

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 83rd EC MEETING



Date: 25th April, 2020

Time: 3.30pm

Venue: Video Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Sujata Kohli	Hon. President
2. Rohit Marol	Past President
3. Sridevi Rao	Hon. Vice President
4. Nidhi Madan	Hon. Secretary
5. Jitendra Pawgi	Hon. Treasurer
6. Neelima Soni	Fellow Member
7. Prashanta Bhat	Fellow Member
8. Swati Sahasrabudhe	Fellow Member
9. Asok Kumar	Associate Member
10. Vineetha P.S.	Associate Member
11. Shilpa Chandawarkar	Co-opted Member
12. Parisutha Rajan	Co-opted Member
13. Venkata Lakshmi	Associate Member

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

14. Aditya Advani	Delhi NCR
15. Sandip Patil	Gujarat
16. Narasimham V.V.L.	Hyderabad
17. Vikas Bhosekar	Maharashtra
18. Devayani Deshmukh Upasani	Mumbai
19. Rohini Prasad	Kerala
20. Hemanshu Taneja	Rajasthan
21. Ravikumar Narayan	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry

SPECIAL INVITEES FROM THE CONFERENCE LOC

22. Naveen Panugati	Conference Convenor
23. Harsh Vangara	
24. Gopal Bajaj	
25. Ankit Kalantri	

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Preetanshi Singh	Co-opted Member
2. Prasad G.	Bangalore Chapter Representative

Hon President Sujata Kohli presided over the meeting.

1. CONDOLENCE FOR PROF. RAVINDRA BHAN

The meeting began with a condolence resolution for the sad demise of Professor Ravindra Bhan.

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2. CODE OF CONDUCT WORKSHOP

Workshops to close the Code of Conduct and Professional Scale of Charges have been taking place over video calls with 25-30 ISOLA members. The workshops have been led by Rohit Marol, Rohini Venkataswami with the help of Sandip Patil.

3. M.L.ARCH. VS M.ARCH (LANDSCAPE) DEGREE

There is a proposal in discussion to change the nomenclature of courses including the Masters of Urban Design and Masters of Landscape Architecture to Masters of Architecture (Urban Design) and Masters of Architecture (Landscape), respectively at SPA. This had come up in the SPA Senate, and was deferred due to the efforts of Manguesh Prabhugaokar. Since the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) has been in the forefront of the education and practice of Landscape Architecture in India, any change in nomenclature has a wider significance for the profession in India that requires attention and due deliberation.

ISOLA is drafting a letter to the SPA Board of Governors on this issue which will be circulated to the EC for comments. Discussions took place on the change in nomenclature and its impacts. Most members supported the objection. Narasimham VVL supported SPA's move.

4. COA INTERACTION

ISOLA to also send a letter to the new President, COA, Habib Khan regarding the Architects' Act Amendment, potential collaboration between ISOLA and COA and the pending MoU. This should include the definition of Landscape Architecture, vision for the collaboration and ISOLA code of conduct. Currently the Council has to provide equivalence to M.L.A. degrees.

5. POST COVID PROFESSION

Members of the professional practice (PP) group (Sandip Patil, Hrishikesh Phadke, Minesh Parikh and S. Kannan) held a meeting on the status of practice and future practice post-Covid 19 and suggested a broader meeting be held. This would include panel discussions on how to set up offices /structures, mentoring and work practice. Sandip Patil to spearhead the initiative along with Hrishikesh Phadke so that ISOLA can issue an Advisory.

6. EDUCATION BOARD

Recognition of Sushant School of Art and Architecture

The EC unanimously approved the recommendation for recognition of the Landscape Program at Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Gurugram, Haryana.

A suggestion was made to incorporate the code of conduct of professional practice as part of the course syllabus. Prashanta Bhat suggested this be a recommendations, since it is not enforceable.

ISOLA Joint Studio and Online Workshops

EB to look into setting up a joint studio and the pending workshop with IFLA online too.

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Sujata Kohli stressed that we need to hold a workshops with all Heads of Institutes that MoUs have been signed with or are pending in the next month or two.

BLAD program

Bachelor of Landscape Architectural Design program at Navrachna University Vadodara has written to Gujarat Chapter seeking information on process for ISOLA accreditation and avenues for collaboration and support.

ISOLA Recognition

A concern with recognition of colleges has been that colleges see the advantage of it, but students don't become members. Discussions were held on the possibility of Institutional membership wherein the fees for student membership comes from Institution. Recognition could be for 5 years. However, a concern was that colleges may say why should we pay for the student? A consolidated student fee of Rs.1500 +500 for 3 years was also discussed.

Typically recognition is not given before two batches of students graduate. Reviews to be done, possibly regional chapters can help with these efforts.

7. RESOURCE CELL

Venkata Lakshmi presented an overview of the structure for the Resource Cell. This met with appreciation from all members present. Resource persons have been contacted for content, which is now the focus. How to assimilate the content and its format will be next.

