

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 84th EC MEETING



Date: 4th July, 2020

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: Video Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Sujata Kohli	Hon. President
2. Sridevi Rao	Hon. Vice President
3. Rohit Marol	Past 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. Venkata Lakshmi	Associate Member
12. Shilpa Chandawarkar	Co-opted Member
13. Parisutha Rajan	Co-opted Member
14. Preetanshi Singh	Co-opted Member

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

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

Hon President Sujata Kohli presided over the meeting.

1. OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Deepak Kungwani has joined as the new Office Manager, ISOLA.

2. MEMBERSHIP

There are currently 322 valid ISOLA members, 21 students 42 graduates, 87 associates and 194 fellow members. Throughout the year the numbers tend to increase, as one third of all memberships lapse every year and need to be renewed. 30 new student members have joined from Tamil Nadu due to chapter activities and also, encouragement from their faculty. Remaining states have to work towards bringing in more student members.

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3. FINANCIAL STATUS OF ISOLA

Jitendra Pawgi expressed concern over the anticipated shortage in funds due to the prevailing Covid 19 scenario. Sujata Kohli suggested having separate discussion on possible ways to raise funds.

All chapters were reminded to send their audit report as early as possible.

4. LAJ PROPOSAL FOR MONGRAPHS

Monographs of Ravindra Bhan and Ram Sharma are ready to be published. LA Journal has received the funds for the same from two donors through ISOLA- Hunter, Basant Beton and also from ISOLA. This will be acknowledged by providing the ISOLA logo on these books along with a short write-up.

The next two books on Mohammed Shaheer and Kishore Pradhan will be taken up in the next 5-6 months. We need to set ourselves up to support them over the next few years. How would we do it differently?

5. EDUCATION BOARD

Workshop with all Heads of Institutions

Nine recognized institutes were invited for an interaction as part of the ISOLA Education Board Working Group on June 13th, 2020 over video conference. Heads of Departments from seven institutes attended the workshop with members of EB, where they shared information about their departments, challenges and identified the strengths of each institute. Swati Sahasrabudhe shared that a SWOT analysis form sent ahead of time to the participants was the basis for the discussion. The response was good, but some information is still pending.

Next steps would be for the institutes and ISOLA to knowledge share etc. Identify how to look at LA education in the future and meet again to keep the interaction on. Prashanta Bhat agreed that there was very good energy and going forward an online workshop focused on LA academic challenges, expectations and realities could be conducted.

Regarding online education, Sujata Kohli suggested connecting with edu-tech companies. ISOLA's focus will be on Masters Course only in the working group. One to one mail has to be sent to heads of institutes regarding whatever information we want, what they need from ISOLA and what are their strengths.

Working group members take up certain issues, ISOLA to facilitate and not do the work. Each institute may designate faculty members to take up work allocated.

Status of MoUs and follow up action

PVPCoA has signed the MoU with ISOLA. Vikas Bhosekar helped along with Prasanna Desai and Isha Umrani. Hard copy to be notarized and sent to the ISOLA office.

Bimal Patel has agreed to sign the MoU on behalf of CEPT. MoU will be sent to Sandip Patil who will get it signed by Bimal Patel.

Definition of Landscape Architecture

Definition of Landscape Architecture prepared with the help of a number of members, with the involvement of ISOLA Education Board and vetted by Sridevi Rao, Shishir Raval and Nikhil Dhar is now ready. This updated definition will be sent to COA. Also to all members and posted on the website.

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In response to a comment regarding the length of the definition, Swati Sahasrabudhe clarified that it is set up in three parts to answer the following questions -

What is Landscape Architecture?

What is the scope of the profession?

What do landscape architects do?

ISOLA Mentorship

Mangalam College of Architecture, Kottayam, Kerala has requested mentorship for setting up their Masters programme in Landscape. Sujata Kohli suggested that ISOLA should not leave such requests aside. A separate discussion has been decided to be made with Rohini Prasad and the Kerala Chapter on this.

Constitution of EB

Some work remains.

