

**ISOLA - FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SECRETARY'S REPORT**



A distant, yet very warm welcome to all ISOLA members present here today at the 15th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Society of Landscape Architects. While we miss meeting each other at the AGM in Ahmedabad this year, due to the current circumstances, we are delighted to see the first online meeting has given many more members a chance to participate.

The AGM is our annual exercise in stock taking to assess performance, share and seek opinions on ongoing endeavors and outline future plans. The Secretary's Annual Report I will now present, includes the:

1. Status of ISOLA Executive Council and Chapter Managing Committees
2. Status of ISOLA Accounts
3. Status of ISOLA Membership
4. Report on the events and activities conducted by the ISOLA Central EC and ISOLA Chapters
5. Representation of ISOLA on other platforms
6. Report on ISOLA collaborations and MoUs
6. Report on other ISOLA initiatives and committees

STATUS OF ISOLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND CHAPTER MANAGING COMMITTEES

The current Executive Council is serving the second year of its two-year term. As you are aware, the current office bearers are:

Honorary President	Sujata Kohli
Honorary Vice President	Sridevi Rao
Honorary Treasurer	Jitendra Pawgi
Honorary Secretary	Nidhi Madan

Rohit Marol continues his role as the immediate Past President and Swati Sahasrabudhe continues as Education Board Convener. Elected fellow members include Prashanta Bhat, who is Chairperson of the Education Board, Neelima Soni is Chapter Coordinator and Parisutha Rajan with the Resource Centre. Co-opted fellow member Shilpa Chandawarkar is the Awards Coordinator. Elected associate members include Venkata Lakshmi, the Resource Cell Coordinator, Vineetha P.S., the Social Media and Website Coordinator and Asok Kumar. Co-opted associate member Preetanshi Singh assists with the membership. The EC has representatives from Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Thrissur and Coimbatore.

This EC shall continue to hold office till the 22nd of May 2021. The next elections will be held in April. We hope to once again see new members in the Executive Council so that the society can continue to grow and diversify with more participation in the elections and Council.

ISOLA Chapter Update

Elections were held in February-March for Delhi NCR, Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry chapters for the 2020-22 term. Sachin Jain (Delhi NCR), Devayani Deshmukh Upasani (Gujarat), Jitendra Pawgi (Kerala) and K.

Senthil Kumar (TN & Pondicherry) were the election officers. Kerala, Gujarat and TN & Pondicherry Chapter elections resulted in 5 members each elected unopposed. Delhi NCR chapter conducted voting since there were 6 members nominated, followed by a by-election for a MC member as another resigned.

The four new Chapter Managing Committees took office on April 1st, 2020.

A warm welcome to the **newly elected Managing Committees-**

Delhi NCR Chapter

Honorary Chairperson	Aditya Advani
Honorary Secretary	Shwetal Kadam
Honorary Treasurer	Pournima Kshirsagar Thote
Elected Members	Harpreet Kaur and Sunetra Surabhi

Gujarat Chapter

Honorary Chairperson	Sandip Patil
Honorary Secretary	Kauseen Motiwala
Honorary Treasurer	Tapan Modi
Elected Members	Bobby Sujansingani and Priyesh Shah
Co-opted Member	Deepa Maheshwari

Kerala Chapter

Honorary Chairperson	Rohini Prasad
Honorary Secretary	Shajeena T. Venugopalan
Honorary Treasurer	Krishnakumar M.R.
Elected Members	Sebastian Jose and Preethy Jacob
Co-opted Member	G.Viswanathan and Karl Marx

Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Chapter

Honorary Chairperson	Ravikumar Narayan
Honorary Secretary	Priti Lydia John
Honorary Treasurer	Rukkumany R.H.
Elected Members	Reddipatti Chinnaswamy Ravindran and Kumareswari Rajendran

In addition, this year we saw the formation of our newest chapter in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Chapter

Honorary Chairperson	Hemanshu Taneja
Honorary Secretary	Kavita Kedawat
Honorary Treasurer	Aparna Bhargava
Nominated Members	Bineet Chhajer and Kapil Sachdeva

Continuing chapter management committees include **Bangalore Chapter** led by Chairperson Prasad G, Secretary Maithily Velangi and Treasurer Sachin Ubbarada.

