



ISOLA - ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SECRETARY'S REPORT

I extend a warm welcome to all of you at this 11th AGM of the Indian Society of Landscape Architects....the annual general meeting is our yearly 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
4. Report on the events conducted by the ISOLA Chapters and ISOLA Central EC
5. Representation of ISOLA on other platforms
6. Status of the working committees formed by the EC
7. Forthcoming/Planned events of the Society

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 Khanna, Manguesh Prabhugaonkar, Sreejith S, Harsh Goel and Harsh Mittal. Nidhi Madan who had been a special invitee to the EC meetings since August 2015, was formally co-opted into the EC in April 2016. This EC shall continue to hold office till the 22nd of May 2017.

ISOLA welcomed its newly formed KERALA chapter in January this year at the Bangalore conference. The current chapter Executive Committee consists of:

Honorary Chairperson:	Vishwanathan Ganesh Iyer
Honorary Secretary:	Sreejith S.
Honorary Joint Secretary:	Anju John
Honorary Treasurer:	Rohini Prasad
EC Members:	Krishnakumar, Sebastian Jose, Chitra Biley

Elections for the Executive Committee of ISOLA Delhi NCR Chapter for the term 2016-2018 were conducted in March 2016 and the results declared on the 31st of March 2016

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

Honorary Chairperson:	Jasleen Waraich
Honorary Secretary:	Madhup Mazumder
Honorary Treasurer:	Sujata Hingorani
EC Members:	Nidhi Madan , Pournima Kshirsagar



The current Executive Committee of the Mumbai Chapter continues its term upto April 2017 with Suneeta Bapat being the Chairperson, Anju Bareja being the Honorary Secretary and Reshma Sathe being the Honorary Treasurer.

The Gujarat Chapter is currently being helmed by Deepa Maheshwari with Sandip Patil as the Honorary Secretary and Priyesh Shah being the Honorary Treasurer.

Elections for the Bangalore Chapter EC will soon be announced and we are happy to announce that this election shall be the first ISOLA election to have online voting.

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 –Pune and Bangalore) for the year ending 31st March 2016 and are ready to be filed once they are approved at this AGM.

I wish to thank our auditor Rajnikant Trivedi for his adherence to punctuality and strict discipline as well as for guiding us in all accounting related matters and ensuring that we have completed our accounts audit well ahead of all deadlines.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share with our members that the financial health of ISOLA is now steadily improving and we hope that we are soon able to build a corpus that is large enough to help us pursue our larger objectives of being an organization that promotes research and scholarship and is a resource centre for its members.

STATUS OF ISOLA MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

As of today, our final count of members stands at 651, including Fellow, Associate, Graduate and Student members. Unfortunately, only 290 of these (LESS than half) have valid memberships.

As most of you may be aware, we have successfully managed to contact a majority of our members and they now have an option to insert/modify their contact details online so that ISOLA may always have their updated contact details in hand. All members will also be able to view their membership validity online and know when their membership renewal is due. We will soon be including auto-generation of emails informing members of their payment dues.

We are also in the process of activating the payment gateway so that all fee payments can be made online. This shall be done within a month's time so that we are also able to accept our annual conference registrations online.

We are also in the process of setting up the procedures for conducting online elections and we hope to make a start with the Bangalore chapter elections followed by the Central EC elections next year.

It is not possible for me to conclude on this subject without thanking Nidhi Madan for her tremendous efforts in reaching this stage of connectivity with our members and patiently answering each and every query of the members as well as the software designer.



EVENTS / CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

ISOLA, with LOC Bangalore in charge, hosted its most successful annual conference (January 2016, Bangalore) till date with more than 400 delegates in attendance. The theme WATER AND SOCIETY was explored over a duration of 6 months at various platforms of public and professional engagement, culminating in the 2-day conference that itself was a mix of lectures, workshops, group presentations and exhibitions. This conference made us realise that our events need to be more interactive and participative and the learnings from the same need to extend beyond the duration of the event. The next conference is an EC-driven venture that will attempt to further strengthen the lessons learnt from Bangalore.

