

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: 1st November, 2020 | Start Time: 11 am End time :

Venue: Zoom Platform link

The Agenda for the meeting, as circulated by the Secretary through emails, was as follows:

1. Opening remarks by President of ICOMOS India
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Apologies for Absence
4. Appointment of Chair
5. Approval of Rapporteur
6. Presentation of Strategic Plan, question-answer session and Adoption
7. Presentation of Annual Budget 2020-21, question-answer session and Adoption
8. Presentation of Amendments in Annexure 14 of SOPG, question-answer session and Adoption

The following ICOMOS INDIA members were present:

The Executive Committee:

1. Navin Piplani, President (In Chair)
2. Rima Hooja, Vice President
3. Shalini Dasgupta, Secretary
4. Priyanka Singh, Treasurer
5. GSV Suryanarayana Murthy, South Zone Representative
6. Poonam Trambadia, West Zone Representative
7. Ananya Bhattacharya, East Zone Representative
8. Smita Makhija, North Zone Representative
9. Nishant Upadhyay, Central Zone Representative
10. Jigna Desai, Institutional Member representative

Members:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A.G.Krishna Menon | 6. Akshay Kaul | 10. Ananya |
| 2. Aanchal Chaurasia | 7. Alisha Anand | Bhattacharya |
| 3. Abhishek Suresh Ranka | Acharya | 11. Anisha Sundeep Patel |
| 4. Aditi Rai | 8. Amit Tandon | 12. Anjan Mitra |
| 5. Ajaydeep Singh Jamwal | 9. Amruta Shrikant Uplekar | 13. Annabel Lopez |
| | | 14. Anshika Jain |

15. Antara Sharma
16. Anuradha Chaturvedi
17. Arjun Mukerji
18. Arun Menon
19. Ashish Trambadia
20. Ashna Patel
21. Bhawna Dandona
22. Bikramjit Chakraborty
23. Chandrani Bandyopadhyay Neogi
24. Chirashree Thakkar
25. Darshan Dudhoria
26. Dhriti Ray
27. Eshani Khandpur
28. Gauri Pramod Joshi
29. Gitanjali Rao
30. Gopa Sen
31. Gurmeet Rai
32. Jaspreet Kaur
33. Jatin Hashmukh Bhai Ambani
34. Jaydev Nansey
35. Jigna Desai
36. Kamal Kumar Bandyopadhyay
37. Kamalika Bose
38. Khushi Dharmesh Shah
39. Khushi Shah
40. Kiran Joshi
41. Kirtida Unwalla
42. Lakshmi Priya T
43. Maanvi Chawla
44. Madhu Vottery
45. Madhura Dutta
46. Manikonda Vedakumar
47. Meera Natampally
48. Moinak Bose
49. Moulshri Joshi
50. Moushumi Chatterjee
51. Mrinalini Atrey
52. MUKUL AGARWAL
53. Munish Pandit
54. Muziris Projects Limited - Nowshad Padiyath PM
55. Naina Saxena
56. Nalini Thakur
57. Nandini Mukhopadhyay
58. Narayanan ThirunavukkARAYANA N THIRUNAVUKKARASU
59. Navin Piplani
60. NEERAJ BHAGAT
61. NIRMAL JAYANT KULKARNI
62. Nishant Upadhyay
63. Nishesh Jain
64. Nityaa Iyer
65. Niyati Jigyasu
66. Nowshad PM
67. Nupur Bhatnagar
68. Nupur Prothi Khanna
69. Pankaj Manchanda
70. Parth Joshi
71. Poonam Trambadia
72. Poonam Verma Mascarenhas
73. Poorva Jayant Patil
74. Prathyaksha Krishna Prasad
75. Pratiti Joshi
76. Priya Gosain
77. Priyanka S Talreja
78. Priyanka Singh
79. Puja Bhowmik
80. Radhika Dhumal
81. Rahul Subberwal
82. Rana P.B.Singh
83. RC Agarwal
84. Rima Hooja
85. Ritika Khanna
86. Ritika Ravindra Jharia
87. Ritu Bammi
88. Ritu Gulati
89. Rohan Madan
90. Rohit Jigyasu
91. Saatvika Pancholi
92. Samhitha Sanjeev Polamuri
93. Sanaeya Erach Vandrewala
94. Sandip Nowlakha
95. Sangeeta Bais
96. Sanghamitra Basu
97. Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti
98. Sankar Krishna Das
99. Saranya Darshini Karunanithi
100. Saumya Tripathi
101. Shahzad Ahmed Malik
102. Shalini Dasgupta
103. Shikha Jain
104. Shivangi Shukla
105. Shreejita Maity
106. Shuchita Singh
107. Siddhajan Roy Chaudhuri
108. Smita Makhija
109. Sonal Karanjikar Chitnis
110. Sonali Jaiswal
111. Srinivas Murthy G
112. Sukanya Mitra
113. Sukrit Sen
114. Suptendu P Biswas
115. Suramya Bansal
116. Sushant School of Art and Architecture, Ansal University
117. Suvarna Ashok Jain
118. SV Suryanarayan Murthy Gullapalli
119. Swapna Kothari
120. Tapan Mittal Deshpande
121. Ujwala Menon
122. Vaidehi Vishwas Lavand
123. Vaishali Prasad Latkar
124. Vanicka Arora
125. Vasudha Saraogi
126. Venugopal B
127. Vrinda Jariwala
128. Yamini Gupta
129. Yash Pratap Singh Shekhawat
130. Zarna Surendra Shah