8. STATUS OF ISOLA CHAPTERS

Chapter Elections for 2020-22 term - Delhi NCR, Gujarat, Kerala, TN & Pondicherry were held in February-March, and the new Managing Committees (MCs) took office on April 1st, 2020. The new Chapter office bearers and EC members are-

TN & PONDICHERRY CHAPTER

Office Bearers

Ravikumar Narayan	(Chairperson)
Priti Lydia John	(Secretary)
Rukkumany R.H.	(Treasurer)

Elected Members

Reddipatti Chinnaswamy Ravindran	(Fellow member)
Kumareswari Rajendran	(Graduate member)

KERALA CHAPTER

Office Bearers

Rohini Prasad	(Chairperson)
Shajeena T. Venugopalan	(Secretary)
Krishnakumar M.R.	(Treasurer)

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Elected Members

Sebastian Jose (Fellow member)
Preethy Jacob (Fellow member)

Co-opted Members

G.Viswanathan (Fellow member)
Karl Marx (Associate member)

GUJARAT CHAPTER

Office Bearers

Sandip Patil (Chairperson)
Kauseen Motiwala (Secretary)
Tapan Modi (Treasurer)

Elected Members

Bobby Sujansingani (Fellow member)
Priyesh Shah (Fellow member)

Co-opted Members

Deepa Maheshwari (Fellow member)

DELHI NCR

Office Bearers

Aditya Advani (Chairperson)
Shwetal Kadam (Secretary)
Ameet Babbar (Treasurer) (subsequently resigned)

Elected Members

Harpreet Kaur (Fellow member)
Sunetra Surabhi (Associate member)

ISOLA Rajasthan members completed the formalities for chapter formation prior to the EC meeting. The EC unanimously approved and welcomed the new chapter and its office bearers and nominated EC members.

RAJASTHAN CHAPTER

Office bearers

Hemanshu Taneja (Chairperson)
Kavita Kedawat (Secretary)
Aparna Bhargava (Treasurer)

Nominated Members

Bineet Chhajer (Associate member)
Kapil Sachdeva (Associate member)

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9. CHAPTER UPDATES AND PLANS

Mumbai Chapter has a number of running and proposed programs and activities including Know your Landscape Architect, Post-Covid planning, Landscape and Folklore, Sketching etc.

The **Delhi Chapter** MC has had many meetings and have a lot of ideas to get more members active- engage on facebook through activities, create platforms for developers and architects, advocacy, job fairs and open studios. They will also interact with the city institutions.

Bangalore Chapter had no representation.

Gujarat Chapter incoming MC has had its first meeting. They are contacting members- updating them, as only 1/3rd of all members are active. They plan to continue 1/1 weekly series beyond lockdown where landscape architects present their works. Other plans include workshops for young landscape architects with learning from ASLA, IFLA etc., case study documentation, and a studio excellent showcase inspired by Thesis Day. They also plan to set up a group similar to the Resource Cell. Both to collaborate.

The newest **chapter Rajasthan** intend to talk about ISOLA to government institutes, set up sketches and articles, bring in new members. A number of members teach at Manipal University and are interested in ISOLA recognition for the institution.

Kerala Chapter will host workshops events along with colleges and interact with government bodies and local agencies.

The incoming **TN & Pondicherry** MC have hit the ground running and are conducting their third event in the Web Talk series already. They will work with students on a publication of dissertations, work with government departments, and volunteer to teach colleges in the state site planning as well.

Maharashtra Chapter held its Shankar Brahme Memorial lecture and walk in January. 125 people attended. Further events planned will now be changed to webinars.

Hyderabad Chapter has participated in some seminars, interacted with the media on landscape infra architecture, interacted with IGBC and lighting/ plumbing associations/ CREDAI etc

10. HYDERABAD CONFERENCE

The EC unanimously agreed that we need to rethink the timing of the conference in light of the Covid 19 situation, perhaps to late 2020 or 2021. We will be better placed to decide in a few months. In the meantime, a suggestion was made to have online presentations of papers where younger members can participate.

11. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS BOOKS

The Goa book is in progress. Shilpa Chandawarkar and Nupur Prothi Khanna are working on closing it over the summer. Kochi publication is underway too. Bangalore work is pending.

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Budget for books to be shared with Treasurer Jitendra Pawgi.
We will reapply for the ISBN Number.

It was agreed that we can put the past conference videos online as a member resource.
Lectures for the last 10 years can be saved under the Resource Cell.

12. LA JOURNAL PROPOSAL

It was unanimously agreed to collaborate with the LA Journal monograph.
ISOLA Team to talk to them, particularly on the funding aspect, with possibility of donors etc. Sujata Kohli to send an email for coordination of ISOLAs response.

13. WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The website is set up to be a resource on all activities for the public and resources for members. So far our challenge has been to keep it updated. All chapters to update their pages and work with Neelima and Vineetha to keep the information up to date. Aditya Advani suggested firm listing and contact details of firms on the website (which we have a section for). Also, to carry out outreach to firms. A concern is the timeliness of the website updates. We should set up some information on why should you hire an LA, or become an LA. Use other international organisations as references.

14. PORTAL UPDATES

Nidhi Madan requested someone to volunteer to help with the membership database.

15. AGM

For the AGM, we will need to check what the options are with Rajnikant Trivedi.

16. ANY OTHER ITEMS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Prepared by:

Nidhi Madan
Honorary Secretary