Mumbai Chapter Committee comprises Chairperson Devayani Deshmukh Upasani, Secretary Subhagya Atale Raval and Treasurer Hrishikesh Phadke.

Hyderabad Managing Committee office bearers are Chairperson Narasimham.V.V.L, Secretary Zahid Ali and Treasurer Harish Vangara.

And **Maharashtra Chapter** is represented by Chairperson Vikas Bhosekar, Secretary Shruti Humane and Treasurer Dhanashree Kulkarni.

Elections for Bangalore, Hyderabad, Maharashtra and Mumbai managing committees for the 2021-23 term will be held next year.

STATUS OF ISOLA ACCOUNTS

Today we place on record the consolidated accounts (which includes Central ISOLA and all nine chapters) for the year ending 31st March 2020, that will be filed as approved at this AGM.

We continue to be thankful to our auditor Rajnikant Trivedi, who has always been as invested in ISOLA's success as we are. His support and patience towards ISOLA's fiscal discipline is much appreciated, particularly as the society grows and also through the current challenges that Covid-19 has wrought.

STATUS OF ISOLA MEMBERSHIP

Today, the count of ISOLA memberships, past and present, stand at 735 over the last 5 years, with 370 valid memberships today. There are 199 fellow, 91 associate, 49 graduate and 31 student members. Across the chapters, Delhi has 71, TN & Pondicherry-62, Maharashtra-52, Mumbai- 40, Bangalore- 35, Gujarat -29, Kerala- 19, Hyderabad- 13 and Rajasthan- 10 valid members.

This year we have seen more consistent renewals with fewer renewal reminders, particularly for Fellow and Associate Members. This is encouraging in a year with no conference nor awards.

ISOLA EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy year, as we widen our outreach slowly but surely, connecting with allied professionals, participating in international meetings and forums and contributions towards issues of public interest. Encouragingly, this did not flag during the lockdown, and we saw a great deal of interaction between members towards resolution of long pending documents and direction for the profession during this time.

ISOLA Awards and Honours

Based on the decision taken to schedule the full cycle of Awards to coincide with the next conference (that was scheduled for March 2021), only the Prabhakar Bhagwat Student Awards were held this past year. We received 13 registrations followed by 12 valid submissions. The jury members were Varsha Gavandi, Ravikumar Narayan and Suchandra Bardhan. Past President Rohit Marol was Awards Convenor and Shilpa Chandawarkar, Awards Coordinator.

Based on the success of the last cycle, the entire process was conducted online. This included registration and payment, online submission of entries and the two-stage e-jury. Results were declared in January, and the two awards and three commendation entries have been uploaded to the ISOLA website. To ensure the awardees get their due, the award ceremony has been delayed to coincide with the next conference.

The next cycle of professional and student awards will also be held along with the next conference.

ISOLA Conference

The 2021 ISOLA Hyderabad conference that was scheduled for March has been postponed tentatively to the latter half of next year due to the pandemic. We will be better placed to confirm the final dates, and also if there will be an online conference in the interim, in a few months, when the situation becomes clearer.

There are three pending conference publications from the 2016 Bangalore, 2017 Goa and 2019 Kochi conferences. They are all in the final stages of completion, and we hope to make them all available as e-publications in the coming months.

Code of Conduct & Professional Scale of Charges

To complete the long pending Code of Conduct and Professional Scale of Charges, four online workshops were held over the summer with invited and interested members from across the country, demonstrating a range of experience levels and sizes, location of practice etc. The painstaking documentation and workshops have been led by Rohit Marol and Rohini Venkataswami with the help of Sandip Patil. The final draft has been shared with all members and is ready for adoption today.