ASCERTAINING THE QUORUM:

As per the RR 10 of the Memorandum of Association of the Society, a special General Meeting of the Society may be called at any time by a resolution of the Executive Committee, or by requisition of 33% of the voting members . The quorum at a Special General Meeting shall be 33% of members. The Society has a total 354 members. Accordingly 117 members (33%) of total 354 members, must be present. The Secretary ascertained the attendance. A total 130 members were present. Since the conditions of attendance had been met, she declared the quorum to be present and, thus, the meeting validly constituted to proceed to discuss the agenda for the day.

Invitees:

1. Ms. Pranav Kumar, Alacrity Corporate Solutions Pvt Ltd Accounting service provider
2. Mr Vinay Pandey, Vinay Pandey & Co. Auditor

As per the Agenda, the following discussions were held and decisions were taken in the AGM:

1. **Opening Remarks:**
Mr. Navin Piplani welcomed and thanked all the members for their presence in this important meeting and declared the meeting open.
2. **Approval of Agenda:**
The agenda was circulated among members on 10th October and 31st of November, 2020. There was no objection received by the members therefore declared Approved.
3. **Apologies for absence:**
Mr Vinay Pandey, Vinay Pandey & Co., Auditor was unable to attend the meeting and apologized for his absence.
4. **Appointment of Chair:**
Mr Navin Piplani was appointed as the chairperson of the Special General Meeting.
5. **Approval of Rapporteur:**
Ms Ananya Bhattacharya was appointed as the Rapporteur for the meeting.
Ms Priya Gosain, EPWG member, was appointed to assist with moderating the session and collation of questions.
6. **Presentation of Strategic Plan:**
The Strategic Plan was presented by Ms Shalini Dasgupta and Ms Poonam Trambadia. The Strategic Plan, initiated in 2014, was last presented in AGM 2020. Suggestions received were incorporated and circulated again in October 2020. We received the

comments and all changes included. A presentation on the revised Strategic Plan was made by Ms Dasgupta.

The Strategic Plan is a road map for the organization. It establishes a strong relationships among heritage professionals and bridge the gap between the experts and the common people. The NSCs, Zones & WGs especially EPs can initiate there research programs under:

1. Knowledge Building & Archiving
2. Advisory and Capacity Building Action Points.
3. Especially for the Zones can conduct their awareness programs under Advocacy and Outreach.

Tentative calendar was also presented which facilitates with certain event dates were the various awareness programs can suitably conducted.

Mr Munish Pandit had two concerns: 1. The plan is headed only by certain members and executive body and it doesn't elaborate on how the membership can contribute in the capacity building. The executive body should concentrate more on the functioning of the organization. 2. The plan doesn't elaborate on how the milestones are going to achieve at the end of three years?

