

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING FOR 104th EC MEETING

Date: 22nd August 2025 Time: 10:30 am-5:00 pm

Venue: Hotel Rezaas

Day 01

Members Present:

S.no	Names	
1	Urmila Rajadhyaksha	Honorary President
2	Rohini Prasad	Honorary Vice President
3	Maithily Velangi	Honorary Secretary
4	Dhanashree Kulkarni	Honorary Treasurer
5	Dhara Shah	Fellow Member
6	Bhakti Thakoor	Fellow Member
7	Ankur Jajpuria	Fellow Member
8	Sanjana K	Associate Member
9	Sadaf A	Associate Member
10	Deepak Rao	Co-opted Member
11	Dhileep Raja	Co-opted Member

Members Absent:

12	Dr. Sridevi Rao	Past Hon. President
13	Devyani Deshmukh	Past Hon. Secretary
14	Rashmi Paramesh	Elected Associate Member

SPECIAL INVITEE

15	Simran Malkhani	ISOLA Office Manager
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Hon. President Urmila Rajadhyaksha presided over the meeting.

Morning Session

The Hon. Secretary for 2025-2027, Maithily Velangi initiated the meeting by introducing of the Executive Committee as this was the first time all the members were meeting in person after taking charge of the office. The previous handover meeting was conducted online due to certain reasons of unrest in parts of the country.

The by-Elections conducted for the Centre was concluded in July with Sadaf Afridi winning the election and joining the EC as Elected Associate Member.

Another candidate, Sanjana Monappa who was also nominated for the by-election was interested in joining the EC, hence it was proposed that co-opt her as EC member. All EC members voted in favour of this. Hence, Sanjana Monappa from Bangalore will be part of future EC activities as a co-opted member.

Points discussed as per agenda:

1. RESEARCH GRANT

The first cycle of Research Grant which was awarded in September 2024 and was supposed to be completed by June 2024, didn't proceed as per the schedule, due to unavoidable circumstances.

Urmila Rajyadhyaksha and Manjusa Ukidve (co-ordinator for RG) conducted a meeting with review panel committee and discussed the situation.

It was decided collectively to end the Research Grant cycle at the point it was and open a fresh cycle. The existing grantee who was unable to complete and had not been paid yet could also apply and was not barred as consideration for his ill health.

However, further Clauses are to be added in the guidelines, in consideration of this situation.

2. Education Board

ISOLA signed two MoU's with two new colleges that have recently been given recognition by ISOLA – VESCOA, Mumbai & IESCOA, Mumbai.

National Studio Program- Growth Paradox theme

Growth Paradox was introduced in the previous year, but schedules were not set. Bhakti Thakoor the new EB coordinator took up the task to carry this initiative ahead, by reaching out to various colleges under ISOLA to adapt the IFLA-APR theme- Growth Paradox in their studio as an academic project. Some of the colleges interpreted and adapted the theme in their studios (between Jan-April 2025) and outcomes of the studio will be displayed at the IFLA APR congress venue in Mumbai .

Global Studio Program

First introduced in 2024 the IFLA GSP - Global Studio Program is an experimental attempt to connect educational programs in Landscape Architecture globally through student charettes. The official language of the program is English. It is a first step into integrating global landscape architecture academia. This program aimed to tie together 4 charettes associated with major LA events across 4 IFLA regions with the objective of R&D aimed at nurturing

LA future leadership and A global network of LA education institutions.

The first edition of the GSP ran in 2024 and participation was restricted to Bachelors programs in Landscape Architecture and was held across Istanbul, Turkey---Taipei, Taiwan--Tepotzlan, Mexico and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The 2025 edition includes students from Masters Programs as well and will run across Nantes, France---jointly Santiago Chile+Mumbai, India and Wuhan China.

This is scheduled to begin a week before IFLA -APR 2025 and is being conducted at VESCOA campus.

3. ISOLA Memberships

Education Board should facilitate a way to allow memberships to Graduates from earlier non-recognized institutions (recognized now), seeking ISOLA memberships. Multiple requests have been coming in for this, and this should be looked into.

Many graduates from formerly non -recognized college , which later even discontinued the LA

program, are also seeking memberships. Deliberation in this matter has to be taken up.

A committee needs to be set up to look at creating membership category for Graduates from allied courses to expand our community to be more inclusive of other courses apart from Masters in landscape Architecture only. Most of the offices in our country have employees with degrees from these colleges.

