## MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 77th EC MEETING



Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Time: 2.00pm Venue: Kochi

## **Executive Council Members Present**

Sujata Kohli Hon. President Sridevi Rao Hon. Vice President Rohit Marol Past President Nidhi Madan Hon. Secretary Jitendra Pawgi Hon. Treasurer Swati Sahasrabudhe Fellow Member Associate Member **Asok Kumar** Maithily Velangi Co-opted Member

## **Chapter Representatives**

Anju Bareja Mumbai Chhitiz Gupta/ Jasleen Waraich Delhi Narasimham.V.V.L. Hyderabad

Nina Chandawarkar Bangalore Chapter

Rohini Prasad Kerala Vikas Bhosekar Maharashtra

#### **Executive Council Members Not Present**

Avadhoot Kumthekar Fellow Member

Dwaipayan Bhattacharya Associate Member

Bobby Sujansingani Gujarat Chapter Representative

K. Senthil Kumar Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry Representative

#### **Education Board Members Present**

Nikhil Dhar Chairperson Shilpa Chandawarkar Member

Hon President Sujata Kohli presided over the meeting.

#### 1 MoUs

### a. Next steps with JNAFAU

Since there is no college/ institution teaching landscape architecture in Hyderabad, the first institutional MoU was signed with JNAFAU. The template for the MoU is in place. Going forward, MoUs will be pursued with colleges teaching landscape architecture, recognized by ISOLA. MoUs may be easier to sign with private colleges as opposed to government colleges.

The course of action would include combining resource persons from ISOLA and infrastructure of colleges; and, conducting research related activity workshops, possibly one annual workshop a year at least. To start with, we would have one MoU signed per city preferably with a chapter in place.

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Education Board (EB) will look at what the deliverables from the MoU should be. This could include access to the resource centre. Nina Chandawarkar suggested a financial commitment of a nominal amount. Rohit Marol said that the resources could be with an honorarium as is the practice for visiting faculty.



To facilitate assistance to other colleges, who do not teach landscape architecture, but have inquired into signing MoUs with ISOLA, those that want to benefit from our expertise or those looking to set up landscape architecture programs, Swati Sahasrabudhe suggested a mentorship program to deal with each specific objective. This could be charged for, and may include guidance for setting up courses, and/or supporting students.

## b. MoUs with IGBC and A.P. Greening & Beautification Corporation, Vijayawada

IGBC MoU to be signed at the conference to emphasise landscape, and not only green buildings. It would entail working on their rating systems, conducting workshops and would allow us to take advantage of their networks and outreach. A concern raised was that works presented at IGBC conferences have been contradictory with faulty notions of green buildings. The benefits of formalizing the collaboration and working towards rectifying any issues of alarm was seen as one outcome. It was agreed after some discussion that this would be an important collaboration with an elected member representative from ISOLA also on their board in the future.

#### c. Pending MoU with CoA

Still pending due to internal issues at CoA.

#### 2 EDUCATION BOARD

Nikhil Dhar and Swati Sahasrabudhe informed the EC of the EB recommendations and the following decisions-

- d. Definition of Landscape Architect
- e. Eligibility standards and procedures <sup>2</sup>

These documents to be uploaded to the members' only section of the website.

f. Teaching LA in B. Arch. <sup>3</sup>

The EB will have a workshop in Ahmedabad in May to complete this document, prior to the EC meeting.

- g. EB Workshop Final Report<sup>4</sup> & it's recommendations
  - I. Resource Centre

Resource Centre to be set up on the website, with inputs from all chapters. Research Board to be separate from the Education Board.

- II. Workshops for LA teaching faculty
- III. EB needs to do
- IV. ISOLA- Resource Centre
- V. ISOLA- Students' Forum
- h. Contributions to Resource Centre<sup>5</sup>.
- i. Website section

Manipal University has requested the EB to assist with their syllabus. Abhijit Natu and Saurabh Popli are planning to conduct a research workshop in Bhopal. Saurabh is also working on a white paper for Masters of Landscape Architecture programs. The EB has suggested the possibility of a bridge course (maybe one year is not enough) for allied professionals to join the profession that should be broader based.

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Shilpa Chandawarkar led the discussion on setting up a student forum based on EB recommendations. It was agreed that the initiative would be floated at the conference, to bring together students.

#### 2 KERALA CONFERENCE

Rohini Prasad and Sebastian Jose confirmed that the conference was on track. There was a press conference held earlier in the day at the press club with coverage expected in papers the next day. Indian Express conducted an interview with ISOLA president. This coverage should not be one time only- continuous dialogue with weekly contributions was discussed and emphasized to capitalize on the media connect at the conference. And also play a role in shaping media and public opinion during, say rebuilding post-Kerala floods, and not when it is too late, for e.g. during the planning of Amravati.

Rajesh George to work on the post conference publication with support of Sridevi Rao.