Ms Shalini Dasgupta clarified that its only Ms Priyanka Singh and herself leading the WGs and rest of the NSCs/WGs are handled by the membership. We had always been requesting members to come forward and send us their action plans/proposals which are to be reviewed by the executive committee.

Ms Priyanka Singh further clarified that the nomination of coordinators for Working Groups had been undertaken in various ways in the past - either through an announcement to members for volunteers, or members of ICOMOS India in respective International WGs would take on the role of Focal Point at the National Committee. In the case of the Water Heritage WG, a proposal was sent by 2 members (including Ms Singh) to the ExCom for consideration, following which the request was placed at the AGM in 2018, and members agreed to the formation, duly recorded in the minutes. On formation of the WG in 2019, the same 2 members were nominated as coordinators. Following nomination to the post of Treasurer, Ms Singh explained that she had requested for the consent of the COMOS Board and the WHWG members to continue and complete a 2 year term responsive to proposed work of the WG.

Ms Sangeeta Bais raised a concern: 80% of our membership are from the background of conservation architecture and young professionals. She wanted to understand on how the Ex-Com has planned to work on the scientific & thematic areas mentioned in the Strategic Plan which needs multi-disciplinary professionals beyond conservation architects? How the Strategic Plan will enhance the membership, bringing in more professionals from the other disciplines? Before getting into such

specific Themes, we need to have an framework and planning to work under these themes.

Ms Shalini Dasgupta answering the query, agreed that we lack such professionals in our fraternity and CCHWG has already initiated in their meetings to involve the multi-disciplinary institutions, fulfill the lacuna and urged the membership to spread the awareness of the mandate of ICOMOS India, help us spread our network and bring in more and more memberships from different fields.

Mr Surya Murthy, agreeing with Ms Sangeeta Bais, asked to improvise on the definition of working team, coming up with new ways to include multidisciplinary individuals/institutions.

Ms Poonam Trambadia explained further that the themes are of wide concern areas, which are developed in such a way that the team structure will actually take place through the NSC/WG level. ICOMOS India will plan further once the NSCs/WGs propose the Outreach programmes in front of the Ex-Com.

Ms Nalini Thakur suggested for a strong collaboration with individuals/institutions that have experiences in these themes otherwise the vision is vague at present and it will not give complete results. She also suggested forming a team of 5-6 members as a committee to take on the discussion on changes/modifications.

Mr Munish Pandit suggested to list out the challenges which we may expect while achieving the goals and the kind of mitigation measures we are trying to foresee so that if there is any shortfall on membership/collaborations we fulfill that in advance. We should define our indicators by taking more time on this.

Mr Amit Tandon pointed out that Strategic document is not just the job of the Ex-Com, it's a collective effort and, these valuable suggestions/inputs if had been given earlier, would have saved a lot of time and incorporated well in advance for adoption.

Prof AGK Menon suggested to strengthen the vision statement of the strategic plan. There is a need to bring in more professional's expertise into the document.

Ms Shalini Dasgupta clarified that this is a dynamic document and all suggestions given by the members will be incorporated. At present, these are very broad-based categorizations of thematic areas that ICOMOS India has put up and the detailing of the themes will take place as and when the members come forward with their proposals to make the document more stronger.

Ms Smita Datta Makhija suggested to set out time and system for open discussion and brainstorm each theme and ask the whole membership to contribute and take their inputs on board with specific aspect and set a goal for each theme.

Mr Amit Tandon suggested to make a fully functional secretariat to build efficiency and streamlining the efforts taken by the Ex-Com.

Prof Kiran Joshi and Prof Menon urged all the members to welcome the paper for adoption and block it for another three years. Ms Ritika Khanna encouraged all NSC and WG members to go through the document as it's a very clear guiding force to align the activities of ICOMOS India.

Ms Nupur Prothi Khanna brought to our notice that there are many professionals who are working on Climate Change, Nature Culture, SDG etc very actively, we will need an advisory role or form a group, these themes should become a centric point in our daily practices more as a perspective. We need to gear up connecting with the global agenda.