The revamp of membership system is long due and will be carried out post IFLA APR 2025.

Corporate Discount on Membership :

The corporate discount is meant to incentivise employers to offer ISOLA membership as an Employee benefit to their eligible employees, either along with other benefits they offer or even by itself. These employers may or may not be eligible to be ISOLA Members themselves. Like other benefits offered these benefits will follow an annual cycle and will be valid from 1st April of the year the purchase is made till the 31st of March of the following year.

Thereafter, this membership can be renewed by the concerned Employer or by the individual member if the member is no longer employed by the organization. It is not employer dependent.

Right now, ISOLA has proposed to keep the minimum number of employees as 1.

The process to set this up is being discussed with SME technical support.

Urmila Rajyadhyasha and Rashmi Paramesh were actively involved in surveying to arrive at the min. figure of the group to be allowed and also the discount to be given.

So the discounted fees will be as follows:

The Corporate discount rate has been finalized based on the general ISOLA member fees and the minimum no. 1 to avail this is based on surveys conducted.

Payment/Discount Amount (25% of the overall individual renewal fee):

Fellow Member - ₹3000, Associate Member - ₹1875, Graduate Member - ₹1125

4. Collaborations

1. With VNIT: Rakesh Parmar, Landscape Architect & Associate Member (ISOLA), and Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, V.N.I.T. Nagpur, reached out to ISOLA with a proposal for collaboration, particularly with the ISOLA Maharashtra Chapter. He proposed ISOLA's participation as a Knowledge Partner for an upcoming Council of Architecture–Teachers Resource Centre (COA–TRC) programme, which will be hosted in January 2026 in online mode. The TRC programme, titled *“Designing Wetlands as Public Interfaces for a Water-Sensitive Urban Ecology,”* aims to explore the intersections of ecology, design, and public space, focusing on wetlands as vital blue–green infrastructure in cities. This five-day event will bring together experts in wetland ecology, hydrology, urban planning, and landscape architecture, along with practitioners, NGOs, and CSR representatives.

EC members voted for this collaboration. The same will be communicated to Mr. Rakesh.

2. MoU's is signed with Indian Regional Association for Landscape Ecology (IRALE). The first event after signing the MoU was conducted in Panna, MP where Devyani Deshmukh, past Hon. Secretary represented ISOLA as keynote speaker.
3. MoU with IIA was signed in Indore at the IIA event that was conducted in Bhopal-Indore.

4. MoU with CEE is being worked upon by Prachi Wakaley.
5. Landmark Vector works – has invited ISOLA to collaborate to Indianize plant palette for their software, post which they intend to give insights on this software for ISOLA members with further discount on its usage. Harish, Nimit, Sachin U are working together towards this.
6. My Liveable City Conclave – one time collaboration event- ISOLA was reached out by Mr. Shyam Kahnadekar to collaborate for the My liveable city event being conducted in Shantiniketan, West Bengal. However, since the event is week after IFLA-APR, our full time participation as collaborator would have hindered hence, it was proposed that this time, an ISOLA member will represent the organisation as participant. The my liveable city team offered registration to ISOLA member n discounted price and also a slot to present or talk about ISOLA activities. EC has decided to nominate one member to represent ISOLA for this , and it will be a sponsored representation (with cap). This is being done with the viewpoint that this might open up opportunities to spread to Eastern zone since ISOLA does not have any representation there as yet. Further work on this will be done/co-ordinated by Core committee.

Previous Collaborations/Renewals

7. Discussions on renewal of MoU with IGBC has begun. Members have been identified to work and co-ordinate the same. Zahid, Hyderabad Chapter & Seema Anthony, Delhi Chapter will represent ISOLA for this .

5. Travel and Stay CAP

Due to constant requests from EC members to revise cap for travel and stay (due to inflation in flight cost and hotels) , esp from certain sectors, analysis was done to see the cost incurred for previous year (all seasons) . It was observed that Kerala , Karnataka(Bangalore) and Tamil Nadu sector constantly end up spending up to 15000 to and fro. Hence , while all other sectors remain at 12,000 rupees travel cap, Bangalore, Kerala and Tamil Nadu will have a cap of 15000. Since we have EC members from Aligarh and Jabalpur this time, considering the the travel cost and complexities to reach upto Ahmedabad, their cost will be reimbursed on a case-by-case basis , after prior confirmation.

