



ISOLA SECRETARY'S REPORT 2012

I welcome you all to this 7th AGM of ISOLA. And again it is time to look back and assess our achievements, failures, in progress works and our future ambitions.

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 and better and fruitful coordination with the chapters.

This has to a large extent been achieved through regular dissemination of all information and mails from everywhere including IFLA to the general body. It has been our sincere endeavor to keep all our members updated with all news, whether from us, from IFLA or anywhere else through immediate and regular forwarding of the information to all members and regular updation of website and periodic uploading of the detailed Minutes of Meeting of all EC meetings on the website, which are available in the members' login section.

- **STATUS OF ISOLA ELECTIONS**

First and foremost, I would like to inform you about the status of the Elections to the Executive Council, the notice and schedule for the same will be sent out during the coming week. In fact, in the last few days, we have received a letter from one of our esteemed senior members seeking clarification on the impending elections to the Executive Council of ISOLA, which would have been due in September 2012, in the normal course, and as to why they have been delayed.

Here I would like to bring to your notice, that we have no intention to delay the same. In fact, I wish to inform you that an accounting workshop was held on 16.07.2011 on the advice of ISOLA Auditors, M/s Shah & Dalal, Chartered Accountants, which was attended by all chapter, LOC and ISOLA centre treasurers along with the ISOLA CA, Advisor and chapter CAs, besides ISOLA office bearers to frame guidelines for good accounting procedures and prepare a set of financial guidelines and procedures in place for all times to come, in view of the fact that over the years ISOLA has expanded as an organization with several chapters and LOCs in place. The said workshop was chaired by Mr. Bharat Shah and detailed procedures and guidelines were prepared. This in fact, is a major achievement of our tenure that complete procedures and guidelines are in place for Financial matters and are being rigorously adhered to in our endeavor to achieve for water-tight financial discipline and complete transparency.



A very important guideline amongst these was pertaining to the ISOLA central and chapter elections. Refer to item 7 of the above MOM. According to this “It was advised to conduct the Central ISOLA / Chapter elections so as to synchronize the term of the council / committee with the financial year to simplify the modalities, signatories and tenure responsibilities.” This means that it was decided to keep the term of the Executive Council of ISOLA as well as the Executive Committee of the Chapters from 1st April of a year to 31st March two years later.

In view of the above, the term of the Central ISOLA Executive Council was extended till 31st March 2013, to synchronize it with the above. It was decided in the 41st Meeting of the Executive Council (refer to MOMs available in Members Section of the website) to announce election schedule at the forthcoming 42nd EC meeting at Ahmedabad on 24.11.2012 after finalizing the dates so that the election process can be set in motion well in advance and the new EC can assume office by 01st April 2013.

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

- **Hosting of the 8th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ISOLA AT BHOPAL**

I am happy to inform you that the 8th Annual Conference of ISOLA was recently held on 31st August and 01st September 2012 at the Noor-Us-Sabah Palace, Bhopal. In order to explore new territories and expand the profession to hitherto un-explored areas, the conference was for the first time held in Central India at Madhya Pradesh, and I can tell you by the kind of attendance we achieved of landscape architects, related professionals, architects, students and stake holders, it was an overwhelming success for the profession in general and ISOLA in particular. In future, we would like to go eastwards as well. As you know, we have hardly 1 or 2 members from Bhopal and perhaps not more than 10 from entire MP itself, the EC took upon itself the task of organizing the conference with the local support of the Department of Architecture, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology and School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal, that to at a very low registration fees of Rs. 1000/- for our members. In the organization of the conference, I would like to acknowledge the yeoman support the EC got from Prof. Savita Raje, Professor at SPA, Bhopal and also an ISOLA member.

The theme this year “THE PLACE OF NATURE IN TOMORROW’S CITY” sought to address the value of natural elements in urban and rural environments, and the economic, social and environmental benefits they provide. The conference aimed to focus on the issues and processes of integrating the natural environment into healthy sustainable urban centres from cultural, socio-political, and planning perspectives with examples from our past and present.



