



## DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE 60TH ISOLA EC MEETING

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Venue: via Conference Call

### Members Present:

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Rohit Marol         | - President        |
| Ashish Patankar     | - Vice President   |
| Neelima Soni        | - Treasurer        |
| Shilpa Chandawarkar | - Secretary        |
| M. Prabhugaonker    | - Fellow member    |
| Nupur Prothi        | - Fellow member    |
| Harsh Goel          | - Associate member |
| Sreejith S          | - Associate member |
| Harsh Mittal        | - Associate member |
| Nidhi Madan         | - Special Invitee  |

### Members absent with leave:

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Sachin Jain | - Past President |
|-------------|------------------|

### Members absent without leave:

|               |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Minesh Parikh | - Delhi Chapter Chairperson  |
| Suneeta Bapat | - Mumbai Chapter Chairperson |

## 1. EDUCATION BOARD : Way forward

*Shilpa Chandawarkar briefed the members that most members of the ISOLA Education Board have agreed to continue, with the exception of Surinder Suneja, who has not confirmed his participation. Prof. Shaheer has expressed that he would participate only in advisory capacity. The other members who have confirmed their participation are Savita Punde, Deepa Maheshwari, Abhijit Natu, Nikhil Dhar, Savita Raje and Sandip Patil. Rohit Marol informed the EC that he had spoken to Shishir Raval to continue, however, his confirmation is awaited.*

*In order to increase participation from all parts of the country (especially since South India is not adequately represented), it was decided to invite Mohan Rao to participate. Nupur Prothi also recommended inviting Kalpana Hadap and/or Manjusha Ukidve to participate as they were involved in teaching at Landscape Architecture courses in Pune.*

*Rohit Marol opined that Sachin Jain (EC member) should be made Convenor of the Education Board to formulate and drive the programme and give it the impetus it needs. It has been decided to ask the Education Board to have their meeting a day ahead of the Bangalore conference on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2015. Bangalore LOC has agreed to include this into the programme. The EB members will also be informed that the validity of the current board would be till end of the current EC term and the EC may recommend continuity but the final decision will rest with the next EC.*

## 2. INSTITUTION CONNECTS- initiate talks with CEPT and Dwarka

## INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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*Nupur Prothi – Sachin Jain wanted to pursue this connect with an architecture college (planning to start Landscape course) in Dwarka where ISOLA could launch some initiatives. As Sachin Jain was unavailable on the conference call, it was decided that he will be asked to report on the current status via email.*

*Neelima Soni felt that SPA Delhi needs to be included in this initiative too. Nidhi Madan offered to work with SPA and make a programme.*

*Rohit Marol said that CEPT has already asked ISOLA for contributing to their landscape teaching. ISOLA has a large resource bank with practical and academic experience and we need to address how best we can help – either by way of workshops, seminars, jury participation, etc.*

*Shilpa Chandawarkar felt that the Education Board should be asked to formulate a programme for institutional connect. The other members agreed to include this in the agenda for the next EB meeting.*

*Harsh Goel offered to connect with CEPT and take responsibility to link ISOLA and CEPT and coordinate with Bimal Patel. Rohit Marol asked Harsh Goel to talk directly to Bimal Patel as well.*

*Neelima Soni asked Nidhi Madan to prepare a list of objectives and initiatives that could be discussed with Bimal Patel and subsequently with other institutions. She was asked to make a draft and circulate it to the EC first.*

*Manguesh Prabhugaonker said that members all over the country could participate and we can start all over India, need not restrict to Delhi or Ahmedabad. 10 or 15 undergraduate colleges also can have workshops conducted by ISOLA members. He informed the EC that a landscape workshop was currently being planned in Goa in February where 3-4 colleges would be involved and could connect with ISOLA.*

*Nupur Prothi mentioned that the INTACH Delhi chapter had invited the ISOLA Delhi chapter to comment on the Lutyens Bungalow Zone for the first time. Institutional connects of this nature also should be explored as an Outreach Programme.*

*Rohit Marol suggested that an Outreach Committee be formulated, comprising of EC members initially.*