Definition of 'Landscape Architecture'

Over a number of workshops, led by EB members Nikhil Dhar and Swati Sahasrabudhe, with the help of Ashish Patankar, Sridevi Rao and Shishir Raval a definition of Landscape Architecture that is relevant to our context was finalized. This updated definition has been sent to COA to be included in the Amendments to the Architect's Act, uploaded to our website and will be used to articulate our professional domain expertise.

Post-Covid Advisory

Members of the Executive Council and Professional Practice group had an online workshop on the changed scenario of our working lives due to Covid-19. An ISOLA Covid Advisory, prepared by Sandip Patil based on these deliberations, was sent to all members with guidance for practice continuity, team, finance and contract management and employment.

SPA Nomenclature Change

There is a proposal to change the nomenclature of courses including the Masters of Landscape Architecture to Masters of Architecture (Landscape) program at the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA). Since SPA has been in the forefront of education and practice of Landscape Architecture in India, any change in nomenclature was seen to have a wider significance for the profession in India that requires attention and due deliberation. ISOLA's position on the change in nomenclature and its impacts was sent to the SPA Board of Governors.

Chapter Activities

Each of the nine ISOLA chapters have been very active, hosting events and workshops, talks and discussions, many on online platforms since the lockdown. Not a week has gone by since May, where an ISOLA event has not taken place, sometime multiple, with active participation, particularly by students interested in the profession. The diversity of event formats, initiatives and activities across mediums, by the enthusiastic new and continuing managing committees have provided opportunities for new ideas, some of which, we are excited to see come to fruition and replicated widely across the country in the coming months. Each chapter will present their chapter report and videos prepared during the AGM.

REPRESENTATION OF ISOLA ON OTHER PLATFORMS

IGBC Green Building Congress

ISOLA collaborated with IGBC for a seminar on 'Green Landscapes and Biodiversity' along with their Annual Green Building Congress (September 28th, 2019). ISOLA members Shilpa Chandawarkar and Gopal Bajaj made presentations and Sujata Kohli, Sridevi Rao, Rohit Marol and Narasimham VVL participated in the panel discussions.

IGBC also showcased the works of ISOLA members to the 5000 conference delegates throughout. 15 member firms took advantage of this opportunity and submitted slides. These are opportunities that we are working to have members have access to, and we hope more firms will take advantage of them in the coming years.

On the sidelines of the IGBC Green Conference, a meeting was held between the ISOLA members present (from the EC, Hyderabad chapter and other attendees) and the IGBC Core Committee for follow up discussions on the MoU signed at the Kochi conference. While the discussions were broad based, it was agreed that we need to pursue some limited goals including updating landscape ratings, use the IGBC connections to interact with government agencies and work together towards a landscape approach in all public projects. IFLA APR president, Damian Tang, also volunteered to join the meeting and had constructive inputs.

India Water Week 2019

ISOLA was represented at a multidisciplinary panel at the India Water Week on September 26th, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi by me. The 3-hour session included representatives from ISOLA, IUCN, ICID, ICOMOS, WII and ASI to focus on nature, culture and design of water places. This event was spearheaded by ISOLA member Nupur Prothi Khanna. Registration for the weeklong conference, organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, was waived for our members.

IFLA

Over the past year, ISOLA has been actively participating in IFLA events, activities and meetings. Sujata Kohli was a jury member for the IFLA AAPME Awards 2020, Ravikumar Narayan participated in the IFLA APR Working Group Landscape without Borders initiative 'Landscape architecture vision for re-imagination of the city after COVID' and Sridevi Rao and Prashanta Bhat have volunteered to be on IFLA standing committees. EC members attended the IFLA APR regional meeting last month, and will attend the World Council meeting later this month. Many

members have actively participated in competitions and activities across the world as well. We look forward to taking advantage of expertise in IFLA as well as other international organizations, such as the proposed EB workshop for accreditation, postponed due to Covid-19, and creating other opportunities for collaboration.

Landscape Institute, UK

The ISOLA President was invited to speak at the Final Presidents Review of the Landscape Institute (LI), UK.

