



MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 86th EC MEETING

Date: 28th November, 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. Preetanshi Singh	Co-opted Member

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

10. Sachin Ubaradda	Bangalore
11. Aditya Advani	Delhi NCR
12. Sandip Patil	Gujarat
13. Narasimham V.V.L.	Hyderabad
14. Vikas Bhosekar	Maharashtra
15. Devayani Deshmukh Upasani	Mumbai
16. Preethy Jacob	Kerala
17. Hemanshu Taneja	Rajasthan
18. Ravikumar Narayan	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry

SPECIAL INVITEES

1. Sonal Tiwari	Madhya Pradesh chapter member
2. Savita Raje	Madhya Pradesh chapter member

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. Parisutha Rajan	Co-opted Member
2. Shilpa Chandawarkar	Co-opted Member
3. Asok Kumar	Associate Member
4. Vineetha P.S.	Associate Member
5. Venkata Lakshmi	Associate Member

Hon President Sujata Kohli presided over the meeting.

1. ISOLA CHAPTERS

Madhya Pradesh Chapter Formation

ISOLA Madhya Pradesh members submitted documentation required for chapter formation prior to the EC meeting. The EC unanimously approved and welcomed the new chapter. Savita Raje and Sonal Tiwari represented the chapter at the meeting.

INDIAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Registered under Indian Societies Act 1860 Sec. 21 No.: Guj2557 & Bombay Trust Act 1950 Section 29 No.: F9417

Communication Address: 312, Chitrarath Complex, Opp. Hotel President C.G. Road, Ahmedabad 380009(Gujarat) India
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Elections- Bangalore, Hyderabad, Maharashtra, Mumbai

The online voting procedure and schedule has been sent to Bangalore, Hyderabad, Maharashtra and Mumbai chapters. Elections are scheduled to be held in February-March for the 2021-23 term. The new MC takes over on April 1st. Chapters to confirm schedule and select the election officers.

2. APRIL- WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH (WLAM)

‘Festival of Landscape’ potential events/ strategies

Towards creating awareness about the profession of landscape architecture and ISOLA, the EC proposes to hold a series of activities/ events in the month of April 2021, i.e., World Landscape Architecture Month. Each chapter shared potential strategies, plans and events that can be held, and be scheduled to complement each other. This would be intended towards government, media, and the general public as an outreach initiative. Instead of the conference, which has been delayed, this will be the focus of the EC for the next few months.

Ravi Kumar Narayan (TNPY) suggested in person events, if feasible, with a local or regional issue- based panel discussion for the public and presentation of theses. Government officials can be engaged in the discussions, particularly for new projects. Other activities proposed were a public exhibition and/ or a landscape yearbook.

Sandip Patil (Gujarat) suggested engaging with print and social media for tree plantation initiatives, interacting with tree campaigns and open dialogue with arborists. This would be done in local languages, with a sustained radio campaign, quizzes and social media outreach through Instagram. Interact with local governments – invite tourism, horticulture departments, show what landscape architects do, partly online, partly in person. With support of a donor create an open competition (not for landscape architects but lay persons) to reimagine a public landscape. Take an issue and figure out responses and showcase what people are thinking about it.

Narasimham V.V.L. (Hyderabad) suggested a video on floods in Hyderabad. Other events need to be worked out.

Vikas Bhosekar (Maharashtra) informed that two day long events are being planned- a Ravindra Bhan lecture series and another on tools and techniques in plants- permaculture.

Hemanshu Taneja (Rajasthan) suggested connecting with government bodies, professional bodies, educational Institutes and the general public through combined workshops/ presentations and pilot demonstrations. The events could require involvement in guidelines and documents, existing projects etc.

Aditya Advani (Delhi NCR) proposed that all chapters conduct the same activity possibly identifying stellar landscape sites in different cities and arranging conducted visits to them for the general public.



Sachin Ubaradda (Bangalore) suggested an issues-based approach, for example, dealing with grass pavers. There is a blanket ban by fire officials that can be discussed. Alternatively, a derelict public park can be taken up to suggest a better design.

Preethy Jacob (Kerala) proposed three meetings in different cities across the state – Calicut, Kochi, Trivandrum, online workshops, competitions at the school level, engaging with smart cities, writeups, public space design to draw attention of people to different issues. Also work towards being able to sign on drawings. And an expo by April.

Sonal Tiwari (Madhya Pradesh) suggested local government engagements. Savita Rajee shared that in MP an environment helpline had been set up earlier under Mrs. Buch in Bhopal to highlight sensitive areas proposed for development. A tree walk was conducted, 400 people joined in and supported the recommendations, based on which the CM had to change the site for the MLA quarters of the Smart City. She suggested a biodiversity focus.

Swati Sahasrabudhe recommended that there may be different chapter events, but there should be one or two punchlines wherein either each chapter picks one word and focuses on that, then make cumulative videos, or one that reflects the overall intent such as '10 qualities of designed landscapes and building awareness about designed landscape and role of landscape architects?'

Sujata Kohli suggested picking one space in a city and proposing ideas for it to the government.

Sridevi Rao advised not to design spaces but showcase them through landscape walks and media outreach using conference publications.

Rohit Marol suggested each chapter undertake the documentation of a historic open space.

Devayani Deshmukh Upasani (Mumbai) shared that more discussion is required within the chapter.

Overall the suggestions included a social/ print/ radio media component, documentation of a historic open space or a fragile ecosystem, visits to stellar sites for the public, competition/ public exhibition, panel with government officials on issue based interaction/ theme.

