



ISOLA SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011

I welcome you all to this 6th AGM of ISOLA and the 1st one since the current EC took charge. And again it is time to look back and assess our achievements, failures and in progress works.

As a continuing endeavour of the last EC from which we took charge, it was an important ideal for us to bring in transparency in the functioning of the EC and ISOLA at all levels. This has to a large extent been achieved through circulation of the MOM of EC meetings to the general membership. In fact, the minutes of all the past meetings have been uploaded on the ISOLA website and are available in the members' login section as also the audited financial results (on request).

Since the last AGM, some of the programmes under taken by the current EC and their status is as follows:

- **LOCAL CHAPTERS**

I am happy to inform you that apart from the Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai chapters, all of whom have successfully conducted various programs, seminars and education workshops, Pune members have also initiated the process of chapter formation and shall be operational very soon. I am also happy to inform you that apart from the duly elected members of the executive council, a representative from each of the chapters is also nominated on the EC and contributed to its functioning.

- **ISOLA WEBSITE**

Since the last AGM, our new website : www.isola.org.in, which had become operational then, a lot of new content has been added to it as you can see. We have got a new members' login section added over which the members can access all information pertaining to members, memorandum and rules of ISOLA and the EC meetings, activities and relevant professional information & resources like the landscape chapters and contents of the National Building Code. The website has also been updated with information and abstracts of past conferences, the honours and awards functions, newsletters information of landscape architecture schools in the country, publications by ISOLA chapters and links to other professional bodies.

We have also got space for Job listing by landscape architecture companies and prospective job seekers at a very nominal cost to cover our expenses. Towards our endeavour to provide relevant professional information on the latest products available in market and also to fund the resource research projects as



envisaged, we have got a products section also on our website with links to the relevant products (for which of course, ISOLA does not take any legal responsibility). Here, I would like to thank Mr. Adit Pal who has been very actively involved in the constant improvement and updation of the website with constant support and active involvement of ISOLA president Mr. Rohit Marol and Ms. Savita Punde, with inputs from my fellow EC members.

- **ISOLA NEWSLETTER**

At the 16th EC meeting of the last EC, since it was decided to restart the ISOLA Newsletter, under the Newsletter committee headed by Mr. Anuj Malhotra, it was decided to release atleast two newsletters every year. We have already released 2 newsletter and the 3rd edition is just round the corner and will be available in your hands soon. The newsletter and its past editions are also available on our website.

I would actively request all our members to please participate and send your contributions pertaining to news about profession, articles, or any other thing to our newsletter committee. It is only with your participation and support that we would be able to make its content richer and meaningful.

- **ISOLA EDUCATION BOARD**

The ISOLA Education Board which was last constituted at the 17th EC meeting held on April 11th 2009 has been actively working with Prof. Abhijit Natu, as its convenor along with all the members of the past committee including Prof. Shaheer (as advisor), Prof. Deepa Maheshwari, Prof. Shishir Rawal, Dr. Surinder Suneja, Mr. Nikhil Dhar, continuing as members. After the last workshop on landscape education held at the School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi, there is a proposal to conduct another workshop on undergraduate landscape education at Rachna Sansad's Academy of Architecture, Mumbai on 12th November 2011. The focus of the workshop would be to identify scope of landscape design course at UG level; to identify thrust areas; to bring forth the issues / concerns of the teachers teaching Landscape Design at UG level and interaction with the experts can help in addressing the concerns. The broad framework of landscape design syllabus can be recommended to the Council of Architecture, and also to the Board of Studies of various Universities in the country, which can then be incorporated in the schools of architecture across the country.

- **RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

ISOLA proposes to conduct research to document and make a data base of significant landscapes, open spaces in our country. A brief has been prepared to invite individuals, group of people, firm who intend to do research & design oriented projects on behalf of ISOLA in public realm relevant to preserving environment, ecological habitat, open spaces. This research will be funded by ISOLA. This brief is available on the website. The documents, data will be accessible to all the members of ISOLA on society's website, <http://isola.org.in>



The Resource Committee steered by Ms. Varsha Gawandi and very ably supported by Mr. Yogesh Kapoor has formulated an advisory panel of eminent senior landscape architects to evaluate, approve, review and advise us on these research, documentation work comprising of Prof. Ram Sharma, Prof. M. Shaheer and Mr. Kishore Pradhan.

The ultimate aim of this research is to ensure these significant landscapes, public and historic spaces, gardens and ecological habitats are recognised by the relevant authorities and maintained and improved for greater public participation and are not lost to pressures of authorities for commercial and other land use. On completion of the report, possible presentation to the authorities on behalf of ISOLA for possible collaboration. A similar research and design pilot project was successfully completed by the Delhi Chapter of ISOLA before the commonwealth games for the landscape design of 3 flyovers after presentation to the Chief Minister.

Besides the above mentioned research projects the resource committee also proposes to create database involving various realms of landscape architecture in future through short-term research projects by involving trainees and students.

- **PROFESSIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE & ISOLA CODE OF CONDUCT**

The last EC had formulated a committee with Mr. Jayant Dharap as the co-ordinator which had compiled an initial document towards these objectives. The current EC endeavours to take it forward with Mr. Yogesh Kapoor as coordinator.

