

F. No. 16-1/2022-RT
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(Research & Training Division)

2nd Floor, Prithvi Block',
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003.
Dated: 22nd October, 2022

ORDER

Subject: Merger of Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), with Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru - regarding.

In accordance with directions of Cabinet Secretariat vide its OM No. F.No. 1/48/1/2018-Cab.(Vol-II) dated 09 October, 2020 to implement the recommendations of Department of Expenditure (DoE) regarding rationalization of Autonomous bodies of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change including IPIRTI, to strengthen research and development in wood and wood composites including veneer and Plywood, to bring synergy in research and training leading to more effective outcomes in terms of environmentally benign and industrially amenable technologies along with skilled manpower with wider knowledge base for a range of wood based industries rapidly growing in the country, to provide all solutions to tree growers from Solid wood to veneer and plywood issues promoting Agro forestry on non forest land and capacity building of stakeholders under one umbrella, **The Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bengaluru** (along with its field station at Kolkata and research centre at Mohali) is hereby merged with the **Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru**, an institute under the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, both organisations under the administrative control of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi with immediate effect with following term and conditions:-

- i. ICFRE shall continue functioning as an apex body in achieving outcomes related to the mandate of MoEF&CC enumerated in Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 as modified from time to time.
- ii. The merging of institutes shall avoid any duplication in the research activities in the field of wood technology which will have implications in efficient utilization of financial and manpower resources. However, after merger of the IPIRTI with IWST, all mandates of IPIRTI shall be borne by the IWST.
- iii. IPIRTI has 19 mid-career scientists engaged in different aspects of wood and wood composite research like wood preservation, wood identification, adhesive technology, bamboo composites, mechanical characterization, etc. and they will be utilized in the IWST.
- iv. IWST after the merger of the institute will strive for the reduction in overall administrative cost. The capital expenditure of the institutes will also be reduced with the pooling of existing equipment and laboratory spaces of the two institutes.

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- v. Bringing both the institute under one umbrella will provide a necessary impetus in generating trained manpower for industry that can improve efficiencies and productivity.
- vi. Out of 33 posts of administrative nature, 8 vacant posts and one post of Director and one Joint Director of IPIRTI would be kept in abeyance in consultation with IFD of the Ministry.
- vii. 25 more posts of administrative nature presently of IPIRTI and filled would be deemed abolished after superannuation and if any requirement, it will be met through outsourcing.
- viii. Technical and Scientific posts will be kept as per sanctioned strength. However, within two years these posts will be reviewed by the ICFRE as per their norms and action shall be initiated accordingly in consultation with the Ministry
- ix. All the movable and immovable assets and/or liabilities of the IPIRTI will be placed at the disposal of IWST however, disposal of movable and immovable assets will be done in consultation IFD of the Ministry;
- x. Return of the funds available with IPIRTI to the Consolidated Fund of India and any other financial support/ outlay regarding merger of IPIRTI will be done in consultation with the IFD of the Ministry;
- xi. Deployment/voluntary retirement or other issues of manpower of the IPIRTI regarding Salary/ Pension/ Provident Fund/ Insurance/ Health Scheme will be sorted out as per extant rules and norms in consultation with ministry

2. Accordingly, the merger of IPIRTI, Bengaluru with IWST, Bengaluru under ICFRE shall be done in the following manner:

(i) Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun shall be the administrative head of merger procedure of Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute (IPIRTI), Bengaluru (alongwith its field station at Kolkata and research centre at Mohali), an autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change with Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Bengaluru as per the existent procedure under ICFRE Society.

(ii) Director General, ICFRE shall prepare a detailed proposal for merger of the above institutions and different issues related to establishment and will sent to Ministry if required.

(iii) Other aspects of the proposal like operation, administration and budgetary matters would be processed by the concerned Divisions in the Ministry.

(iii) The order relating to posting of officers, the administrative set-up of the institutions, deployment of staff, disposal of movable & immovable assets, budget and ancillary matters will be issued separately by the Director General, ICFRE, after approval of the competent authority through concerned Divisions of MoEF&CC within one month.


(iv) The review of Technical and Scientific posts will be done within two years by the ICFRE as per their norms

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3. The 57th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IPIRTI Society held on 26.07.2022 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has approved merging IPIRTI with IWST under ICFRE with dissolution of IPIRTI Society.

4. The above merger of the institutions shall start functioning with immediate effect.

5. This issue with the approval of the competent authority



(Anand Kumar Prabhakar)

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To,

1. President's Secretariat, Vice-President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office, All Ministries/Department of Government of India, NITI Aayog, Parliament Secretariat.
2. Cabinet Secretariat w.r.t. Cabinet Secretariat with a request that the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules may be amended.
3. Chief Secretaries, All State Government/UT Administration.
4. Principal Secretaries (Forest) (State Government/UT Administration).
5. All PCCFs (HoFF), State/UT.
6. Director General of Audit (Central Expenditure), DGAR Building, IP Estate, New Delhi
7. Director General of Audit (Environment & Scientific Departments) DGAR Building, IP Estate, New Delhi-110002.
8. All ADGs/Addl. Secretaries/Sr. Economic Adviser/Statistics Adviser, MoEF&CC.
9. Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun/Director, IWST, Bengaluru /Director, IPIRTI, Bengaluru.
10. Director, IGNFA, Dehradun and DFE, Dehradun
11. All Integrated Regional Offices (IROs) of MoEF&CC
12. All IGFs/JSs/CCA/CE(CCU), MoEF&CC
13. All DIGs/DS/Director level officers of MoEF&CC
14. US (Media)/Consultant (IT) for updation on Ministry's Website.

Copy for information to:

1. PS to Hon'ble MEF&CC/PS to Hon'ble MoS, MoEF & CC
2. PPS to Secretary (EF&CC)/PPS to DGF&SS, MoEF & CC