EB Plans for next one year

A one page note will be prepared by Swati Sahasrabudhe and Prashanta Bhat on future plan of action with selected institutes.

Nidhi Madan to share email on IFLA APR SDG goals which may be useful.

6. EC ACTIVITIES & FOLLOW UP

COA Interaction

Letter was sent to COA. As a follow up, the definition of Landscape Architecture to be sent.

Post Covid Advisory

ISOLA Covid Advisory which was prepared and sent to all members on Tuesday, May 19th, 2020.

SPA nomenclature change

Sujata Kohli to follow up.

Code of Conduct and Professional Scale of Charges

Rohit Marol will finalize the final document based on the workshops conducted. One more workshop will be held to close it, before the AGM.

Mohammed Shaheer NASA Trophy brief

Mohammed Shaheer NASA Trophy will be conducted online this year. Shwetal Kadam is working on the brief with the help of Shilpa Chandawakar, Nikhil Dhar and Prashanta Bhat. This ISOLA trophy has helped in attracting more students to landscape architecture. There is typically a jury interaction which has been very well attended at the annual conventions. Sujata Kohli opined that we also need to look at how it could help in creating awareness about ISOLA, and not only landscape architecture.

One suggestion was to have a video introducing ISOLA that could be compiled with the chapter videos, made for the AGM.

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7. RESOURCE CENTRE

Venkata Lakshmi presented a frame work to collect data for the Resource Centre which is now in place. Responsible persons were identified in 5 categories such as list of species, open space data, student & research programs in LA, events, resource people database and material database. After receiving inputs from executive council members she will share it with chapter secretaries to populate the categories.

Parisutha Rajan made a presentation on the student and research programs in LA. Since the questions were too open ended and ambitious, the EC agreed the focus should be on collecting data and listing for now. A workshop could be set up parallel to look into the questions raised.

A suggestion was made to revise the research grant framework since ISOLA is getting many enquiries in this matter (since it is on the website). As of now ISOLA doesn't have a set up to entertain such grant requests. These need to be addressed and defined in terms of short term research/ long term grants, finances/ resource persons/ deliverables etc. Sandip Patil to help with structure of research initiatives.

Sujata Kohli suggested that ISOLA should take up more social centric and community based projects and such works can contribute to Resource Centre.

Jitendra Pawgi to follow up with GRIHA- communicate with them on next steps, on the work done by ISOLA so far.

8. STATUS OF ISOLA CHAPTERS

TNPY

Ravi Kumar Narayan informed the EC that chapter meetings are held every second Saturday. The quarterly GBM was held on May 30th, 2020. Ten subgroups have been formed. Feedback on current events was taken. Web-talk series feedback has been very good. Young practices are getting a sense of fellowship and bonding. A leaflet on the chapter activities has been planned. Sujata Kohli suggested that TN chapter takes up the responsibility of ISOLA newsletter for this year. Two newsletters will be published in a year. These newsletters may allow donors and needs to have a proper protocol for the same. It could be a thematic one with assistance from other chapters. TNPY to go ahead with the leaflet for now, and work on the ISOLA newsletter towards the latter half of the year.

Chapter is also planning to conduct student competitions among LA students in TN. There are 50 or 60 students in two or three programmes. Even though it was decided in a previous EC meeting that chapters would not conduct competitions, it was agreed that the competition could go ahead, after consent from the EC. Since these competitions are in public domain, protocols are very important, as are issues of copyright and plagiarism and the chapter needs to be mindful of them.

Rajasthan

Activities & plans of the chapter were presented by Hemanshu Taneja. Webinars are being jointly conducted by Rajasthan and Gujarat chapters. These will culminate with a grand event planned on August 15th with international speakers.

They are also working on outreach and resource centre documentation.



Gujarat

Sandip Patil said that more than 10 events in the series have been conducted and will continue with the online webinars.

Mumbai

Devayani Upasani Deshmukh briefed on the three events planned - 3rd cycle of the Shodh workshops, conducted online over three days with Sonal Mittal to include graduate and PG students to enhance skills in research writing and methodologies. The next is a call for essays – in search of hidden links in nature, open to all (landscapes of health and health of landscapes). And finally, a career clinic the format of which will be shared, and used elsewhere as well.