This cost revision will be applicable if the ticket booking is done min. 1 month before date of the meeting. If the last meeting bookings are done at higher costs, the reimbursement will be questioned.

Stay cost revised to 5000 per night.

Other points:

1. Rajinikant Trivedi ji has proposed an increase in his Auditing & Accounting fees.
2. Reimbursement for IFLA representations- Committee has to be made (Finance) to allocate and Budget for IFLA relation building, which can cover travel to represent ISOLA at IFLA conventions and meetings.

Afternoon Session : 2.30 PM to 5.30 PM

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1	Urmila Rajadhyaksha	Honorary President
2	Rohini Prasad	Honorary Vice President
3	Maithily Velangi	Honorary Secretary
4	Dhanashree Kulkarni	Honorary Treasurer
5	Dhara Shah	Elected Fellow Member
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8	Sanjana K	Elected Associate Member
9	Sadaf A	Elected Associate Member
10	Deepak Rao	Co-opted Member
11	Dhileep Raja	Co-opted Member

Members Present: Chapter representatives

12	Aparna Rao, Hon. Chairperson, Bengaluru
13	Sujata Hingorani, Hon. Chairperson, Delhi
14	Nilesh Deshpande, Hon. Chairperson, Mumbai
15	Syed Zahid Akhtar, Hon Chairperson, Hyderabad
16	Hemanshu Taneja, Hon. Chairperson , Rajasthan
17	Priyanka Kanhare, Hon. Secreatary, Gujarat
18	Mythili M, Hon. Secreatry TYPY
19	Ganga Krishnan, Hon. Chairperson, Kerala
20	Atul Kataria, Hon . Chairperson, Maharashtra

Members Absent:

1	Dr. Sridevi Rao	Past Hon.President
2	Devyani Deshmukh	Past Hon. Secretary
3	Rashmi Paramesh	Associate Member
4	Sonal Tiwari	Hon. Chairperson, MP Chapter
SPECIAL INVITEE		
1	Simran Malkhani	ISOLA Office Manager

Hon. President Urmila Rajadhyaksha presided over the meeting.

Hon. Secretary, Maithily Velangi started with introductions of chapter representatives as there were newly elected representatives too, in the meeting.

Appraising the members of EC meeting proceedings

The briefing about all the points of the morning meeting was done by Maithily and Hon. Chairperson, Urmila Rajadhyaksha.

PAN -INDIA Initiatives:

Each Chapter presented its ideas:

Bangalore Chapter- has started process of Thesis Open Day -10th cycle and call for entries has been opened. This year, unlike last few years, is going to be an offline event to make it more engaging.

TYPY – Previously, Parisutha Rajan had spoken about creating an annual research journal with ISSN/ISBN. The team was asked to take it ahead.

Maharashtra Chapter- ISOLA travels- Due to IFLA APR, it will be deferred this year, but will be taken up in early 2026.

Mumbai Chapter- Revival of Career clinic, where mentors and professionals interact with young professionals and students with guidance, support, career counselling, etc.

Rajasthan Chapter- Water series to be continued. And conducted In July 2026. theme: Water as a resource.

Gujarat Chapter – An Online repository platform where the works of professionals and students are displayed on a digital platform and everyone has access to the same. All colleges affiliated with ISOLA; their work will be put up online and made available with a click.

Delhi Chapter will look into Website Development of ISOLA.

Hyderabad Chapter proposed Nursery Visits to learn about native plants and what species are suitable for what space.. It was suggested to detail out more and make it more informative for the audience rather than an advertisement of the nursery.

Kerala Chapter proposed Urban Open Spaces and how to improve ecological status through art installations, awareness, etc..

There were suggestions to try collaboration with upcoming Kochi Biennale and take this forward.

Other points:

Reg. ISOLA Memberships:

1. Atul Kataria suggested to extend/re-run the Grand Amnesty scheme because it has benefited many ex-members and the outreach can be further uplifted by Chapters reaching out and helping the centre to contact ex-members to take advantage of this scheme.
2. Sujata Hingorani reaffirmed the necessity of opening up/ working out membership categories for allied disciplines to be more inclusive. It was discussed that this task will be taken up on priority post IFLA -APR as many members are too busy to take up new tasks like these.

Prepared by: *Maithily Velangi, Honorary Secretary*

Supported by : *Sanjana K., EC Member*