The Chief Guest was Sh. Jayant Mallaiya, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources and Environment, Government of MP, who also happened to give away the 2nd Annual ISOLA Awards, which have been made an annual feature during the tenure of the present EC. ISOLA medal, the highest honour this year was bestowed upon Prof. Mohd. Shaheer.

The ISOLA landmark award was awarded unanimously to Sanskriti Kendra, nominated by the Sanskriti Foundation. This award included felicitations for the design team, architect Mr Uppal Ghosh and landscape architect Prof Shaheer.

Though, no award was given by the jury in the ISOLA general design awards for excellence in landscape design, three commendations were given in the category to Anuradha Rathore for Eco-space Rajarhaat, Kolkata, Shilpa Chandawarkar from Mumbai for Sant Gyaneshwar Udhyan and Baji Prabhu Udhyan Mumbaia and to Sujata Hingorani for Bhairon Marg Urban Redevelopment.

The ISOLA Students award for the best landscape thesis for 2011 was given to Harsh Mittal from SPA Delhi for his project redevelopment of Ram Niwas Bagh Jaipur. The award for the year 2012 was given to Anupama Bapat from BNCA Pune for her project redevelopment of Abandoned Quarryscape at Wagholi, Pune.

The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya, eminent academician and professional. In his presentation titled "Cultivating the City of the Future", he highlighted "the arrogant illusion" by the claim of technology as a rational control over nature. His allegory of the mythical story of the churning of the oceans by the Devas and the Asuras to illustrate his point of view and set the tone of the conference was a highlight of the keynote.

Prof. James L. Wescoat, Aga Khan professor at the School of Architecture and Planning, MIT chaired the First Session : City in Nature / Nature in city: Past and Present, in which speakers were Narendra Dengle and Yatin Pandya.

The second session: City – People–Water, post lunch was chaired by Mr Ravindra Punde and the speakers were Prof. James Wescoat and Farhad Contractor.

In the evening, after the sessions, there was a performance of the Amritashya Narmada Ballet by the troupe of Dr. Suchitra Harmalkar at the auditorium of the magnificent Bharat Bhawan. It described the biography of the holy river, Narmada, which includes its origin, its arrival on earth, its flow etc. This dance drama was given a contemporary touch by raising the issue of pollution amongst the rivers, which was so relevant to the theme of the conference.

The third session that began on the second day, namely, Sustainable Cities - Safeguarding Resources for tomorrow was chaired by Prof. Neelkanth Chhaya.



The first presentation by Dr. Vikram Soni, professor of Physics at the National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi dealt with the use of science by non-invasive techniques to find solutions to contemporary problems specially in the area of water resources. He talked about the potential of river flood plains towards solving the problem of water scarcity with particular references to Rive Yamuna.

Romi Khosla made the second presentation on the model of a sustainable city.

The third speaker Dr Mahesh Buch, the Chairman of the National Centre for Human Settlements and Environment at Bhopal and a former bureaucrat spoke of his experiences while he was involved in planning of Madhya Pradesh and the session culminated with a presentation by Dr. Bimal Patel on the Sabarmati Riverfront.

The fourth and the concluding session of the conference, Indian Panorama, chaired by Prof. Shaheer, had been introduced in the conference from this year, where in an endeavour to make our sessions more interactive a series of very brief presentations from ISOLA members ranging from 8-10 minutes on different cities of India were made by Ravi Kumar Narayan and Rukkumany (Chennai), Dr Meenakshi Jain (Simla), Sriganesh Rajendran (Jeewan Beema Nagar, Mumbai), Swati Sahastrabuddhe (Pune), Suchandra Bardhan and Madhup Mazumder (Kolkata), Dr. Sridevi Rao (Hyderabad), Savita Raje (Bhopal) and Dr Priyaleen Singh (Gardens of Delhi).

On the 2nd of September, there was a tour to the world heritage sites of Sanchi and Bhimbetka. Overall, the conference was very well attended and was a huge success.