We are happy to report that our Chapters and LOCs have been involved in a range of activities in the past year and this year too, Delhi remains our most active and enthusiastic chapter. Their activities range from organizing an entire Walk Series to a Pecha Kucha event and a recent event on Ecotourism that was specially organized to set the tone for the upcoming ISOLA conference on Climate Change.

Jasleen Waraich, the chairperson of the Delhi NCR chapter is here with us today to present a quick review of their activities this year. 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.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of Team Bangalore in successfully conducting two sessions of THESIS OPEN DAY where fresh graduates of Landscape Architecture presented their theses work to a very receptive audience from the local fraternity. The Mumbai Chapter too has successfully organized the fourth event in their annual S.D.Vaidya series.

As all of you may be aware, we now have a fully functional Kerala Chapter and we await some action this year from our fraternity members down south.

REPRESENTATION OF ISOLA ON OTHER PLATFORMS

IIA NORTHERN CHAPTER

The Past Chairperson of the Delhi Chapter Minesh Parikh represented ISOLA at the IIA Northern Chapter Event on Architects and Smart Cities Mission in April this year.

NATURAL HERITAGE FIRST

As recently as last month, our Past President Sachin Jain participated in the 2nd Round Table event on Natural Cities (Clean Water, Environment and Food Security) organized by Dr.Vikram Soni of Natural Heritage First.

NASA ISOLA TROPHY

After the successful response to the NASA ISOLA Landscape Trophy for the last 5 years, ISOLA again conducted the Landscape trophy for the NASA convention at Surat in January 2016. We would like to thank our members Urmila Rajadhyaksha, Nilambaree Vaidya and Hemali Samant from Mumbai who graciously agreed to be a part of the jury along with Shilpa Chandawarkar, perusing through more than 200 entries to select the most deserving one. This year, the NASA ISOLA Trophy received the maximum number of entries out of all trophies in the Convention. Our Education Board members have kindly agreed to prepare the trophy brief this year onwards and work towards making it an exercise that sensitively and accurately introduces the nuances of the subject of landscape architecture to the undergraduate students of Architecture.



INVOLVEMENT IN FRAMING OF THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE (NBC)

Professor Shaheer along with Sachin Jain (the then President of ISOLA) and our members Samir Mathur (for DUAC) and Yogesh Kapoor (in his individual capacity) were invited to participate in the Committee set up by Bureau of Indian Standards in 2013 for the revision of landscape guidelines for the NBC. This committee was chaired by Professor Shaheer and after his unfortunate demise, the team continued to work under Samir Mathur's chairmanship. We are happy to report that the guidelines have now been framed and shall be released in the near future.

STATUS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEES FORMED BY THE EC

At the beginning of our term, we had opted to form working committees and divide our tasks so that each one of us along with our teams may be responsible and answerable for the performance of our committees. We had asked for voluntary participation from our members and approximately 30 members had reacted positively, offering to help in their choice of committee. Unfortunately, we have not yet reached a level of progress where we can involve them, but we hope that we are soon able to engage more members in achieving these objectives.

Following are some of the activities that have successfully commenced:

EDUCATION BOARD

The Education Board has recently concluded a two-day workshop chaired by Savita Punde and co-ordinated by Sachin Jain. They shall be presenting their deliberations and findings after this AGM.

WEBSITE

Our website team of Neelima Soni, Nidhi Madan and Sreejith S with guidance from Madhup Mazumder have also been working relentlessly on revamping of the design and upgradation of our existing website www.isola.org.in. We shall be launching the new website very soon and we hope it shall be a one-point-contact for all information related to ISOLA. The new website shall contain information on all EC meetings, AGMs, EGMs, the Executive Committees of all Chapters, ISOLA Awards, Central and Chapter events, annual conferences, newsletters, etc.

AWARDS

The Awards Committee continues to conduct the annual cycle of ISOLA awards and the sixth cycle has been announced last week.

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter Committee had released their first edition of the year in January and we are now ready with the second edition that shall soon be released. Our member from Pune, Manjusha Ukidve has joined this team as Editor from the current edition.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our Facebook Page has been successfully disseminating information to our members regarding all our activities and we hope to use this medium to increase connectivity with our members and well wishers.



LEGAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS (MANUAL OF PROCEDURES, BYELAWS DOCUMENT – REGISTRATION WITH CHARITY COMMISSIONER’S OFFICE))

PROFESSIONAL FEES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The final document for registering our byelaws with the Charity Commissioner is ready for submittal in the format as advised by the lawyer, barring a few signed declarations to be received from some past-EC members. The submission shall be done as soon as these are received.

Rohit Marol and Minesh Parikh have been working on these documents and we have already circulated a rough draft of the Professional Fees and Code of Conduct to some of our senior members for their feedback. We are awaiting their response, following which we shall share this document with the general membership.

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP and EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF E-VOTING

This committee, driven by Nidhi Madan, has almost achieved its set objectives. We hope to complete both these tasks in the very near future.

RESOURCE CENTRE and OUTREACH CELL

Both these committees are yet to take off, however, I am pleased to inform you that we currently have a **CONFERENCE CONTENT COMMITTEE** (headed by Nupur Prothi Khanna along with Varsha Gavandi, Nikhil Dhar and Mohan Rao) that is working on developing the content of the upcoming ISOLA conference. Tremendous efforts are being made to ensure that full justice is done to the core theme of the event, i.e. Climate Change and in this context, all the work done by this committee shall actually form the springboard for the Resource Centre and Outreach Cell, when they get started.

FORTHCOMING / PLANNED EVENTS OF THE SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 12th Annual Conference of ISOLA is scheduled to be held on the 20th and 21st of January 2017 at Kala Academy, Goa. The conference theme is CHANGING CLIMATES, EVOLVING LANDSCAPES, the details of which have already been emailed to members and uploaded on the website. We shall keep our members informed of the opening of registrations and the detailed program. We look forward to your active participation.

ISOLA AWARDS AND HONOURS

The ISOLA Awards Committee has sent out the Call for Entries for the sixth cycle of ISOLA Awards for the year 2016. Our senior member and Past President Savita Punde is the Awards Convenor and we have an eminent jury panel consisting of Prof. Ravindra Bhan, Prof. K.T. Ravindran, Yogesh Kapoor, Nupur Prothi Khanna and Chhabi Mishra.

We have introduced a category of UNBUILT DESIGNS this year and based on member demand, we have also amended the time clause for the GENERAL DESIGN AWARD. We hope to see the ISOLA Awards grow in quality, content, pride and stature and we need tremendous support from our members for this by way of enthusiastic participation.

Details have been emailed to all members and will shortly be uploaded on the website. The Honours and Awards will be presented to the winners at the next Annual Conference in Goa.



IN CONCLUSION....

As a tribute to our mentors, we have decided to name the ISOLA Students Award as the **PRABHAKAR BHAGWAT STUDENT AWARD for BEST THESIS** and the NASA ISOLA Landscape Trophy shall be renamed the **MOHAMMED SHAHEER ISOLA TROPHY**.

This is the fourth consecutive Annual Report that I am presenting as Honorary Secretary of the Society, and every year the sense of responsibility seems to heighten. There is a small sense of satisfaction when a few of our outlined tasks are fulfilled but it is soon replaced by a feeling of I HAVE MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP....and I guess that sense of trepidation is required to keep the adrenaline flowing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Honorary President Rohit Marol – he has led by example and he has given all of us in this team the confidence to feel that we can achieve anything that we set our hearts on. He has been strict when we were slack and we realized it only after we got back on track! Thanks are also due to our Past President Sachin Jain who has been the source for every missing piece of information that we have ever needed and Vice President Ashish Patankar for being a steady support. I would like to thank our treasurer and task master Neelima Soni, my sounding board Nupur Prothi Khanna and the ever-energetic and optimistic Nidhi Madan for going out of the way and helping me with my duties, and Sreejith and Harsh Goel for being wonderful team members. Last but not the least, a big thank you in advance to Mangesh Prabhugaonker for the wonderful host that he shall be at Goa next year!!

I do hope that the members have felt better connected to ISOLA and been aware of our activities through my constant, relentless (and probably even tiresome at times) emails as well as our updates on the social media. We welcome any comments, suggestions, recommendations to further improve member communication and involvement.

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 working and performance and I honestly 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 27, 2016