International Landscape & Gardening Expo 2020 & Municipalika

Sujata Kohli also represented ISOLA at the International Landscape and Gardening Expo 2020 in Hyderabad in March.

It was agreed that we need to reconsider support of trade events, on a case by case basis, to further collaborations with likeminded organizations where there is some synergy. In that spirit, we supported the 16th Municipalika, International Exhibition and Conference, on the suggestion of IGBC.

ISOLA COLLABORATIONS

NASA

The engagement with NASA continues to expand. The Mohammad Shaheer Landscape Trophy jury was held in January 2020 at the 62nd NASA Convention at Innovative Film City, Bangalore, Karnataka. Prasad Govindarajulu Setty, Manju Yadav and Shwetal Kadam were the ISOLA jury members and Shilpa Chandawarkar, who prepared the brief, was the moderator. Once again it received the second highest number of entries.

The second initiative with NASA is the ISOLA workshops. After the success of the three conducted in 2018, Maithily Velangi coordinated ISOLA workshops at all six NASA Zonal Conventions in 2019. These were conducted with the help of Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Maharashtra and Kerala chapter representatives, some in partnership with other professionals. These were held in Jaipur, Mumbai, Aurangabad, Kolkata, Guntur and Trivandrum. These are intended to widen exposure about the profession to student architects across the country. ISOLA members Amrita Kaur Slatch, Kriti Yadav, Saylee Surve, Dhara Panchal, Yogendra Ballal, Sonali Dahotre & Shruti Humane, Dwaipayan Bhattacharya & Joyita Das, Sriganesh R. & Aparna Rao and Ganga Krishna contributed. They were all well received and NASA has requested more hands-on workshops in the future. Maithily has set up a standard template for future workshops, and we intend for this to be a recurring engagement with NASA.

GRIHA

GRIHA requested our feedback on the 'GRIHA Manual for Native Vegetation of India' for which a number of members sent in lists that were shared. An ISOLA working group was then set up to collaborate with GRIHA and provide regular reviews and inputs on their document. Jitendra Pawgi, Divya Sharma, Shweta Agrawal Suhane and Shubhangi Chauhan contributed towards this effort.

Council of Architecture (Architects' Amendment Act) COA

ISOLA submitted the combined professional views of the Indian landscape architecture fraternity to COA for the Amendments to the Architects Act, including the definition of Landscape Architecture and its scope, inclusion of and recognition of ISOLA as the professional body representing Landscape Architects in the country, and, representation of ISOLA members in the Council of Architecture.

Following an informal interaction, a letter was sent to the new COA President, Habib Khan regarding the Architects' Act Amendment, potential collaboration between ISOLA and COA, and, the pending MoU. Three online workshops held to discuss these updates were led by Ashish Patankar.

Monographs

ISOLA has committed to supporting the Monograph Series of Ravindra Bhan and Ram Sharma published by the Landscape Foundation, with the help of ISOLA and donor funds.

ISOLA INITIATIVES

Central Vista Development

After an initial submission to and meeting with the Hon. Minister, Ministry of Urban Affairs regarding the inclusion of landscape architects in the competition process, ISOLA and IUDI hosted a presentation by Bimal Patel on the scheme in Delhi, ISOLA president attended a meeting hosted by the Ministry, and we later submitted a response to the change in land use suggested for the Central Vista project in New Delhi. Delhi NCR chapter is currently leading efforts to formulate our next steps.

EIA response

ISOLA submitted feedback to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2020. The response was spearheaded by Devayani Deshmukh Upasani and the Mumbai chapter. Sridevi Rao, Nikhil Dhar, Ashish Patankar, Arjun Sharma, Bineet Chhajer, Anuradha Wakade and Minesh Chainani contributed to this initiative.

ISOLA COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

Education Board

As mentioned at the last AGM, the Education Board has been restructured to include a three member steering committee with Prashanta Bhat, Nikhil Dhar and Swati Sahasrabudhe, an advisory group, and, a larger working group including representatives of recognized institutions.

