

KERALA EDUCATION GRID

DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATION GRID CONSORTIUM

The Education Grid Consortium is hereby formed by the coming together of the colleges who are signatory to its Open Quality Education Objectives as given in Section 1 of this document. The Consortium Proposal indicates the functional methodology of how this consortium will be financed, regulated and managed to achieve its avowed objectives. The consortium is being proposed for all the colleges (and their respective affiliating universities) with the realization that quality education in these colleges is essential to serve the country's needs for quality manpower at all levels of industry, government, R&D and educational institutions. The Consortium will promote the capacity and competencies to build and access the vast range of learning resources and support for quality education processes that are best mobilized over the Internet and Web. It is also based on the realization that capacity to develop and maintain such advanced IT facilitated learning resources and associated competencies are achievable by the coming together of colleges sharing the same concerns. The consortium approach reduces the cost of providing such resources considerably and makes the services more efficient.

1. THE OPEN QUALITY EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

The signatory colleges and institutions to this Charter will agree to be members of this Education Grid Consortium and abide by the letter and spirit of the objectives given in this document and those to be devised time to time by it. The member colleges of this consortium agree to come together under the Consortium to enhance the quality of education offered in its member colleges by a web-supported collaboration across its members. The intent is to promote and benefit from the following objectives of this Open Quality Education Objectives as given below.

- 1.1. Build and manage quality IT infrastructure in the member colleges;
- 1.2. Support the teachers and students in the member colleges with quality web-accessed and multi-media learning resources of value in the different courses and subjects;
- 1.3. Support and service the colleges in conducting the classes effectively with multimedia and web-accessed authentic and quality content developed by the NPTEL (MHRD's National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning), available open web-content suitably value added through peer review processes, or, those developed by the Education Grid.
- 1.4. Service the teachers as members of subject-specific community across the member colleges of the consortium with support by experienced experts or academicians.
- 1.5. Train the teachers in the member colleges on how to teach the concerned subjects effectively using technology assisted learning.
- 1.6. Support the teachers in the member colleges through subject-specific communities of teachers guided by interactions with experienced subject experts through the central Education Grid Portal.
- 1.7. Offer certificate courses with units and credits for teachers in the different subjects and thereby build their capacity to use technology enhanced learning methods. Cumulative units of such courses will count for an advanced Diploma of IIITM-K that carries UGC/AICTE recognition.

- 1.8. Offer students in different courses opportunities to do supplementary courses, or, certificate exams that carry industry recognition with better chance for employment.
- 1.9. Work closely with the affiliating university to offer part-time open supported Master's degree program for the teachers and part time students.
- 1.10. Get the benefit of consortium negotiated subscriptions and tariffs for network costs, e-journals, professional societies' publications memberships, e-books and computational/ applications software needed in teaching the different subjects.
- 1.11. Provide learning support for teachers who do, or, wish to do QIP supported Masters or Ph.D. Programs.
- 1.12. Hold training and learning workshops in different subjects for teachers from the members colleges.
- 1.13. Provided open supported learning for the courses in which the member colleges seek assistance.
- 1.14. Promote CD-distributed, or, online (via, Cable TV or EDUSAT as and when it becomes available) seminars by eminent experts in the subject.
- 1.15. Assist in arranging for seminars and short courses in the premises of the different member colleges.
- 1.16. Provide supplementary content and industry branded certificate courses for students in subjects or topics of importance for gainful employment.
- 1.17. Promote such content and web-resources servicing industry in the state that serves the objectives of the Consortium.
- 1.18. Make resources of the member colleges such as their infrastructure and expertise available for education, training and other competency development programs as launched by the consortium, or, its members as passed by the executive body of the consortium.

The Role of the consortium is to provide the above services to all its member colleges by pooling in the resources and promoting collaboration among them.

2. FINANCING THE CONSORTIUM SERVICES

The Consortium will start with an initial capital by each subscribing member college depositing a fixed advance amount as its subscription contribution. The resources of the Kerala Education Grid will be suitably enhanced and made available for the services under the Consortium. The Consortium will maintain a subscription account against each member college. The subscription funds will be used to provide resources (like bandwidth, college portal establishment and maintenance, content, educational support and services programs, etc. that conform to the objectives stated above).

Each of the different services will have a cost associated that will be divided in proportion to the community strength in the respective colleges that subscribe to such a service. The proportional cost of such service used by a college will be deducted from its subscription contribution. Each member college will ensure that a positive balance is always kept against its subscription account. In case any college defaults below a fixed minimum amount (say Rs. 1 Lakh as the

minimum limit) for a duration exceeding a stipulated period (say 3 months), then the consortium will return the balance unutilized amount to the college after deducting any expenses incurred and close its membership. This principle is necessary so that the consortium remains financially solvent. Any member college may withdraw its members and claim the balance amount held against its subscription amount by giving a notice of 3 months in advance.

The cost of each service will be fixed by the Education Grid Consortium Executive Committee (EGCEC) duly vetted by a IIITM-K Board approved process. EGCEC will have representatives from the member colleges, the DTE and affiliating universities.

The Education Grid Operations Centre at IIITM-K will serve as the core administrative and management body to run the various services of the Consortium. Every university that has affiliating colleges as members will be encouraged to set up an Education Grid Resources Centre to serve the colleges. The cost of Education Grid overheads for the consortium services as decided by the EGCEC will be equally divided among the member colleges.

3. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The above outline of the proposed consortium is provisional. A proper committee will be formed to undertake the detailed study and come up with a Consortium Charter. This detailed Charter will also include the mutual obligations between the consortium and its members. Details about the Education Grid may be had from its Portal: www.edugrid.ac.in. All services to the colleges will be managed from the Education Grid Operations Centre at IIITM-K in Technopark, Trivandrum.

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