

Seminar on “Human Resource Development for Inland Water
Transport (IWT) System’ on 10th April 2010 at Kolkata

Recommendations/ Suggestions from the discussions at the Seminar:

1. All the speakers and delegates were of the view that there is huge growth potential for IWT in India and specific cargo movement was highlighted as:
 - a. Coal movement for Thermal Power Stations located on NW-1 & NW-2.
 - b. Bulk cargo like Cement, fertilizer, sand and aggregate movement.
 - c. POL on NW-2
 - d. Container movement on NW-1 & NW-2
 - e. ODC movement on NW-1 & NW-2
 - f. Fly ash, cement, fertilizer, food grain in Indo Bangladesh protocol route

2. Human resource development is vital to the growth of the IWT sector. In order to promote the same among the talented youth in the country, it is required that there is well defined career path with sufficient mobility across states, sector and disciplines. In order to achieve this it is required that standard rules are drafted and applied with minor modifications across the country.

3. The importance of the amendment/ revision of the existing Acts enacted by Central Government on various matters of IWT sector and the rule and regulation under the provision of I.V

Acts of 1917 being old , outdated and not in conformity with the technological development & changes was noted and accordingly it was emphasized for suitable action on expeditious basis. Advisor to Chief Minister of Kerala on Inland Waterways fully endorsed the above suggestion.

4. Although as per the constitutional provision, Central Govt can amend the I.V.Act of 1917, the formulation and notification of the rules & regulation and implementation are rested with state Governments. This has created non-uniformity in the rules & regulation as well as implementation. Therefore, the need of the standard or model rule & regulation in all disciplines like manning, survey & registration, construction of vessels etc through central organisation like IWAI was emphasized.
5. Similarly with respect to the implementation of some of the rules & regulation framed & enacted by IWAI as per IWAI Act, the ambiguity with respect to the implementation and their jurisdiction was noted for a suitable measure.
6. Some of the important observation on the legal & regulatory aspects and issues with respect to HRD are:-
 - a. The State Governments are also empowered for making the necessary Rules and Regulations with regard to the development of waterways under their jurisdiction. However, none of the State Governments has any rule, policy/guide lines in this regard except for the Survey and Registration of the vessel etc under I V Act. These rule being old , outdated require amendments to

commensurate with the technological development in the vessels etc.,

- b. The model rules on design and construction of Inland vessels, prepared as per the recommendation of MSDC (Maritime States Development Council) are yet to be adopted by the state governments. Hence suitable action is to be evolved.
- c. The Central Govt. must take immediate steps for a fresh review of all the existing Acts and rules not only for amending the I.V. Act in consideration of the recommendation of the committees appointed earlier but also to empower Central Govt. /IWAI for effective implementation of some of the important provisions irrespective of their jurisdictions for the healthy growth of IWT.
- d. While reviewing the Acts for amendment, there is need to develop training, examination and certification standards on the lines of STCW (Standard of Training certification & Watch keeping for seafarers) code of the IMO for the Inland Vessel Sector. The syllabuses so framed shall account for modern technology and practical training.
- e. The legal frame work to ensure quality and up to date training programme and training facilities with apprenticeship to the trainees in the line of other trade must be considered & enacted.
- f. For seamless integration of coastal shipping and IWT through the operation of river cum sea vessels DG shipping has already taken the steps for amendment of

Merchant Shipping Act allowing the exemptions with regard to construction, operation, registration and survey of such vessels. The above integration can be feasible only when all the State Governments have uniform and standard rules and regulations on IWT vessels, manning etc.

- g. The contribution of the country crafts towards IWT traffic being significant, necessary legislations to ensure safety in their construction and operations shall be considered and enacted.
- h. The Ferries Acts should be revised and updated to have stringent safety requirement for the short/cross ferry services.
- i. The Ferry Act is also required to be amended to cater to the requirement of safety and regulating the movement of the cruise, tourist and recreation vessels/crafts.
- j. Training on dredging operations is essential for improvement of efficiency and reduce downtime. The training shall include classroom, simulator and practical training.
- k. Professionals in river engineering are few. Hence, there is a need to develop programs like PG Diploma in river engineering, dredging engineering.
- l. Installing, Maintaining navigational aids like DGPS, beacons etc. require skilled manpower. Hence it needs to train human resource in this aspect.
- m. Suitable Course on river engineering, Dredging engineering, Inland Port & Terminal development and

Management etc. may be taken up at NINI in collaboration/ affiliations with Indian Maritime University or other suitable University.

- n. An analogous structure similar to IMO was proposed where IWAI may act as the coordinating agency for drafting standard rules regulations pertaining to design, construction, safety, manning, registration, survey and certification rules and regulations. A concept paper on the above to be developed by IWAI and ARI and submitted to the Ministry of shipping in this regard.
- o. The feasibility of opening of the campus/branches of NINI in other states /region may be examined and action be initiated for the suitable training programe & courses on IWT sector.

7. A workshop inviting all the state IWT departments to be arranged to discuss and deliberate the above highlighted issues related with development of the human resource on IWT sector as well as legal & regulatory issues for the appropriate action by respective state Govts. & central Government.