This past year the Landscape Architecture program at Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Gurugram has been recognized, bringing the total number of ISOLA recognized institutions to nine. A MoU has been signed with VIT's PVP College of Architecture this year, two were signed the previous year. Others are pending.

All recognized institutes were invited for an interaction as part of the EB Working Group on June 13th, 2020 over video conference. Heads of Departments from seven institutes attended the workshop, where they shared information about their departments, challenges and identified the strengths of each institute.

Steering Committee members Prashanta Bhat, Nikhil Dhar and Swati Sahasrabudhe will share the plans and direction of the EB following this report.

Resource Centre

A framework to collect data for the Resource Centre is now in place. Six categories have been laid out to structure the data collection and generation of a strong research base. Starting from the resources available to us through our members, events and conferences, over the next few years, we hope ISOLA can follow through on creating original research as well. RC coordinator Venkata Lakshmi will share details on this initiative.

ISOLA Calendar, Social Media and Website

Neelima Soni and Vineetha P.S. have worked hard to create, and keep up to date, the ISOLA calendar on the website. An interactive format, it allows each chapter to update events, news, etc. as relevant. With the surfeit of activities, however, it has been a challenge to keep it up, but this is definitely a good problem to have. In the meantime, social media interactions have increased, particularly by the chapters on facebook, instagram and twitter.

Thanks to a painstaking exercise by Preetanshi Singh, almost all of the past award winning entries can now be seen on the website. Our website is now the repository of most past ISOLA information and activities. Members also have access through the members' only section to past reports, meeting minutes, documents and videos.

Student Forum

A student forum, based on EB recommendations was initiated at the Kochi conference. Over the past few months, thanks to the efforts of Kumareswari Rajendran, student members from Dr. M.G.R Educational and Research Institute, Chennai have activated the forum, held online discussions, and also initiated a membership drive for landscape architecture students across the country to join ISOLA. They will present their progress report shortly.

IN SUMMARY

And finally, on a personal note. This is the fourth and final year in the term of all the four office bearers, and I speak for all of us, when I express my deepest gratitude for all your support and encouragement over the past few years. It has been an honour and a privilege to represent this society and to work together with its members to strengthen our profession. We have all tried our very best, and I hope you will forgive us our missteps. It has been our endeavor to facilitate opportunities for all members across different forums and platforms. And we have been greatly encouraged to see more and more members actively participating, representing and promoting the profession and ISOLA.

We have a unique society brimming with camaraderie, that is rare and to be cherished. Especially in the current challenging times it has been heartening to see the commitment shown by each member of every single committee across the country, despite their personal and professional challenges and commitments. I encourage more

members to take up more responsibilities and stand for elections to their chapters and also to the Executive Council in the coming year. Or, to volunteer and engage in any capacity that they are able.

It takes a village, and in that we have been fortunate to have a wonderful team led by the untiring President Sujata Kohli, Vice President Sridevi Rao and Past President Rohit Marol. Jitendra Pawgi, Swati Sahasrabudhe, Prashanta Bhat, Shilpa Chandawarkar, Neelima Soni, Parisutha Rajan, Asok Kumar, Vineetha, Venkata Lakshmi and Preetanshi have with their enthusiasm and hard work helped broaden our horizons. We are emboldened by a strong and committed group of Chapter Representatives whom we look on to for constant support and have been unfailing in their commitment as not only chapter chairs but also active and engaged EC members- Aditya Advani, Devyani Deshmukh Upasani, Narasimham V.V.L., Prasad, Ravikumar Narayan, Rohini Prasad, Sandip Patil and Vikas Bhosekar. As always, EC members and seniors who came before us continue in unofficial capacities to guide the growth of ISOLA and we are thankful for their direction.

Thanks are also due to our new Office Manager at the ISOLA Office in Ahmedabad, Deepak Kungwani, who took over post the lockdown and has taken over effortlessly.

And finally, thank you to all ISOLA members for taking the time to be here today to participate in the 15th ISOLA AGM.

Nidhi Madan

Honorary Secretary, ISOLA

September 12th, 2020