



## MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 75<sup>TH</sup> EC MEETING

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Time: 11.00pm

Venue: Ahmedabad

### Executive Council Members Present

Sujata Kohli	Hon. President
Sridevi Rao	Hon. Vice President
Nidhi Madan	Hon. Secretary
Jitendra Pawgi	Hon. Treasurer
Rohit Marol	Past President
Avadhoot Kumthekar	Fellow Member
Shravana Reddy	Fellow Member
Swati Sahasrabudhe	Fellow Member
Asok Kumar	Associate Member
Dwaipayan Bhattacharya	Associate Member

### Chapter Representatives

Bobby Sujansingani	Gujarat
Jasleen Waraich	Delhi NCR
Nina Chandawarkar	Bangalore
Narasimham.V.V.L.	Hyderabad
Rohini Prasad	Kerala
Vikas Bhosekar	Maharashtra

### Special Invitee

Rajnikant Trivedi	CA
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### Executive Council Members Not Present

Anju Bareja	Mumbai
K. Senthil Kumar	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Chapter Representative
Maithily Velangi	Co-opted Member

Hon President Sujata Kohli presided over the meeting.

The meeting began with a warm welcome to all, especially to the new chapter chairpersons.

The proceedings began with a review of the AGM schedule and overview. It was agreed that the awards conducted for the first time at the AGM would be reviewed to set tone for the future to take into account the biennial conference.

### 1 KERALA CONFERENCE

Kerala conference will be held at the Lulu Grand Hyatt, Kochi on February 15th and 16th, and the preconference dinner at Bolgatty Palace Hotel on February 14th, 2018. Press conferences will be held on the 13th and 14th.

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Kerala chapter chairperson Rohini Prasad was confident of the arrangements made and shared plans for outreach initiatives to be conducted by the chapter in light of the recent floods, including a flood management plan, workshops etc. CA Rajnikant suggested this was an opportunity to contribute and serve the community through direct spending. Others highlighted the need for austerity.

## **2 IFLA**

### **a. World Congress Update**

Sujata Kohli and Nidhi Madan shared their experience of attending the two day IFLA World Council Meeting as delegate and observer, respectively, followed by the World Congress in Singapore in mid-July. It was the first representation of ISOLA at the World Council meeting and ISOLA received a warm welcome from all. Over 20 ISOLA members participated the World Congress too.

The opportunities to collaborate with IFLA through working groups, accreditation workshops, and support during conferences and country specific exchanges were discussed. Similarities in issues raised, potential approaches for ISOLA as a way forward, collaborations and extended discussions on fees were shared with the EC members. A tentative workshop with the accreditation board of IFLA APR is proposed for the next year with the EB. Further collaborations can be explored through attendance, award submissions and other engagements particularly at the IFLA APR level.

### **b. Working Groups**

IFLA has five working groups at both the APR and International level. Each has 5 members nominated by the country or region, and can include volunteers as well. ISOLA can look at nominating interested members.

### **c. APR**

IFLA APR has set up a project initiative to fund community projects with a small budget. Members can apply for this, as can ISOLA, as long as there are no foreign funds or no money spent outside of India. Other initiatives include a meeting of all presidents' of national associations in China. ISOLA will look into hosting an APR conference in 3-4 years.

### **d. Payment**

Based on feedback of existing fees, IFLA will reframe the fees to take into account lower income countries, and ISOLA should see lesser fees in the upcoming year.

## **3 CHAPTER UPDATES AND ENGAGEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH EC ACTIVITIES**

### **a. Bangalore**

Four events were held this year- a lecture by Nilam Mistry, Landscape by Cezanne, outreach at 3-4 colleges and the thesis open day with 42 entries.



A core committee selected 11 finalists who presented and discussed their works at a public forum. It was the most successful event, with a young enthusiastic group driving it.

Plans for the year include outreach and connect to the community through presentations and dialogues. Reach out to local architectural community. Professional speaker series. Professional skill building and walks. Mentorship forum where established practices put up work and students and others can come and see. Engaging in the city through metro station as exhibition space.

**b. Delhi NCR**

Events held this past year include Transit Oriented Design in shaping new urbanism, a competition in association in DDA, and another event scheduled later in the month on lighting. Walks will be held later this year.

