an existing Member and will be thereafter considered by the Executive Committee and placed before the Board for final decision.
- The decisions of the Board on all issues including that of new Membership, will be by consensus, failing which by the procedure of

simple majority on the basis of voting by ballot of the members present and voting.

- The subject of enrolment of Associate Members would be considered at the next Meeting of the Board.

## **5. What should be the structure of the Foundation?**

In the light of the explanation given in the background note and after examining the provisions contained in the Draft Agreement the delegates decided that:

- There would be a two-tiered structure : The apex body would be the Board of Directors which will include the founder members. There would also be an Executive Committee elected by the Board.
- All the Member-Institutions admitted to the Foundation will be represented on the Board of Directors of IFFTI and will enjoy voting rights as available to the initial Members of the IFFTI.
- Every Member-Institutions deputing a person to participate in any Meeting of the Board or its Committees or other events should specifically depute the person by giving him necessary mandate to attend the meetings and also make commitments on behalf of the Institution.
- Instead of two Vice Chairmen proposed in the Draft Agreement, the delegates decided to have four Vice Chairmen giving equitable geographical representation as far as feasible.
- The delegates also decided to co-opt the Head of the Hosting Institution for the Annual Conference as an additional Vice Chairman on ex-officio basis if that person is not already in the Executive Committee.
- The delegates also agreed to the suggestion to provide for a two-year term for the elected Chairman and the four Vice Chairmen.
- The delegates decided that the elected members will represent their institutions on the Board as well the Executive Committee. The Chairman / Vice Chairmen and members of the Executive Committee will cease to hold such post in case the persons concerned demit their office for one reason or other. As far as filling up of the resultant vacancies is concerned, it would be on the principle of fresh

election and not on automatic nomination of the successor representative of the Institution.

- It was left to the Chairman of the Board / Executive Committee to consider co-opting the services of the outgoing Chairman of the Board on the Executive Committee so long as such an arrangement does not entail any financial implication for the IFFTI.
- It was decided that Executive Committee will consist of the Chairman of the Board, four Vice Chairmen and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) heading the Secretariat of the Headquarters of the Organisation.
- The CEO 's appointment and his functions and powers will be decided by the Board. In this context, it was decided that the CEO will function under the supervision of the Chairman / Executive Committee on all matters including appointment of his supporting staff required to run the Secretariat.
- The Board of Directors at the end of each Meeting will decide upon the agenda item for the next Conference. The CEO, will in consultation with the Chairman / Executive Committee, submit draft Agenda for the next Conference. He could, however, change or include any agenda item for the Conference in the light of subsequent suggestions received from the Member-Institutions.

#### **6. Where will be the Headquarters of the Foundation located?**

The delegates unanimously decided that the Headquarters of IFFTI shall be located in New Delhi, India. It was further decided that the Secretariat support for the initial period of three years will be provided by NIFT, New Delhi.

#### **7. What is the Provision relating to periodicity of the Meetings of the Board of Directors?**

It was decided by the delegates that the Board of Directors will meet annually to synchronise with the Annual Conference to be hosted by a Member-Institution. The Executive Committee Meetings could be held as many times as may be required, at the venues mutually convenient to the Hosting Member Institutions.

#### **8. Objectives of IFFTI :**

The objectives to be pursued by IFFTI on establishment was discussed at length. A Working Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. David Elson along with the following members to draft a Mission Statement :--

1. Prof. Amnon Armoni, Institut Francais de la Mode, France -- Member
2. Prof. Edward Newton, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong -- Member
3. Ms. Elizabeth Rouse, London College of Fashion, UK -- Member
4. Dr. M. Govind Raj, Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science, USA -- Member
5. Ms. Marie Jose Grotenhuis, Hogeschool Van Amsterdam -- Member

The Mission Statement prepared by the sub-group was discussed and was adopted. (copy enclosed at Annexure-2) To examine the provisions of the Article - IV of the Agreement a working group consisting of the following was constituted unanimously.

1. Ms. Marie Jose Grotenhuis, Hogeschool Van Amsterdam -- Chairperson
2. Prof. David Elson, The Nottingham & Trent University, UK -- Member
3. Prof. Edward Newton, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong -- Member
4. Mr. Amnon Armoni, Institut Francais de la Mode, France -- Member
5. Mr. Mark Madden, Melbourne Institute of Textiles, Australia -- Member
6. Ms. Elizabeth Rouse, London College of Fashion, UK -- Member
7. Mr. L.V. Saptharishi, NIFT, India -- Member and  
the team to assist the Working Group.

The Report of the Working Group was considered by the delegates and duly adopted. Copy of the Report is at **Annexure - II**.

## **9. Schedule of Annual Conferences :**

The schedule of Annual Conferences for the next three years was discussed and some Members volunteered to host the forthcoming Annual Conferences in their countries. The delegates unanimously decided to host the Annual Conferences for the ensuing three years in the following order : --

1. Universidade Anhembi Morumbi, Brazil -- 17-19, November 1999
2. London College of Fashion, UK -- 2000
3. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China -- 2001

For the year 2002, the Melbourne Institute of Textiles, Australia and the Hogeschool Van Amsterdam, The Netherlands offered to host the Conference. A final decision on this will be taken at the next Conference in 1999.

All the Annual Conferences will have a theme and will be supported by the Secretariat and Local Programme Committee.

#### **10. Duration of the Agreement :**

As the mission statement of IFFTI envisages HRD through global networking, it was felt that to achieve quantifiable results a longer duration of agreement, to provide continuity in the activities is desired. The consensus that emerged was to have an initial agreement for five years which will be renewable for further periods subject to the modification, suggested and adopted by the Board of Directors.

#### **11. Emblem and Seal of IFFTI :**

To depict the International character of the IFFTI, and to have an acceptable logo / emblem which should be attractive and convey the objectives of the IFFTI, it was decided by the delegates to keep this issue open and receive suggestions and samples from the participating institutions for consideration.

#### **12. Financial Implications**

The Delegate from NIFT explained the probable income / expenditure projections as suggested in the Paper No.5 circulated amongst the delegates. The expenditure part of the Secretariat was also discussed at length, keeping in view the Headquarters of the Secretariat being Delhi.

The consensus emerged that the initial expenditure to run the Secretariat should be kept at the minimum level. In order to meet this end, it was decided unanimously that the Annual Fee will be US \$ 2,000 per Member-Institution.

#### **13. Framing of Bye-laws**

The delegates unanimously endorsed the suggestion made by the Chairman for entrusting the preparation of bye-laws to the Secretariat under the guidance and supervision of the CEO to be adopted by the Board of Directors.

### **6.2 Conference Document II - Draft Agreement**

The Draft Agreement was discussed. It was decided that the Member-Institutes will examine this Draft Agreement in the light of the deliberations of the Conference and will send in their comments to the Secretariat and the document revised based on the comments / suggestions and then circulated to all the Members. The consensus will be placed before the Board of Directors for approval.

### **6.3 Appointment of CEO**

Mr Amnon Armoni, Institut Francais de la Mode, France proposed the name of Mr L V Satharishi, Executive Director, NIFT to be the CEO of IFFTI for a minimum period of one year. The proposal was welcomed by all the delegates and approved.

### **6.4 Conclusion**

The Conference concluded after approving of the MOU to be signed by all the Delegates on the establishment of International Foundation of Fashion Technology Institutes.

The Chairman thanked all the Delegates and Observers for their presence and co-operation in the successful conduct of the Conference. He also thanked ED, faculty, administration and student community of NIFT for their sincere efforts and assistance in organising the Conference.