#### 3 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

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a. Updated status of memberships

With the ISOLA awards and conference, ISOLA has 515 members, the largest number so far. This is likely to fall again in April, but the numbers of regular renewals are now consistent.

b. Membership for allied landscape degrees- landscape urbanism, planning/ use of the designation 'Landscape Architect'

The use and misuse of the term 'landscape architect' was discussed. This has been a concern for a long time with no solution. It was agreed that ISOLA membership must be the designation that is a recognition of professional expertise.

4 NASA MV

- a. NASA Trophy
- b. NASA brief and workshops

The landscape trophy, zonal workshops and more engagement with NASA was discussed.

## 5 ELECTIONS

- a. Central ISOLA
- b. Chapter Elections- Mumbai And Bangalore

Elections for the Executive Council 2019-2021 term will be held in April-May, with results declared on May 18th, 2019. Mumbai and Bangalore elections to commence on February 18th with the new managing committees taking over on April 1st, 2019. Ashish Patankar and Prashanta Bhat, respectively, will be the election officers.

## **6 WORKING GROUPS**

a. IFLA Connect

Maithily volunteered to be the ISOLA contact person with IFLA.

b. Emerging Professionals (Heena Gajjar, Swayam Prakash Mohanty)

A group of associate and graduate members formed a group to work towards a common agenda/ events of interest to their cohort.

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- c. Finance (Sujata Kohli, Rohit Marol, Jitendra Pawgi, Sachin Jain)
- d. Awards (Avadhoot Kumthekar, Asok Kumar, Shilpa Chandawarkar)
- e. NASA (Shilpa Chandawarkar, Maithily Velangi)
- f. Outreach (Rohit Marol, Sujata Kohli, Nidhi Madan)

To ensure that there is continuity of knowledge sharing across changing ECs, these groups (Finance, Awards, NASA) are proposed with names of members who have worked on or in process of doing so for ISOLA during this term. These are proposed but open to any who volunteer.

Outreach is one of the issues not addressed yet, and is important to take on.

## g. Advisory Board (last three presidents)

Sujata Kohli proposed an advisory board going forward, since the EC will continue to include new members, and it would be useful to have available the expertise of past presidents to chart out the larger goals for ISOLA and refer to in case of concerns. This would include the current and three past presidents. EC members suggested that others could be recommended to this group, possibly one recommendation from the EC, to take forward the vision of ISOLA.

#### h. Media

One dedicated person is required from the EC, to create and pursue the media connect and outreach.

#### 7 NEW AWARDS CATEGORIES

Sujata Kohli suggested we look at having two new award categories- for best teacher and best paper /research for the next awards. A previous suggestion, to felicitate a media person and bureaucrat whose work supports ISOLA's mission at the conference could not be done this year, but should be at the next conference.

### **8 FINANCIAL ISSUES PENDING**

a. Accounting workshop

As discussed before, accounting workshop to be held in June in Ahmedabad, following elections with all chapter and EC treasurer and Rajnikant Trivedi.

#### 9 GUIDELINE DOCUMENTS

- a. Amendment of Byelaws Document
- b. Chapter formation
- c. Code of Professional Conduct Document

To be closed before the end of the EC term.

#### **10 NEWSLETTER**

**Pending** 

#### 11 NEXT EC MEETING

Scheduled for May 18th 2018 at Ahmedabad for declaration of election results for 2019-21, selection of new office bearers and handover to the new team.

## 12 ANY OTHER ITEMS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

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#### MINUTES OF MEETING FOR CHAPTER COMMITTEE MEETING



Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Time: 4.30pm Venue: Kochi

## Chapter Committee Members Present (in addition to the EC & EB)

Chhitiz Gupta Delhi NCR Secretary

Ganga Krishan Kerala Conference Treasurer

Vineetha Kerala Secretary

Sebastian Jose Kerala Conference Convenor and Chapter Treasurer

Shilpa Chandawarkar Mumbai

Syed Zahid Hyderabad Secretary

There was very low attendance (and response) of chapter managing committee members at this meeting in spite of notices sent multiple times since the AGM. It was suggested that attendance at the AGM be made mandatory.

## 1 USE OF ISOLA LOGO and ASSOCIATION

In past years all chapters obtained a consent form from ISOLA secretary for all associations and use of logo. This should be done for all events, associations and use of logos.

Chapters must verify the intent of collaborating organisations to discourage associations with commercial angles and those that are at odds with the core values of ISOLA. And check with the ISOLA EC for any precedent with such organizations

## 2 CHAPTER ISSUES (If any)

The chapter pages on the website need to be updated, with no content uploaded by the two new chapters-Maharashtra and Hyderabad.

Chapters can look into using institutes recognised with ISOLA as hubs.

A suggestion was made for the membership database to include details of members' attendance at events/ conferences/ workshops. This data is available for conferences where registration is online. Typically chapters have data on local events, but that is not with the office. Details of member associations, education, achievements, etc. are available and it has been found that there is a lot of expertise available within our membership.

A suggestion was made to set up a complaint cell/ ethical committee to deal with issues that come up from time to time and in violation of the draft code of conduct.

Prepared by:

Nidhi Madan Honorary Secretary

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