



ISOLA - TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SECRETARY'S REPORT

A very warm welcome to all at this 10th AGM of the Indian Society of Landscape Architects....we begin this meeting on a somber note as we share the news of the sad demise of our founder President Prof.Prabhakar Bhagwat on the 14th of August 2015. We at ISOLA recognize his tremendous contribution towards the formation and growth of our Society and shall remain thankful to him always. We offer our deepest condolences to his immediate family as well as his extended family of colleagues, students and staff.

The annual general meeting is our annual date with the members to evaluate and assess our performance, share and seek opinions on our ongoing endeavors and outline our future plans. Keeping the same intent in mind, I hereby present to you the Secretary's Annual Report today.

The following points have been elaborated in this report:

1. Status of ISOLA Executive Council and Chapter Executive Committees
2. Status of ISOLA Accounts
3. Status of ISOLA Membership Database and Website
4. Report on the events conducted by the ISOLA Chapters
5. Objectives set by the EC for the current term and outlining the way to achieve them
6. Forthcoming/Planned events of the Society

This report is supported by presentations and notes prepared by my team and other ISOLA members who are helping us in the various tasks that we are currently addressing.

The annexures that shall form a part of this report are being presented by:

- a. Nidhi Madan – ISOLA Membership corrections and updates
- b. Madhup Mazumder and Neelima Soni – Website upgradation and changes
- c. Minesh Parikh – Delhi NCR Chapter report
- d. Suneeta Bapat – Mumbai MMR Chapter report
- e. Nupur Prothi – ISOLA Resource Centre
- f. Manguesh Prabhugaonker – Exploring feasibilities of e-voting
- g. Rohit Marol – ISOLA Conference 2016 Bangalore: Theme presentation

STATUS OF ISOLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

The current Executive Council has taken charge on the 23rd of May 2015 after the ISOLA biennial elections that were held in May 2015. The current office bearers are:

Honorary President:	Rohit Marol
Honorary Vice-President:	Ashish Patankar
Honorary Treasurer:	Neelima Soni
Honorary Secretary:	Shilpa Chandawarkar

The other EC members are Sachin Jain (immediate Past President), Nupur Prothi, Manguesh Prabhugaonkar, Sreejith S, Harsh Goel and Harsh Mittal.

This EC shall continue to hold office till the 22nd of May 2017.



ISOLA CHAPTER ELECTION UPDATE

Elections for the Executive Committee of ISOLA Mumbai Chapter for the term 2015-2017 were conducted in March 2015 and the results declared on the 31st of March 2014.

The new Executive Committee elected its office bearers and the names are as follows:

Honorary Chairperson:	Suneeta Bapat
Honorary Secretary:	Anju Bareja
Honorary Treasurer:	Reshma Sathe
EC Members:	Bhakti Thakoor Smita Gupta

The current Executive Committee of the Delhi NCR Chapter continues its term upto May 2016 with Minesh Parikh being the Chairperson, Nidhi Madan being the Honorary Secretary and Chhitiz Gupta being the Honorary Treasurer.

The Gujarat Chapter is scheduled to hold its Executive Committee elections soon. They shall notify us of the dates.

STATUS OF ISOLA ACCOUNTS

We take this opportunity to place on record the consolidated accounts of ISOLA (which includes the Central ISOLA, and all its chapters –Delhi, Mumbai and Gujarat, and all its LOCs – Ahmedabad and Pune) for the year ending 31st March 2015 and are ready to be filed once they are approved at this AGM.

We are happy to share with all our members that all procedures and guidelines are in place for financial matters and are being rigorously adhered to in our endeavor to achieve water-tight financial discipline and complete transparency. I wish to thank our auditor Rajnikant Trivedi for his adherence to punctuality and strict discipline as well as being our 24-hour-guide in dealing with all accounting related matters and ensuring that we have completed our accounts audit well ahead of all deadlines.

With a rise in the number of Local Chapters and Local Organising Committees (set up for annual conferences) and different people looking into their accounts every term, we propose a biennial accounting workshop to be held (to be mandatorily attended by the Treasurers of all committees and council) at a single location to apprise all of the accounting guidelines to be followed.

STATUS OF ISOLA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE AND WEBSITE

As some of you may be aware we have been facing tremendous problems in manually maintaining our member database. Change of office location, change of office staff and partially unsupervised maintenance of records over the years and some lethargy on the part of members (if I may dare to say so) had led us to a stage where we were not able to reach all members by email or phone as we did not have their latest details.

During last year's AGM and subsequently at the informal EC-and-Members meeting in Pune in February 2015, the General Body had given its consent to go online with our membership applications and renewals. However, due to incomplete and incorrect member information, we could not provide the basic data required by our web hosting managers to go online.

We have been extremely fortunate to have our member Nidhi Madan who volunteered to take on this task of 'getting the records in order' and I am proud to report that she has managed to get verified contact details from a large number of members, reconnected with a large number of members who



had not renewed their memberships and today, after more than 6 months of efforts from her side, we are in a position to go online with our member database.