Based on the experience of the competition, it was decided that competitions should be held judiciously and not by chapters to avoid overlaps and redundancy.

Issues and challenge of numbers was brought up. More communication is required. The first chapter newsletter received appreciation.

**c. Gujarat**

Gujarat chapter is seeing a spurt of new members and long lapsed renewals with a targeted membership drive to understand what do members want, followed by individual follow-up and paid events for non-members. Other chapters can look at some of these initiatives to encourage membership.

The chapter set up a schedule for 16 events on topics relevant to landscape architects using domain experts and donors as resource persons. These will be spread over two years and called One by one. Topic involved with landscapes – one event may be held over multiple sessions. The first event saw an attendance of 85 persons, the second 70. Students made up 42% of the audience.

**d. Hyderabad**

The 2018-21 ISOLA Hyderabad Managing Committee has Chairperson Narasimham.V.V.L, Secretary Zahid Ali and Treasurer Harish Vangara as office bearers.

The chapter was set up following the EC meeting held at Hyderabad on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The chapter members organized an event that was well attended and organised. They are scheduled to host the next biennale conference in 2021.

**e. Maharashtra**

The 2018-21 ISOLA Maharashtra Chapter will be led by Chairperson Vikas Bhosekar, Secretary Shruti Humane and Treasurer Dhanashree Kulkarni.

The chapter held their first meeting, attended by 20 members to set up events and chart out their next few months.

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f. Mumbai

No representative from Mumbai attended.

g. Kerala

In addition to the conference, the chapter shared an ambitious agenda of conducting nature clubs/ walks at architecture colleges, coordinating a seminar with town planning departments, conducting a flood assessment study and providing professional and technical support for the flood affected.

Post conference publication team is in place too.

h. Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry

The chapter formed close to a year ago is still waiting for their account to open. Sujata Kohli urged them to not delay starting their activities. Ideas shared include rebuilding lakes etc. within the city, a professional speaker series to share expertise.

i. Chapter initiatives

The need for an ISOLA Calendar or google calendar to coordinate events was again floated to coordinate and share a common schedule. Dwaipayan to set it up. To start chapters can add tentative dates/ information and update the same as they evolve.

A database or resource centre for all events held can be shared by chapters as a databank on google drive or the members only section of the website.

j. Chapter elections

It was decided that the new chapters must have a 2+ year term to start. The next elections for the chapters will be held as follows –

2019 Bangalore and Mumbai

2020 Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala and TN & Pondicherry

2021 Maharashtra and Hyderabad

#### 4 ISOLA AWARDS

a. Award Ceremony

A brief outline of the ceremony was shared by Avadhoot Kumthekar. Comments on awards and jury, timing of event were accepted.



#### b. Next Award Schedule

The next schedule of Awards is being coordinated by Avadhoot and Asok along with awards convenor Savita Punde and will be sent out in 10 days. Dwaipayan will set up the document.

Based on learnings from this year's first experience with online submissions and jury it was decided that there will be a one stage submission, so that once the award registration and payment is complete, the submission can be made at any time. Earlier there was a time period designated for uploads, which created problems at the last minute. Also, a number of registered entries were not submitted.

Only one extension this year saw additional submissions, the two extensions thereafter were redundant. Another decision was made to do away with a physical jury meeting; the awards jury will be an e-jury only.

#### c. New Awards

No new awards planned for this year.

### 5 NASA

#### a. Zonal NASA Workshops

To create an understanding and interest in undergraduate architects towards landscape architecture, we have been talking to the office bearers of NASA on different approaches to do so. We are currently discussing the idea of having workshops at the Zonal NASA conventions through our chapters to introduce them to the profession at an interactive level. The first workshop will be held in Kerala in September. Since chapter members will be occupied with the conference, it was agreed to ask for volunteers at the AGM.

### 6 COLLABORATIONS

- a. Workshop for Department of Urban Planning, Chandigarh Administration
- b. Other collaborations

MoUs with Institutions & Organizations will be finalized by Jitendra Pawgi and shared. The intent is to start with institutions and later development authorities.