Adoption of the Strategic Plan was proposed by Prof Kiran Joshi and Seconded by Dr. Rohit Jigyasu. The below resolution was adopted without any objection.

RESOLVED THAT the Strategic Plan presented before the meeting is hereby approved and adopted.

7. **Presentation of Annual Budget 2020:** The Annual Budget 2020 was presented by the Treasurer Ms. Priyanka Singh.

Background to the need for this SGM and presentation of budget was explained. The proposed expenditure for 2020-21 was presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of 2020. Multiple recommendations from the membership were made to update this to indicate the income alongside. It was also brought out that clarity on the existing corpus be made. Both recommendations were recorded in the official minutes of the annual general meeting.

At the same AGM, results of the elections held were announced, and the newly elected Executive Committee took office from the day. Consequently, the responsibility of revising the budget fell to the new Executive Committee. This immediate task was set against the ongoing pandemic due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and consequent restrictions in travel and day-to-day functioning of the organization. It was explained that the new Executive Committee has been mindful to carefully study the impact on expenditure, over the past 3 months, and realign its priorities in this new normal, before releasing the revised budget to the membership.

Budget 2020-21 was presented, in a revised format, to provide clarity on the cash on hand (in the bank) as on 31st March 2020, which amounts to a total of Rs. 86,90,702 - out of this Rs. 28,49,356 is the operating income, and Rs. 58,41,346 forms the corpus accumulated. It was explained that the Income Tax Computation Statement: 2017-2020 offers clarity on this calculation. Currently, all of this income is held in one bank account. The anticipated income for 2020-21 is Rs 19,35,00, based on income sources from past years.

The proposed expenditure was explained under two core heads- A: COMOS Secretariat, and B: Research, Advocacy, Capacity Building and Outreach- amounting to Rs. 24,30,000 and Rs. 10,75,800, respectively. Expenditure in the budget has further been categorized as, either, operating expenditure or capital expenditure.

At the end of the presentation, Ms Singh introduced Mr Pranav Kumar, Director of Accounting firm Alacrity hired by COMOS, as a special invitee to the meeting.

After the presentation, Mr Munish Pandit enquired on two matters: firstly, he wanted clarity on why there was an allocation for 'auditing and associated legal work' and 'legal expenditure' in the budget. It was explained that the associated legal work mentioned alongside auditing is towards financial legalities such as filing of form 10 & 10 B and Tax Returns. Further, the allocation for 'legal work' is a tentative expenditure allocation to update the Rules and Regulations, attached to the Society's MoA, which was made in 2012, and it has been recommended by past executive committee members that further clarity on many matters is required, to facilitate smoother functioning of the organization and its growing mandate. In addition, changes that have taken place at the ICOMOS International are also not reflected in the RRs, such as the mention of the Emerging Professional and others. The current Executive Committee is yet to evaluate this need, but has accounted for it in case the task to update it is taken up within the year.

His second question was to understand the GST interest liability from the FY 2017-18, and why despite funds available this had not been cleared yet. Ms Singh clarified that the first Notice dated 3rd March 2020 was received in hard copy at the COMOS later that month. As informed by the past Treasurer and Accountant/ Auditor, due to the onset of the lockdown soon after, and closing of the office, the Notice was missed and therefore not acknowledged in the Audit 2019-20. The online GST portal did not reflect this Notice at the time. Once it was found and acknowledged, it was the considered opinion of the accountants that it required investigation as many of the calculations in the computation sheet in the Notice did not match COMOS records. After the elected ExCOM took office in June, it pursued the matter, and representations to the GST office have been made supported with a computation sheet clarifying that the liability is much lower than in the Notice. Mr Pranav Kumar was invited to clarify the matter further and explained that the manner of calculation of the liability by the GST Department has been contested in various cases, and in response to these litigations, the GST is evolving. Reflective of this precedent, the representations to the GST Department made by COMOS also contest the liability. Subsequent to further clarity from the Department, COMOS will pay the final liability.