- **POLICE MEMORIAL COMPETITION, GOA NOTIFICATION & PUNE COMPETITION**

As a constant endeavor to gain wider recognition for the profession and to engage with government departments and have ISOLA as a stake-holder, the National Police Memorial Competition was a major shot in the arm for ISOLA, where ISOLA got recognition in a National Competition.

A Professional Advisor (an eminent Delhi based architect) appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs was instrumental in setting up the National Architectural Design Competition for the National Police Memorial located at the Northern End of the Chanakyapuri Vista in New Delhi. Recognizing the role of landscape architects, it was ensured that a Landscape Architect or an ISOLA member is an essential member of any participating team in the competition. This tremendously helped in improving the visibility of ISOLA in government and sets up a desirable precedent. As an icing on the cake, all prize winning entries had ISOLA members as team members – First prize winning comprised of Nikhil Dhar, Second Prize winning entry had Sachin Jain and Ritu Jain, Third prize winning entry had Anita Tikkoo on the team. A definite way forward for our fraternity.

Another shot in the arm came from the, GOA NOTIFICATION



Goa Land Development and Building Construction regulations 2010, dated 9th September 2010 - Official Gazette, Department of Town and Country Planning, Government of Goa came out with regulations that recognize the profession of Landscape Architects and also ISOLA as the body. As per the notification, the Fee for Registration of Landscape Architects (for 5 years) is Rs.10,000, whereby, the Fee for Registration for a registered ISOLA members is (for 5 years) is Rs.5,000. Apart from the above, it also states the rules for minimum site area to have the validation of a Landscape Architect. Another notable achievement for ISOLA and Landscape fraternity was the announcement of Pune Streets Program (PSP) for designing of streets of Pune and also preparing a street design manual by Pune Municipal Corporation in June 2012 in which, ISOLA registration was made mandatory for all participating teams/ consortiums. It was also stated that the Team Leader needs to be a Landscape Architect having active registration with ISOLA. The results of the Program were announced in October 2012 in which notably Oasis Designs, Delhi (Ms. Sujata Hingorani) and Kumthekar Associates, Pune (Mr Avadhoot Kumthekar and Ms. Anjali Kumthekar) have been the awardees.

- **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 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, another workshop on undergraduate landscape education was conducted at Rachna Sansad's Academy of Architecture, Mumbai on 12th November 2011. The focus of the workshop was 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. It was a very successful workshop. Education Board this year has very challenging tasks ahead with several colleges of architecture, who are now introducing landscape architecture as a course at undergraduate level as well as post graduate level have applied for ISOLA accreditation and wish to engage with ISOLA as a professional body to structure their curriculum. Our education board is evaluating these proposals and very soon we are going to convene a meeting of the board members with the advisors to chart the way forward.



- **RESOURCE COMMITTEE**

ISOLA proposes to conduct research to document and make a data base of significant landscapes, open spaces in our country. Proposals were invited from members, individuals, group of people, firms who intend to do research & design oriented projects on behalf of ISOLA in public realm relevant to preserving environment, ecological habitat, open spaces. 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>

A proposal from Dr. Sridevi Rao for Documentation of Gardens has been received is under consideration.

Over a period of time, we hope to be able to have a significant database of significant landscapes, public and historic spaces, gardens and ecological habitats with the research initiatives.

- **FINAL BYE LAWS OF THE SOCIETY**

The final copy of the approved bye-laws of the society was approved at the 5th AGM on 09 October 2010 after due deliberations, discussions and corrections suggested by the members at its 5th Meeting on 9th October 2010. After that comprehensive legal opinion had been obtained on the bye-laws from advocate Vibha Makhija, ISOLA advisor Rajnikant Trivedi and Auditors M/s Shah and Dalal. This process was completed and process to file the same with the charity commissioner had been initiated and the original approved copy had been signed by all EC members. The process for the same has been initiated by engaging a lawyer to do so.

The final copy of the approved byelaws as committed in the EGBM is being circulated to all members today and will also be uploaded on the website subsequently (with a note that applied for filing in Charity Commissioner Office).