### **3. ISOLA HONOURS AND AWARDS 2015 Updates**

*Shilpa Chandawarkar informed the EC that the process of registration for the ISOLA Honours and Awards 2015 has been completed as per schedule and a total of 33 entries have been registered across all categories. The Awards Jury is scheduled to be held on the 19th of December 2015 in Mumbai. The School of Environment and Architecture as well as the L.S.Raheja College of Architecture Mumbai have offered to host the jury in their respective campuses.*

*The following suggestions were received for increasing the member participation at the Awards:*  
*Rohit Marol – the ISOLA Awards need to be showcased better and the winners need to have increased visibility*

*Harsh Mittal – felt that a category of Young Practices/ Young Landscape Architect's Award needs to be introduced where the criteria of the completed project being atleast 3 years old needs to be relaxed*

*Sreejith – Categories for Unbuilt projects/under construction projects also need to be factored in*

*Nupur Prothi – the process of application can be online, may make it more convenient. She also mentioned a joint exhibition conducted by INTACH and COA for Heritage Awards and felt that ISOLA should also look at similar avenues increased visibility.*

*Rohit Marol also mentioned that we have adequate professional and academic experience within ISOLA to think of filing nominations for the prestigious GEOFFREY JELLICOE AWARD from the*



*stalwarts of our profession in India. He however felt that the entire process should be correctly detailed and planned with proper submittals and be done with a full chance of winning.*

#### **4. ONLINE MEMBERSHIPS AND WEBSITE WORK UPDATES**

*Nidhi Madan and Neelima Soni updated the EC that all the base data for going online with the membership process was in place and after their interaction with Mr.Joy, they were of the opinion that he had a good grasp on the requirements and would be able to meet the deliverables. He has been asked to submit his financial quote which needs to be approved by the EC.*

*Neelima Soni also opined that the online membership process needs to be immediately put into effect, however, another vendor/s could be approached for discussing the changes in the look, content and navigational ease of the website.*

*Nidhi Madan also informed everyone that the online membership process would involve a change in the membership number and there may be some resistance and confusion in the process of the changeover. However, automating the system will require this change and we should ensure to make the process as smooth as possible.*

*Shilpa Chandawarkar also opined that henceforth all original membership certificates should be sent to all members by courier so that there is a proof of delivery available with ISOLA. Past experiences have shown that membership certificates have got misplaced or there are no records that members have collected their certificates.*

*Sreejith also mentioned about members sending queries on issuance of membership certificates on the Facebook page – he was asked to direct all queries to the ISOLA office or the ISOLA Secretary's email id.*

#### **5. RESOURCE CENTRE - WAY FORWARD**

*Nupur Prothi said that not much progress had been made on the Resource Centre programme building since the AGM, but she felt that the initiative needed more participation from members. It was decided to prepare a summarized presentation of the one which was made at the AGM and circulate it amongst all members, seeking their contribution of ideas and participation.*

#### **6. ISOLA MERCHANDISING**

*This has been approved in principle by Rajnikant Trivedi and as per the minutes of the 59th EC meeting held on August 21st, 2015, the Delhi chapter has been given the permission to go ahead.*

#### **7. NEWSLETTER AND BLOGS**

*Neelima Soni reported that she was in the process of putting together the first draft and she would be able to send it by the first or second week of November.*

*Nidhi Madan opined that blogs could be inserted into the website and interested members could write for the same.*

*Sreejith reported that the ISOLA Facebook page had 486 members and he was hoping that the numbers would increase in the near future. Approximately 20 people access the page daily and it would help to keep the page updated with latest information to increase the number of visitors on the page.*

#### **8. STATUS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEES FLOATED AT THE AGM**



*It was decided that Shilpa would write to all members (not limited to the attendees of the AGM), explaining the scope and role of each of the committees and seek their voluntary participation. Coordinators of each of these Committees could then form teams and start working towards the set objectives.*

#### **9. ONLINE VOTING**

*Rohit Marol opined that based on the current trends and relative ease of processes, we will eventually have to get on to online voting in the next couple of years. Hence it would be better to understand the process fully and be ready to include it whenever it happens in the future.*