### 7 FINANCIAL ISSUES PENDING

- a. Transfer of funds to Bangalore chapter

Bangalore will inform the treasurer the amount to be transferred. Two lakhs have been transferred and the centre to transfer the balance.

- a. Guideline for Chapters- Account opening/ KYC/ Transfer of Signatories/ Event funding/ TDS certificates and accounting procedures



Guidelines for accounting procedures have been prepared by Jitendra and can be used by chapters. Rajnikant Trivedi suggested a workshop be held for all chapter treasurers or one chapter representative each to discuss and clarify all issues to avoid problems later.

25 lakh maximum to keep status of trust can be earned on books, memorabilia etc. More than that and we will have to pay taxes, GST etc.

All the chapters have idle funds need to create FDs. Mumbai has 7 lakhs, no funds.

Audited accounts were circulated. Earnings on mutual funds in year 2 were 15.5%.

Discussions were led about whether to invest in buying an office or property to reduce rents. Current rental is 21k/month. Rajnikant to calculate the savings over 5 years to weigh the alternatives to enable decision making in this regard. One issue is tying up funds, particularly with biennial conferences and lesser earnings.

## **8 GUIDELINE DOCUMENTS**

### **a. Code of Professional Conduct Document**

Draft of the same was circulated to respond to. Basic code of conduct, conditions finalized, scale of charges- figures to be added. This will be shared with members for comments.

## **9 ISOLA MoUs**

### **a. CoA TRC**

COA and ISOLA signatures pending.

## **10 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

### **a. Updated status of memberships**

Today, the count of ISOLA memberships, past and present, stand at 630 over the last 5 years, with valid memberships are 400, with 202 fellow, 94 associate, 38 graduate and 66 student members., Delhi 92, Maharashtra and Gujarat 54 each, Bangalore 42, TN & Pondicherry 30, Mumbai 32, Kerala 24 and Hyderabad 14.

It was suggested that the website have a dedicated section for member resources. It exists right now, but can be made to include videos, event details and other resources.

## **11 EDUCATION BOARD**

The brief report on the Teachers' Training Programme organised by BNCA, Pune in collaboration with ISOLA, under the umbrella of Training and Research Centre, Council of Architecture, India was presented. Total 45 participants across India participated and seven ISOLA members mentored the Programme as resource persons. It was suggested that the same module could be taken up by regional



chapters. Mumbai Chapter has initiated efforts with respect to the same. A draft MOU with COA is in process with respect to conducting such Training Programs in future jointly with COA.

Five institutes are in different stages of assessment for ISOLA recognition. Only one institution has submitted its documentation. List of documents required will be shared with all EC. The EB is following up with the same.

Why are we not charging for recognition? The possibility of reimbursement in kind was highlighted.

Situation to review existing recognised colleges such as SPA wherein there is one faculty member for parity with newly recognized institutions to be looked into.

EB to share website updates and resources to upload.

It was informed that the next EB meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Oct, 2018.

## 12 WORKING GROUPS

- a. Research Cell
  - Urban Issues
  - Regional Planning
  - Cultural Landscapes
  - Natural Resource Management
  - Emerging Professionals
  - Standards and Guidelines
  - Outreach Cell
- b. Finance
- c. Social Media
- d. Awards
- e. NASA

It was agreed that ISOLA look into setting up independent groups to work on different agendas or issues. We are doing so for awards- setting up a team of Avadhoot, Asok and Shilpa to be resource persons for the future awards. Similarly Maithily and Shilpa for NASA trophy and workshops. This allows these resource committees to be available to subsequent ECs, to share expertise and work load. This model can be followed for issue based projects such as the tree felling issue in Delhi with a dedicated team of volunteers too. Another group is of emerging professionals, with associate and graduate members to help focus ISOLA agenda on issues relevant to them. This will be discussed further at the AGM.

## 13 NEWSLETTER

Dwaipayan will set up the next newsletter with a concentration on the Eastern region-ISOLA looking east.

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#### **14 WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

Setting up a video to be used for the website, for outreach and social media was brought up, with ISOLA members sending in a 2 min video or less.

#### **15 NEXT EC MEETING**

Scheduled for 8th December 2018 at Chennai along with a chapter event.

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

Prepared by:

*Nidhi Madan*  
*Honorary Secretary*