



Indian Association for the Study of Population (IASP)

Minutes of the General Body Meeting held on 18th September, 2018, 07.00 pm, at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

The General Body meeting of the IASP was held at the Hall -2 of the Seminar Complex, Institute of Science, BHU, Varanasi at 7.00 PM on 18th September 2018. The meeting was presided over by the President of IASP, Dr UV Somayajulu. The General Secretary of IASP, Prof P Mohanachandran Nair welcomed the members of IASP. A total of 39 members attended the GB meeting. Since the meeting did not have the required Quorum, the meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes, and reassembled to discuss the agenda of the meeting. Copy of the agenda was circulated among the members.

Condolence

Dr Somayajulu mentioned about the sad demise of senior Demographer and member of IASP, Prof B. D Misra. He made a brief mention of his contribution in the field of population in general and towards growth of IASP in particular. He added that Prof Misra served IASP at various roles including the Vice President. The members observed 2 minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed Senior Demographer.

Item 1 : Confirmation of minutes of the last General Body meeting held at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, on December 20, 2017

The minutes of the last GB meeting was approved with the support of all the members present in the GB meeting. Dr. A. G. Khan proposed and Prof D. P. Singh seconded this.

Item 2 : General Secretary's Annual report for 2017-18

The General Secretary's report, highlighting the activities carried out by IASP during 2017-18, was presented to the GB by Prof P Mohanachandran Nair. The same was proposed to be accepted by Prof P. C. Saxena and seconded by Prof R. S. Goyal.

Item 3 : Presentation of Accounts and Balance sheet for 2017-18

Dr. Suresh Sharma, treasurer placed the balance sheet for 2017-18 for approval of the GB. The same was approved and accepted by the GB with Prof P. C. Saxena proposing and Prof P. Ramachandran seconding.

Item 4 : IUSSP -2021 Conference at Hyderabad

Dr.Somayajulu briefed the members about the developments of the 2021 IPC at Hyderabad including formation of the National Organising Committee, NOC. He added that he was not keen to do this until the IASP elections are completed. But IUSSP wanted this to be completed before the visit of IUSSP team to India in Sept 2018. He also added that the EC and BOT as well as the GB that met in Visakhapatnam had authorised the President to constitute the NOC. In view of this, the NOC was formed and the list of NOC members was circulated among the EC and BOT members and suggestions were sought. He further clarified that we need to wait for the 2019 general election to get the senior Govt officials on board. This applies to the Govt of Telangana also. He also informed that contacts were established with the office of Honourable Vice President of India, Governor of Telangana, Chief Minister of Telangana and some of the corporates. He briefed the members about the first meeting of the NOC that was held on August 31, 2018. He further informed the members about the proposed visit of the IUSSP team (Dr Mary Ellen Zuppan and Mr Nico van besides Dr Shireen Jeejebhoy) for meetings at Delhi and visit to the IPC 2021 venue, at Hyderabad.

Dr Somayajulu also mentioned that IASP has to open a bank account exclusively for the IPC 2021 and the GB authorised the President to initiate action in this regard. He also said that the list of NOC members would be uploaded on the IASP Website.

Prof Unisa opined that, apart from NOC members, we should have more members and more committees. Prof R B Bhagat proposed that India day should be organised by IASP during the IPC. Prof SC Gulati opined that IASP can discuss with the IUSSP office bearers to get special membership fee in IUSSP for IASP members. He also added that IASP should try to seek the support of organisations, academic Institutions / Universities in and around Hyderabad.

Dr Somayajulu mentioned that we will have India sessions over two days, during the IPC 2021, with 1-2 plenary sessions and 8 parallel sessions. IASP would discuss with IUSSP on these sessions and inform the members. He also added that this was discussed in the first meeting of the NOC. He gave an update on the efforts to mobilise funding for the IPC 2021 and added that efforts are made to save some money from the funds generated for the 39th annual conference to meet the expenses for pre IPC 2021 activities including the IUSSP council meeting and IPC meeting to be held in Delhi in Jan 2019. He informed the members that half yearly budget is being prepared for rest of 2018,2019, 2020 and 2021.

