**Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Council of Common Cause**

**Date:** March 9, 2013; 10.00 a. m.

**Venue:** Common Cause House, New Delhi.

**Participants:**

Mr. Vikram Lal President

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) J. P. Gupta Vice President

Dr. Ashok Khosla Member

Dr. B. P. Mathur Member

Mr. Prashant Bhushan Member

Mr. Lalit Nirula Member

Mr. Kamal Kant Jaswal Director

**Minutes:**

1. **Confirmation of the minutes**

Minutes of the Governing Council meeting held on February 5, 2013 were confirmed.

1. **Presentation of the Society’s activities**

Reviewing the activities since the last meeting, the Director apprised the Council of the advocacy efforts made in pursuance of the public causes espoused by the Society and the progress of the PILs filed in various Courts. The Council was informed that the rejoinder affidavit filed in the Supreme Court in the PIL on the irregularities in the allocation of coal blocks for captive mining effectively counters the averments made in the affidavits in reply of the respondents.

The Director also presented the outcome of the RTI initiatives to extract relevant information held by various public authorities.

The Council was informed that a majority of the speakers at the Symposium on Participatory versus Representative Democracy held on October 27, 2012 have yet to validate the transcripts of their interventions despite repeated requests. As a result, the task of finalizing the proceedings of the Symposium has been held up. Meanwhile, the Common Cause team has undertaken a massive editorial effort to bring in a degree of clarity and coherence in the record of the proceedings.

1. **Suggestions for future initiatives by the Society**

The Council considered the proposal of Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta for filing a PIL against the regulations disallowing community radio stations and private FM radio stations to broadcast programmes on news and current affairs and concluded that the matter needs to be pursued in the interest of equity and the freedom of speech and expression. It was decided that in the first instance a cogent proposal for the desired policy reform should be submitted to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The Director apprised the Council of the persistent disregard by the competent authorities of the recommendations of the Lokayukta, Delhi, undermining the capacity of the institution to combat corruption by public servants included in its limited jurisdiction. The Council was of the view that where specific recommendations of the Lokayukta to entrust to the competent agencies the investigation of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act have been rejected without sufficient cause, a PIL might be contemplated.

1. **Any other item with the permission of the Chair**

*Date for next meeting of the Governing Council*

The next meeting of the Governing Council of Common Cause is proposed to be held on Friday, May 17, 2013, subject to the availability of the members.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

 (Vikram Lal)

 President