- **ISOLA CHAPTER ELECTION UPDATE**

The Delhi Chapter Election nominations were received on 03 March 2012, four valid nominations were received. Bye-elections were called for 1 vacant seat and 1 valid nomination was received. The new EC which had taken charge on 01.04.2012, elected its office bearers after the bye-election at meeting dated 14th May, The names are as follows:

Mr. Minesh Parikh – Chairperson

Ms. Nupur Prothi Khanna – Honorary Secretary



Ms. Neelima Soni – Treasurer

The election process has also been completed by the Bangalore chapter. The results will soon be communicated to the central EC.

- **DONOR LISTING ON WEBSITE**

To fund our research and other endeavours towards dissemination of knowledge and generate additional income, a donor listing initiative has been launched. Besides the patron donors who support our conferences, any vendor who makes a donation to ISOLA of minimum amount of Rs. 50,000/- or a minimum amount of Rs. 85,000/- will be provided a complimentary listing with his weblink on ISOLA website for a period of 6 months and 1 year respectively. The format and the details for the same are already available on the website.

- **MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES**

The new membership certificates for all the categories were ready and available at the Bhopal conference and were handed over to some of the members, who attended. The remaining will be sent by courier or speed post to all the members by the end of this month.

- **NEXT CONFERENCE**

The 9th Annual conference is proposed to be held in Delhi for the year 2014 in the month of Feb or March. For the 2015, conference, there were proposals from enthusiastic members for Jaipur and Simla. There was also a proposal from Elen Deming, past-president of CELA to collaborate with ISOLA in holding a conference in India in 2015 forwarded by Prof. Amita Sinha through EC member Urmila.

- **CHAPTER EVENTS**

Mumbai Chapter hosted an event at IES College of Architecture, Mumbai with Prof. Amita Sinha as the main speaker. Delhi chapter has proposed 2 events to be organized, the first one titled “Vertical Delhi” on 2nd March 2013 (in collaboration with IUDI) and the second one in October 2013.

- **NEW ISOLA OFFICE PREMISES**

The lease for the earlier office at Divya Bungalows had ended with Anuj Malhotra vacating his office space. After several options having being explored, the present premises were finalized out of the



short-listed at a license charges of Rs. 12,500/- per month inclusive of the license fees for the space and all the furniture and fixtures including the air-conditioner and other electrical fittings for a period of 5 years. The rent would increase annually.

- ISOLA WEBSITE

Since the last AGM, a lot of new content has been added to our website : www.isola.org.in. The members' login section is updated with 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.

Donor listing and Research initiatives are the new sections available on the website. For the Bhopal Conference, a separate website namely: www.isola2012bhopal.in with a link to the parent website was launched with very frequent updations pertaining to the conference. This is being efficiently managed through the efforts of Mr. Adit Pal.

- 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 & Mr. Ashish Patankar to support him.

- MANUAL OF PROCEDURES

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 a year at every 3 month interval, the present EC decided to conduct an intermediate meeting by teleconference call for smoother functioning of ISOLA and better coordination and communication amongst all EC members to achieve these ideals.

These meetings are ratified at the next EC meeting. The accounting workshop held in July 2011 was also a part of this endeavor.



- OTHER PROGRAMMES

I would like to inform you that besides the workshop on education, ISOLA also regularly partners with the Indian Green Building Congress and sent has its representatives on their core committee. ISOLA Bangalore is collaborating with IGBC on their pilot Green Landscape Plan. ISOLA also supported the Garden Expo-2010, thus reaching out to the landscape industry and is now in the process of supporting the INDIAN NURSERYMAN ASSOCIATION conference in Delhi, in December 2012. After the successful response to the NASA ISOLA Landscape Trophy in 2009 and 2010 edition of the trophy, ISOLA again conducted the Landscape trophy for the NASA convention at Gateway College, Sonapat in 2012 and will have its members on the jury.

Looking back at the performance of the EC, by and large there has been above 75% attendance from most members and even 100% by a few.

I would like to thank every EC member, particularly president, Rohit Marol, past president, Savita Punde, Vice President, Varsha Gavandi and Yogesh Kapoor, 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

24th November 2012