Participants: Sai D. Prasad (SDP), Patrick Tippoo (PT), Fernando Lobos (FL), Adriansjah Azhari (AA), Lingjiang Yang (LY), Weidan Huang (WH), Tiago Rocca (TR), Rajinder Suri (RS), Sonia Pagliusi (SP), Sonia Vilasenor (SV), Benoit Hayman (BH), Prerna Kumar (PK).

Meeting started at 01h00CET and adjourned at 02h12CET.

The welcome address was given by the President SDP by sharing the current scenario of where the pandemic is heading and the role of DCVMN in the times of COVID-19. He mentioned that “COVID-19 is posing different problems to different countries”. The major problems being lack of vaccines, supply chain issues and in some cases, even lack of co-operation from public. These difficult times have brought the best and worst in human behavior the world over.

On part of DCVMN, a COVID Committee has been set up to look at all aspects of vaccinology and how DCVMN can support towards the pandemic. Further the Network is now connected through SDP and RS with the global entities like ACT-A, WTO, IFPMA, WTO, WCC, BIO & African CDC besides our traditional stakeholders like WHO, GAVI and UNICEF. DCVMN is now getting more visibility among global entities, European Union, and various Governments which is good for the network both in the technical and funding aspects. We should help leverage this platform to build a stronger membership base and better frameworks for fundraising and new project proposals for medium and long run. In his extremely tight schedule RS is helping and guiding lot of work.

RS shared the “Healthy Industry Framework proposal” (HIF) with the EC for their information, feedback and suggestions, which was shared in writing with the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. RS explained the proposal and invited the EC members for their views.

PT said that the HIF is comprehensive, creative and innovative. He was positive of the concept and asked for time to go through the document in detail and get back with his considerations, if any.

FL appreciated the HIF and also requested for a time to go through the proposal offline and come back with suggestions.

TR said the HIF is a great idea to get alternative way for manufacturers to get funding. He asked RS to share some more examples of the associations doing this kind of intermediation for access funding. RS agreed to look for some more examples but suggested that someone has to take the first step so let it be DCVMN.

AA supported the HIF initiative and supported the suggestion to mandate the CEO to approach various funding agencies. He mentioned that as DCVMN is gaining more global attention from numerous organizations, the role of the secretariat will be important and that the members of DCVMN should be exposed as well. AA supported the role of the secretariat as the resource for members to seek assistance in accessing to numerous activities among which included access to technology.

LY found the idea and concept of HIF was excellent. Regarding the competitive strategy, this is a very critical part to make these efforts successful, because our members can be partners and at the same time competitors. The geographical access of the framework shall generate a healthy competition between the vaccine manufactures and therefore needs to be evaluated carefully. LY also asked for time to go through the documents in detail then come back with possible feedback.

WH requested more time to go through and digest the proposal. She said, the proposal seems great according to quick review. Since it is financial related (NS: member need to pay extra fee in some scenario), it could be sensitive and should be carefully communicate with our members. Especially when Covid-19 pandemic make in-person meeting difficult, it’s challenging to precise communicate in virtual. Therefore, she suggested to be
RS, thanked the EC members for positive response and support and shared that this aligns well with the vision and message that both the President and himself have been sharing on the global platforms like ACT-A and COVAX which is enhancing the value addition that DCVMN shall bring to the table for Vaccine Manufacturers, the world over. The continued purpose and focus of DCVMN and especially during these unprecedented times is to help members to excel.

SDP said he had envisioned Healthy Industry Framework a year back but it was different. However, he is very happy with this proposal and that by ironing out the nitty-gritties, this could be great way of adding value for the vaccine manufacturers. His concern is to ensure the secretariat is unbiased towards one member vs. other while discharging its duties, so that the support is equally beneficial to all manufacturers. He said fee for service model is not an issue. He advised SP to verify this with the legal advisors. Regarding the fee as a percentage of the deal volume, it is not easy to be calculated because sometimes it is based on milestone payments royalties, net sales. SDP was not sure on how the donors will be willing to pay fee to the Secretariat as they would be already paying a certain sum to the manufacturers.

He also suggested 3rd model similar to the WHO pre-qualification fees, something that he had negotiated along with SP with WHO sometime back; so, it might be a fixed value depending on the value of the potential partnership facilitated by DCVMN secretariat, around 50-100K USD.

He further reiterated that this is a serious proposal and need to be given strong thinking as it will bring many members and give them more access and visibility, and would also help in strengthening the secretariat with potential funding.

He suggested that important discussion points should be shared with the EC Members at least 2 weeks in advance of the EC meeting as all members are busy in their respective organizations as well, otherwise place it to decision until next EC. He also proposed to have a date and time stamp of 48 or 72 hours, like a timeline for EC to respond to the email messages to reduce the action time on urgent matters, and if it is not responded it is assumed as accepted.

In terms of a healthy industry framework, thinking on how to make DCVMs more sustainable, there is a constant downward pressure on pricing; individual DCVMs are unable to raise it into the supranational procurement agencies PAHO, GAVI, UNICEF. We should also address as a network in form a white paper or discussion stating how constant reduction in prices turns into lower innovation and sustainability.

RS mentioned that he would look forward to each EC member suggestions on the framework to get final approval during or before the next EC Meeting scheduled for 04th of June, 2021.
RS said that on 24th March he circulated an email proposing for going with a concept of a point person in a company so that he/she can respond effectively to communications. He requested EC members go through the email and divert.

SP shared that for EC to become board they need approval of 75% of total members and till date only 22 approvals have been received by her out of 30 which is a minimum number. RS requested SP to send a specific communication to the ones who have not answered, addressed to their CEO’s.

Further SP said that approval is required for the Annual Report of 2020, circulated since April 20th, as also to appoint internal and external auditors.

RS suggested to have a voting button integrated in the AGM platform to ensure that the members vote at the time of meeting only. SV will look for the tools to do so. PT suggested if a legal opinion can be established with all the responses received that would constitute a quorum, and if it does, if they are 75% affirmative.
SP will ask for the legal advisors’ opinion.

End of minutes
04th May, 2021

Notes taken by PK, edited by SV

Sai D Prasad
DCVMN President

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