This was followed by a discussion on the need for future financial planning to ensure a minimum (or no) annual deficit, towards financial sustainability of the organization.

Clarifications on FCRA, symposium publications were provided in the Chat Box, as members posed questions during the presentation. The chat box also records recommendations from members on improved remuneration for interns, improved outreach (paid promotions, social media experts etc) and collaboration with institutions in the future (See annexure)

Adoption of the Annual Budget 2020-2021 was proposed by Mr Ashish Trambadia and Seconded by Ms Ritika Khanna. The below resolution was adopted without any objection.

RESOLVED THAT the Annual Budget 2020-2021 presented before the meeting is hereby approved and adopted.

8. **Presentation of Amendments in Annexure 14 of SoPG:** Amendments in Annexure 14 of SoPG was already presented in NSC Conclave 2019 and based on the suggestions from the members that were incorporated and circulated again in March 2020 and comments received from Ms Nalini Thakur and from others, the IPR Committee circulated the final Amendments in October 2020. The Presentation in the SGM was made by Prof Arun Menon who stated that since ICOMOS India's Publication Sub-committee had already started working on the Publications, Plagiarism was also added in the 6 amendments that was already presented earlier. Mr. Ashish Trambadia had a query that in case coordinator collecting the articles, post-event for publications, will the individual authors will be responsible for the adherence? Which was answered Dr Jigna Desai, that, yes, the individual Authors are responsible for its adherence. Amit Tandon humbly objected the IPR policy. He requested ICOMOS India to explore creative commons which supports the spirit of Volunteerism, while IPR takes away the ownership of a common knowledge, our traditional and intangible heritage is evolved from generations, lets share. It gives us opportunity to attributes to ourselves, to an opportunity to modify or share it and requested ICOMOS India explore the possibility and if this can go in the paper as an amendment? Dr Jigna Desai agreed to Amit Tandon's suggestions and agreed to revised the suggestion by Mr Amit Tandon and present it in the next AGM 2021 but since we are already started working with Publications and looking forward to work with multiple organizations and authors who are members as well. Going for creative commons cannot be a blank head decision, it depends on a particular subject or situation and if some NSC is putting together an inventory of certain kind of heritage, that could become a part of Creative Commons and it will be a decision of everybody working in that NSC. Since many NSCs and Publication Sub-Committee have already started working on publications and Dr Desai suggested all members to adopt the amendments for now.

Ms Poonam Verma Mascarenhas requested more clarity on how to approach the organizations and as an NSC, how members can participate, as the members are not aware of a defined process and acknowledge the participation and take the ownership, which has been now put on the paper but there is a need for the definition of process by putting up a brainstorming sessions by the larger body with the executive committee, formulate a definition so that all the energies of the members are positioned correctly for all organizations that come together.

Dr Jigna Desai clarified that the definition would be a separate document completely which is dynamic but cannot be included in the policy.

Mr Munish Pandit wanted a clarity - while formulating our own policies, what kind of references were taken from other international organizations or institutions and confident that we are at par with the other international organizations?

Prof Arun Menon informed the membership that the IPR Committee collated the standard IPR policies from different organizations like IIT Madras and Cept University and looked at good practices and tried to select the points that are suitable for ICOMOS India. Dr Desai added here that the Committee had taken references from international organizations that work on research on Intangible and cultural Heritage, and also referred to the guidelines of Ministry of Commerce and Industry on the creative products they follow as a reference point.

Adoption of the Amendments in Annexure 14 of SoPG was proposed by Ms Poonam Verma Mascarenhas and Seconded by Ms Madhura Dutta. The below resolution was adopted without any objection.

RESOLVED THAT the Amendments in Annexure 14 of SoPG presented before the meeting is hereby approved and adopted.

9. **Thank you note from Vice President Rima Hooja:** Ms Hooja congratulated all the members for their active participation and voiced for all three matters that were presented today, may or may not in agreement, Ms Hooja thanked the members for their suggestions which will be taken forward for consideration. She also encouraged more such meetings where members can have fruitful discussions and positive outcome.



Mr Navin Piplani
President - ICOMOS India & Chairperson