The ISOLA EC applauds her single-handed efforts in taking on this Herculean task.

PRESENTATION BY NIDHI MADAN – MEMBERSHIP DETAILS CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES

We have been trying to keep our website www.isola.org.in updated with all events as well as minutes of all EC meetings. However, a couple of our members have reviewed the website and have their suggestions to offer.

PRESENTATION BY MADHUP MAZUMDER AND NEELIMA SONI – WEBSITE UPGRADATION

EVENTS / CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

We are happy to report that our Chapters and LOCs have been involved in a range of activities in the past year and the chairpersons of the Delhi NCR and Mumbai chapters are here with us today to present a quick review of THE YEAR AS IT WAS for them. We request all Chapter ECs to document their events, as the Delhi NCR Chapter has already done, so that we can make this data available on our website for those members who could not be a part of these activities.

PRESENTATION BY MINESH PARIKH

PRESENTATION BY SUNEETA BAPAT

After the successful response to the NASA ISOLA Landscape Trophy for the last 4 years, ISOLA again conducted the Landscape trophy for the NASA convention at Chennai in January 2015. We would like to thank our members Ravikumar Narayan and Rukkumany from Chennai who graciously agreed to be a part of the jury along with Ashish Patankar and Shilpa Chandawarkar, perusing through more than 187 entries to select the most deserving one. We shall be continuing our association with the undergraduate students of architecture in the forthcoming NASA Convention.

OBJECTIVES SET BY THE EC FOR THE CURRENT TERM

- To increase the interest and involvement of members in ISOLA
- To improve the financial strength of the Society
- To make the daily administration and record-keeping of the Society more efficient
- To generate a resource base that would be accessible to all members

The current EC has decided to form the following committees for the duration of their term (2015-2017) to work towards these objectives. Each committee is spearheaded by a Convenor who shall report on their progress to the EC on a quarterly basis.

RESOURCE CENTRE

Convenor: Nupur Prothi

Team: Yogesh Kapoor, Nidhi Madan, Varsha Gavandi

**OUTREACH CELL**

Convenor: Nupur Prothi

ENGAGING WITH THE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES – Nupur Prothi

SOCIAL MEDIA – Sreejith S

NEWSLETTER – Neelima Soni

EDUCATION BOARD

Convenor: Savita Raje

EC Coordinator: Sachin Jain

WEBSITE

Convenor: Neelima Soni

Team: Madhup Mazumder

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP and EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF E-VOTING

Convenor: Ashish Patankar

Team: Nidhi Madan, Manguesh Prabhugaonker, Shilpa Chandawarkar

PROFESSIONAL FEES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Convenor: Minesh Parikh

LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS (MANUAL OF PROCEDURES, BYELAWS DOCUMENT)

Convenor: Sachin Jain

Team: Rohit Marol, Manguesh Prabhugaonker

ISOLA AWARDS

Convenor: Savita Punde

Team: Shilpa Chandawarkar, Sachin Jain

FORTHCOMING / PLANNED EVENTS OF THE SOCIETY**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The 11th Annual Conference of ISOLA is scheduled to be held on the 22nd and 23rd of January 2016 at Bangalore. The conference theme is WATER and SOCIETY, the details of which have already been uploaded on the website. We shall keep our members informed regarding the opening of registrations and the detailed programme. We look forward to your active participation.

PRESENTATION BY ROHIT MAROL**ISOLA AWARDS AND HONOURS**

The Indian Society of Landscape Architects shall be inviting entries for the fifth cycle of ISOLA Awards for the year 2015. Our senior member and Past President Savita Punde has kindly consented to be the Awards Convenor.

Details will be emailed to all members and shortly be uploaded on the website.

The Awards and Honours will be presented to the winners at the next Annual Conference.



IN CONCLUSION....

This is the third report that I am presenting as Honorary Secretary and I am deeply aware this is the time to take a leap of faith, the time to take ISOLA to a higher level. This term we have decided to set deadlines for all the tasks we undertake and hold ourselves answerable for the completion of our responsibilities. We have also decided to communicate better with the general body through social media and an interactive website and seek their increased involvement in the matters pertaining to achieving the objectives of the Society.

We would welcome any comments, suggestions, recommendations to further improve member communication and involvement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my entire team, especially Rohit Marol for taking on the role of Honorary President and Ashish Patankar for continuing to participate in the working of ISOLA in the capacity of Vice President. Thanks are due to Past President Sachin Jain for his continued efforts at pursuing the tasks that we took on last term. It is a pleasure having enthusiastic and energetic colleagues such as Nupur Prothi, Neelima Soni, Harsh Goel and Sreejith on the team which is also very ably supported by our fellow member Manguesh Prabhugaonker and Harsh Mittal.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank all of you who have made the effort to be present here today, and all our members for supporting and participating in the initiatives taken by the EC. Some of you have been critical of our errors – thank you for pointing out our flaws - that has made us seek more efficient ways of working. I end this address by once again requesting all members to proactively engage in the working of the Society.

Shilpa Chandawarkar

Honorary Secretary, ISOLA

August 22, 2015