*Manguesh Prabhugaonker said that he will recompile all IIA documents and send to the EC for perusal. Member database needs to be absolutely correct for initiating online voting. Website manager also needs to be told to factor in online voting provision into the website.*

*Neelima Soni informed that membership data is fully compiled, there are a few gaps, but that will be an ongoing process.*

#### **10. ISOLA ARCHIVES**

*Rohit Marol reminded the EC that CEPT Director Bimal Patel had already agreed to host the ISOLA archives and we must make good use of this opportunity to start our archives.*

*Shilpa Chandawarkar said that we would need to know how we are getting our documents in place and start thinking about the process and establishing a road map for how to start and which seniors/practices to approach for commencing the documentation. Such an exercise would need a large number of enthusiastic, willing helping hands and could be tied up to the Resource Center initiative.*

*Rohit Marol felt it would be a good idea to ask Geeta Wahi Dua to get involved, given her experience with project documentation and communication with senior practices.*

#### **11. CHARITY COMMISSIONER FILE SUBMITTAL**

*As both Sachin Jain and Harsh Goel were unavailable on the conference call, it was decided that they will be asked to report the current status via email.*

#### **12. ENGAGING WITH IFLA**

*Shilpa Chandawarkar formally thanked Neelima Soni for compiling the ISOLA document which was forwarded to IFLA for their bulletin. She asked the EC whether the document could be shared with all members/uploaded on the website as it was a good summary of all the ISOLA activities conducted in the last 2 years.*

*Neelima said that she would revise the document as per the comments received from some EC members following which it could be shared with all members.*

*Rohit Marol informed the EC that the IFLA President has requested to connect with the ISOLA EC via a skype call – this could be done before/during the next EC meeting at a mutually convenient time.*

#### **13. CONSENT ON ALL PAST MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD BY THIS EC**

*The minutes of the 58th and 59th EC meetings were approved by all present.*

*It was decided that henceforth drafts of the minutes of the meetings would be circulated within a week of the meeting being held and all EC members should send in their comments/consent within 4 working days. If EC members do not respond within the stipulated time, no reply will be taken as a consent.*



*Regarding the letter sent to all chapters on the sharing of finances with the ISOLA Centre and Chapters, Shilpa Chandawarkar also informed the EC that we had received concurrence from the Gujarat chapter, no response yet from the Delhi chapter and an individual response from one of the EC members of the Mumbai chapter.*

*Mumbai chapter EC has been sent an email asking them to respond with a chapter resolution on the matter.*

*Nidhi Madan informed the EC that the Delhi chapter would respond on the matter as soon as their chapter meeting is conducted.*

#### **14. SUPPORT STAFF FOR ISOLA SECRETARY**

*The EC members were of the opinion that if deemed necessary, an additional person should be deputed to help the ISOLA Secretary with the daily administrative tasks that could be done under her direct guidance (which is not happening in the long-distance communication with the office manager at Ahmedabad) and improve response time and work efficiency.*

*It was decided to evaluate whether the current administrative staff at her Design Cell office could contribute on a part-time basis or alternatively, to look at other part-time help.*

#### **15. NBC UPDATE**

*As Sachin Jain was unavailable on the conference call, it was decided that he will be asked to report the current status via email.*

#### **16. ANY OTHER ITEMS WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR**

a. *Harsh Mittal wanted to know what would be ISOLA's stand on participating in events hosted by organisations like CREDAI. He cited an example of such an event being held in Jaipur where they were seeking association with ISOLA. He also mentioned that such events had architects discussing landscape architecture and hence, it would be better if ISOLA was represented at such platforms. Rohit Marol informed him that ISOLA was open to participation/association with organisations provided we have clarity on their objectives and the key objectives should be educational and not commercial. Manguesh Prabhugaonker said that we should examine all events individually and take a call. Visibility and connect of ISOLA in professional platforms is important.*

b. *The Amnesty and Discounted Membership scheme document was also approved by all for circulation and Shilpa Chandawarkar would circulate the same to all members on Monday, the 19th of October 2015.*

*Prepared by:  
Shilpa Chandawarkar  
Honorary Secretary*