Maharashtra

Vikas Bhosekar shared that the chapter will host discussion and dialogue with senior persons in the profession at an online forum in July. Nashik and Pune will host exhibitions of young practitioners.

Hyderabad

Two talks were conducted in the last two months, and approximately 200 attended these sessions. Talk series will be continued in the month of July too.

Information shared with government to be sent as letters when representing the role of landscape architects, as these need to have a paper trail. This can be shared with the EC and other chapters for use in their interactions too. Also, planning to have an interaction with media about wrong designs and giving awareness about the profession.

Kerala

Web Talk series started. One talk had Urban Designer Prof. Manoj Kini as speaker. There will be four more talks with Urban Designers /Botanists/ Sustainable Architects /Urban and Ecological Planners up to September.

Delhi

Urban issues, such as the Central Vista document are being tackled. Webinars and activities on tactile urbanism, waste water, and ecological issues are being set up as are fellowship events- walks, open studios, sketching workshops etc. Sharing with architectural colleges / high schools – what do landscape architects do, is also on the agenda.

Bangalore

Conducted nature walk, hosted the EC meeting over the past year. During COVID, no program has been convened. Three webinars are planned for the month of July, revolving around the theme: Ecologically Sensitive Design Solutions. Webinars are also planned in August over three weeks.

Chapter Works

Audit reports due on 15th of the month. Chapter Reports and videos for the AGM.

Since ISOLA has been taking on issues on national importance, it is important we contribute our professional opinion on the revised EIA draft in the works, and other similar issues. This cannot be handled by the EC alone. Chapters can take on different issues to establish ISOLA positions, with help from other chapters as well.

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Devayani Upasani Deshmukh and the Mumbai chapter to take the lead on the ISOLA response to the EIA draft. All chapters should also give their responses. Date of objection has been extended to August 11, so the response needs to be ready by end of July so that fine tuning can be done before sending.

Another issue that can be taken up is historic landscapes of importance – natural and manmade and contemporary.

9. NEXT CONFERENCE

A separate meeting to be conducted along with the conference team.

10. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS BOOKS

Bangalore book data has been compiled. Publishing and formatting is next.

Goa book is being compiled by Shilpa Chandwarkar and Nupur Prothi Khanna. They will hand it over to Brij soon for formatting and layouts.

Kochi book compilation is done and given to Brij.

ISBN Number has been applied for online. Address proof rent agreement and proprietor details pending are to be uploaded.

11. ISOLA AWARDS

Only student award had been floated this year, and the results were announced and the winning entries are on the website. The award ceremony which happens in conference or AGM can be postponed.

The next cycle of professional and student awards to be held along with the next conference.

12. ISOLA AGM

The 15th Annual General Meeting to be held on September 12th, 2020, Saturday.

13. ISOLA Representation

LI Event

Sujata Kohli was invited along with the IFLA President, and HK LA Association President to speak at the handover of the President of the Landscape Institute, UK (responsible for licencing landscape architects).

IFLA Working Group

Ravikumar Narayan shared information about his participation on behalf of ISOLA in the IFLA working group Landscape without Borders on Reimagining Covid. A two minute video was shared and suggestions given.

Updates to be sent from ISOLA to IFLA for updating on their website

Updates to be sent from ISOLA to IFLA for updating on their website. Neelima Soni will coordinate on that.

14. MISCELLANEOUS

Byelaws and other documentation

Preetanshi Singh working on it.

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Identification of new lawyer as existing lawyer is not responding

We can get documents back from the lawyer and check status on that. Deepak Kungwani to follow up.

15. NEXT EC MEETING

The next EC meeting will be held on September 5th, 2020, Saturday, one week before the AGM.

16. ANY OTHER ITEMS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Minutes of the Meeting by:

Nidhi Madan, Honorary Secretary, ISOLA

Drafted by:

Vineetha P.S., Associate Member, ISOLA Executive Council