Item 5 : Elections 2018

Dr Somayajulu briefed the members about the progress made so far including updating the list of annual and life members with correct e mail id and mobile number. He added that all the members were sent hard copy of newsletter along with current address available with IASP with a request to send communication if any changes are to be made. The updated list was sent to the Election Committee.

He also briefed the members about the evoting software prepared by Mr Vinod Tyagi, as proposed by the Treasurer in the GB meeting held at IEG, Delhi in Dec 2017. This was demonstrated during the Visakhapatnam conference. Later, this software was shared with the Election Committee (Profs CM Pandey, CP Prakasam and PM Kulkarni) and demonstrated to Prof C M Pandey at Sigma office, in Delhi. On the basis of feedback provided by Prof Pandey, change were made in the software. And the same was sent to all the members of the EC. He requested Prof CM Pandey, chairman of the election committee to give an update to the members.

Prof. C. M. Pandey explained that the committee has two options one prepared by Mr Tyagi, IEG programmer and another one the software usually used in academic and professional organizations- Survey Monkey Apps. Display of the software was also done in the meeting. He also added that the second one is widely used in several elections including the recent ISMS election. It is also more reliable and costless. Many members participated in the discussion on this matter relating to online voting, Prof. Aravind Pandey, Prof. P. Ramachandran, Prof Sayeed Unisa, Prof. R B Bhagat, Dr. Manoj Alagarajan, Prof D. P. Singh and Dr. Suresh Sharma participated in the discussion.

Mr Tyagi asked two questions to Prof CM Pandey, while Dr Suresh Sharma asked for the reasons for not using the software developed by Mr Tyagi as much of time was invested by him in this regard. He also argued that the software prepared by Mr Tyagi should be considered/used. He also added that the EC can review the revised e voting software developed by Mr Tyagi.

There were arguments and counter arguments and then Dr Somayajulu mentioned that as the matter is handed over to the EC, IASP and its office bearers should not intervene in this matter as it leads to conflict of interest and requested the members to cooperate with the EC so that it can take independent decision in the interest of IASP. He also requested the EC to consider both the software and select the one that s best in terms of various parameters such as safety, confidentiality, reliability, etc. He requested the EC to complete the elections at the earliest as they are delayed. He also informed the members that due to some personal constraints, Prof PM Kulkarni has opted out of the EC and requested Prof

CM Pandey to take a decision in this regard as it is his prerogative to decide about his replacement. Prof CM Pandey mentioned that instead of replacement for Prof Kulkarni, he would prefer to have four independent observers who have technical knowledge, from various regions of the country. He also added that the software developed by Mr Tyagi is not discarded and it is under consideration but added that revisions in it would take more time.

Prof S. N. Dwivedi, mentioned that many international associations are using survey monkey for their elections and hence it would be the best option for IASP elections, as it also ensures confidentiality of the voting process. Prof VK Tiwari also felt that the EC should be given freedom to decide about the software to be used. Finally, the GB authorised the Election committee to decide about the election process including the e voting software, schedule etc.

Dr. Subrato Mondal mentioned about the need to have gender balance in the EC and added that the EC members should be more accountable in the activities of the IASP and they have to get involved in all the events and activities of IASP at least in their area.

Item 6 : Demography India

Dr Somayajulu mentioned that all the issues of the Journal were published and they are available online. A special issue with the selected papers of 38th annual conference is getting ready for publication.

Item 7 : Next IASP Conference

The offer to host the next annual conference of IASP was received from Dr. A. G. Khan of Gulbarga University, Gulbarga and Prof V. K. Ravindra Kumar of S. V. University, Tirupati. The President requested them to send formal offer letter with the recommendation of their head of the institution and details about the support in cash and kind that would be provided to IASP. He thanked all the members for their active participation in the GB meeting.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

The end