- **ISOLA BYELAWS**

The new Bylaws which were tabled and discussed at the 5th AGM, and were approved by the general body after incorporating some of the points raised by Prof. Bhagwat. After incorporating the approved revisions, the Bylaws were sent to our chartered accountants and to our Lawyer for final check before filing with the charity commissioner and uploading on the website.

- **MANUAL OF PROCEEDURES**

The past EC with Mr. Rohit Marol as the co-ordinator along with member Mr. Avadhoot Kumthekar had put together a Manual of procedures for running ISOLA. Members keenly felt a need for this document as it would clearly set out how the society functioned, especially in the case of formalities to be followed by incoming EC members. The present EC continues its endeavour to add to the same. As a part of this, I would like to inform you that besides the four mandatory EC meetings in an year at every 3 month interval, the present EC decided to conduct an intermediate EC meeting by teleconference call for smoother functioning of ISOLA and better coordination and communication amongst all EC members to achieve these ideals.



- ISOLA AWARDS

As another of the past EC's stated objective, which we are carrying forward is to recognize and encourage talent at both the professional and student level. Towards this end, it was decided to institute The Annual ISOLA Honors and Awards. A committee to oversee the same was set up with Ms. Savita Punde as coordinator and Ms. Sujata Kohli and Ms. Geeta Dua as members. After recognizing the contribution of the senior leading luminaries of the profession at the 2009 Delhi conference, the first ISOLA Honors & Awards were given at the 2010 Goa Conference with very high quality of entries received besides the winners. This all could be achieved with the active cooperation, involvement and conducting the award function ceremonies by the respective LOCs. This year, however, as already communicated to you, due to circumstances beyond control, the 2011 Awards cycle had to be merged with the next awards cycle of 2012. However, it has now been mandated by the EC after due deliberation, to make the annual awards cycle, in future an integral part of the conference with clearly defined responsibilities between the ISOLA centre and the respective LOC. This is an important part of our agenda today on which I would expect your views and suggestions. By recognizing the meritorious work of landscape professionals at our conference, which is the biggest forum available to us, we would be getting a better visibility and recognition for our profession.

- OTHER PROGRAMMES

I would like to inform you that besides the proposed workshop on education, ISOLA also partnered with the Indian Green Building Congress and sent its representatives to be apart of their core committee at Hyderabad in Feb 2011. Besides, our past president Ms. Savita Punde, Ms. Varsha Gavandi, our vice president was the official representative of ISOLA on the core-committee. ISOLA also supported the Garden Expo-2010, thus reaching out to the landscape industry. After the successful response to the NASA ISOLA Landscape Trophy in 2009, we again sponsored the 2010 edition of the trophy. Our treasurer Mr. Mangesh Prabhugaonkar was designated to be ISOLA's representative on the jury of the annual NAS at Hubli, which was a huge success with a very encouraging interest of young students in Landscape architecture at the undergraduate level with 105 entries. Our president, Mr. Rohit Marol also represented ISOLA at the lighting design conference at Goa in Feb 2010. Besides this, ISOLA is also presently evaluating proposals to support and associate with the event 'Better Cities & Better Tomorrow' scheduled from the 20.09.11 to 15.10.11 at Ahmedabad; infrastructure expo 'Urban Infra World Expo 2011' scheduled from the 19th -22nd Oct 2011 at BEC ,Mumbai; and a couple of others.



- CHAPTER PROGRAMMES

Besides the activities conducted by central ISOLA, the chapters formed since the taking over the last EC have been performing very well and contributing actively to the visibility of the profession. The Delhi chapter has very successfully conducted a trilogy of events comprising of "Public Art & the City", "Tree & the City" and concluding with "Sacred Water", which was held on 29th April 2011 at IHC, New Delhi. The program had very eminent speakers comprising of Prof. Vikram Soni, eminent scientist and Jawaharlal Nehru scholar, Prof. Morna Livingston from University of Philadelphia, eminent author and academician, Mr. Farhad Contractor, artist Jatin Das and Ms. Varsha Gavandi. The next Delhi event is tentatively scheduled in December 2011.

The Mumbai chapter conducted a workshop on undergraduate education from 10th to 12th June 2011 at IES College, Bandra. Their next events are scheduled in October, November and February.

- MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It is our continued endeavour to constantly try and get each and every landscape architect and student in the fold of ISOLA. I am also happy to inform you that 84 members have been added to the society since the last AGM comprising of 9 Fellow, 10 associate, 18 graduate and 47 student members.

Looking back at the performance of the EC, by and large there has been above 90% attendance from all members except Mr. Kishore Chanduru, who subsequently resigned from the Executive council on 16th July 2011 citing personal reasons.

I would like to thank every EC member, particularly president, Mr. Marol, past president, Ms. Savita Punde who have all contributed very actively in steering the the EC to achieve its objectives..

In addition, I would like to especially thank all ISOLA members for supporting and helping to achieve our stated goals.

Sachin Jain
Honorary Secretary
ISOLA
11 September 2011