It was agreed that all chapters would discuss further with their managing committee and chapter members. Another EC meeting would be set up to finalize the direction and preparation for the WLAM activities.

3. SURVEY

Based on previous discussions, the EC is planning to set up a survey to learn about our members and to help with direction for the future. This would include information about practice, academia, research interests, office structure, projects undertaken etc. that will help identify issues, resource persons and also give us the ability to understand professional work done and represent the profession with adequate data. Sandip Patil has initiated work on this.



This would involve three phases- creating the survey, following up with members to complete the survey and analysing the data. It will require a significant effort to get people to fill in information.

Comprehensive data will remain with the EC, filtered information will be uploaded on website. We need to look at the survey mode- google forms or other formats for complexity.

Aditya Advani suggested each chapter treasurer follow up on membership. Kerala chapter already has a committee member tasked with membership follow- up.

A membership committee was proposed to be set up to assist with membership issues. There were no volunteers for the committee.

4. **STUDIO SHOWCASE**

Sandip Patil proposed a Gujarat chapter initiative- a studio showcase be set up on the website to represent the best student work of each college/ institution recognized by ISOLA. This would be done every semester, once at the start of the year, and once mid-year. It would benchmark student work across colleges, showcasing the best work, and provide a public platform to represent academic work. This would involve the faculty to select these entries. The EB could help as well. The EC agreed that the first showcase could be held in April in line with WLAM using the previous semesters work. This data would be cumulatively housed on the website.

5. **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Certificates

In light of Covid-19, no printed membership certificates have been sent out since September 2019. They were printed and sent out after the AGM and conference earlier. A proposal was made to send out e-certificates instead, with validity of the membership mentioned. The EC agreed that all certificates from here on will be sent as soft copies.

Swati Sahasrabudhe suggested numbering emails sent for recognition/ membership certificates. This will help in tracking and standardizing emails sent out.

Non-Member contributions

A number of individuals practicing landscape architecture or working in LA offices, who are not landscape architects, or whose colleges are not recognized have shown interest in ISOLA membership or involvement. Sujata Kohli shared that this has been looked at earlier towards expanding membership categories such as 'Friends of ISOLA'.

Nidhi Madan suggested this should be left for a future discussion 5-10 years later, as it will undermine our ability to influence education, government agencies about the value of the professional degree and any future role in government bodies as decision/policy makers as we look to become more relevant now. ISOLA membership terminology can be misrepresented.

Swati Sahasrabudhe said that at present membership authenticates knowledge and degree and Sandip Patil agreed that we cannot dilute standards. Separate organizations for subscription membership to partake of events was suggested. At present almost all events are open to non-members.

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It was agreed that the proposed membership committee look at it.

6. EDUCATION BOARD

Guidelines of EB

The guidelines document prepared by the EB was shared prior to the meeting. It includes recommendations for a membership committee, website updates etc. A separate structure for recognition of institutes is suggested including representatives of the steering committee, advisory committee and the secretary. Rohit Marol advised that by default office bearers are already members of committees and both Sujata Kohli and Nidhi Madan said that the secretary need not be part of it. This committee could instead include individuals from outside, possibly IFLA. Sujata Kohli recommended involving advisory committee members and working group members in EB work as well.

A separate meeting is proposed to review the guidelines in detail and any other issue the EB requires addressed. Swati Sahasrabudhe to inform the EC of the date and time of the meeting.

7. ISOLA REPRESENTATION

Central Vista

An ISOLA charter document prepared by a few members was shared with the EC for review and comment on public spaces in general and the Central Vista project in specific. A workshop can be held to discuss the document, as discussed at the AGM.

Since the landscape scheme is in the public domain, it was suggested that the landscape architect be requested to present the scheme, so it is not misrepresented. Aditya Advani shared that the inputs of Delhi chapter should have been shared as it responded to the design specifics that have come to light, Sridevi Rao agreed that it can be incorporated in the charter.

COA

No response has been received from the COA president on the letters/ emails sent, despite many follow ups.

8. CONFERENCE

Hyderabad Conference

Decision on the next conference was deferred to early next year, as to whether it can be done in April online or in person in November 2021 or in February/ March 2022.

Conference Books

The Kerala conference book will be ready in the middle of December. Panel discussions based on this may also be held.

9. OTHER ITEMS

Student Forum

A dissertation workshop was held for which students prepared and discussion went well. Shilpa Chandawarkar, Nikhil Dhar and Swati were the resource persons. Nikhil shared some presentations on thesis. For future events, students want to connect with national level resource persons. It is important to engage other colleges and their students. So far all the initiatives have been made by TNPY students.



Resource Centre

No representatives were present to share updates.

Newsletter

TNPY chapter will work on the newsletter to be circulated in time for WLAM.

Byelaws

The pending byelaws need to be completed. Sridevi Rao volunteered to help.

Events on holidays

An objection brought up earlier to not hold events of national holidays was brought up. It was agreed that chapters could decide as per their discretion.

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Sujata Kohli suggested ISOLA request AKTC to set up a Shaheer chair in the SPA landscape department. Prashanta Bhat questioned ISOLA involvement, and if so, then why not across all institutes. SPA does not currently have design chairs. Instead, a fellowship for faculty members and/ or students was suggested. That can be reviewed further.

11. NEXT EC MEETING

The next EC meeting will be held on February 13th, 2021, Saturday

Minutes of the Meeting by:

Nidhi Madan, Honorary Secretary, ISOLA