

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Post Box No. 1604, Cochin 682 018

MINUTES OF THE 58th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON 18th MAY 2017

The meeting was attended by the following members

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| 1. Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, President | 31. Dr. Kajal Chakraborty |
| 2. Dr. N. R. Menon, Vice President | 32. Dr. Rajendra Naik |
| 3. Dr. N. G. K. Pillai, Vice President | 33. Dr. T. M. Najmudeen |
| 4. Dr. K. S. Mohamed, Secretary | 34. Dr. Purushotama G. B. |
| 5. Dr. P. Vijayagopal | 35. Dr. Rajesh K. M. (Invitee) |
| 6. Dr. G. Maheswarudu | 36. Dr. Swathilekshmi P. S. |
| 7. Dr. T. Balachandran | 37. Smt. Surya S. |
| 8. Shri. J. Narayanaswamy | 38. Smt. Livi Wilson (Invitee) |
| 9. Dr. M. R. Boopendranath | 39. Ms. Remya L. |
| 10. Dr. C. P. Gopinathan | 40. Dr. Jeena N. S. |
| 11. Dr. P. Jayasankar | 41. Miss. Saloni Shivam (Invitee) |
| 12. Dr. E. V. Radhakrishnan | 42. Dr. Shoba Joe Kizhakudan |
| 13. Dr. T. Senthil Murugan (Invitee) | 43. Dr. S. Lakshmi Pillai |
| 14. Dr. R. Jayakumar | 44. Dr. Molly Varghese |
| 15. Dr. M. Sivadas | 45. Dr. V. Kripa |
| 16. Dr. R. Narayanakumar | 46. Miss. Saima Rehman (Invitee) |
| 17. Dr. K. K. Joshi | 47. Smt. Shikha Rahangdale (Invitee) |
| 18. Dr. K. Vinod | 48. Ms. M. Kavitha |
| 19. Dr. B. Santhosh | 49. Dr. Shoji Joseph |
| 20. Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan | 50. Shri. L. Ranjith |
| 21. Shri. Vivekanand Bharti | 51. Dr. I. Jagadis |
| 22. Dr. Johnson B. | 52. Dr. Jayasree Loka |
| 23. Dr. A. K. Abdul Nazar | 53. Dr. Indira Divipala |
| 24. Dr. Biji Xavier | 54. Shri. Rajesh N. |
| 25. Dr. Muktha M. | 55. Dr. Amir Kumar Samal |
| 26. Dr. C. Kalidas | 56. Shri. D. Linga Prabhu |
| 27. Dr. Boby Ignatius | 57. Dr. S. Chandrasekhar |
| 28. Dr. Ramkumar S. | 58. Shri. Sankar M. (Invitee) |
| 29. Dr. P. K. Asokan | 59. Dr. M. Sakthivel |
| 30. Dr. N. K. Sanil | 60. Dr. Srinivasa Raghavan V. |

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| 61. Dr. V. N. Sanjeevan (Invitee) | 89. Dr. Shyam S. Salim |
| 62. Dr. Nakwa Ajay Dayaram | 90. Shri. Kapil Sukhdeo Sukhdane |
| 63. Dr. Mahesh V. | 91. Dr. Ritesh Ranjan |
| 64. Shri. Vinay Kumar Vase | 92. Shri. Loveson Edward L. |
| 65. Shri. S. Thirumalaiselvan (Invitee) | 93. Dr. Shubhadeep Ghosh |
| 66. Shri. Rajesh Kumar Pradhan (Invitee) | 94. Dr. Vidya R. |
| 67. Shri. Ambarish P. Gop. (Invitee) | 95. Ms. Jasmine F. |
| 68. Shri. Rajool Shanis C. P. | 96. Dr. M. S. Madan (Invitee) |
| 69. Dr. Divu D. | 97. Dr. A. Margaret Muthu Rathinam |
| 70. Dr. K. P. Said Koya | 98. Dr. Vidya Jayasankar |
| 71. Shri. Adnan Hussain Gora (Invitee) | 99. Smt. Divya Viswambharan |
| 72. Shri. Bhendekar Santosh (Invitee) | 100. Smt. Reshma K. J. |
| 73. Shri. Kurva Raghu Ramudu (Invitee) | 101. Dr. Sumithra T. G. |
| 74. Shri. Vinodkumar R. (Invitee) | 102. Ms. Sreeranjima G. (Invitee) |
| 75. Shri. Subal Kumar Roul (Invitee) | 103. Dr. K. S. Shobana |
| 76. Dr. Gyanaranjan Dash | 104. Dr. K. N. Saleela (Invitee) |
| 77. Dr. Pralaya Ranjan Behera | 105. Dr. Aswathy N. |
| 78. Dr. Sekar Megarajan | 106. Dr. Sandhya Sukumaran |
| 79. Shri. Mohammed Koya K. | 107. Dr. Rekhadevi Chakraborty |
| 80. Dr. Anikuttan K. K. | 108. Dr. C. P. Suja |
| 81. Shri. Sanal Ebeneazar | 109. Dr. Swathi Priyanka Sen Dash (Invitee) |
| 82. Ms. E.M. Chandraprajnadarsini (Invitee) | 110. Shri. Rajan Kumar (Invitee) |
| 83. Dr. Reeta Jayasankar | 111. Shri. Tarachand Kumawat (Invitee) |
| 84. Dr. Rema Madhu | 112. Dr. Vipinkumar V. P. |
| 85. Dr. Madhu K. | 113. Dr. Mini. K. G. |
| 86. Dr. C. Ravichandran | 114. Dr. Somy Kuriakose |
| 87. Dr. Miriam Paul Sreeram | 115. Dr. P. U. Zacharia |
| 88. Dr. K. Padmakumar | |

The 58th Annual General Body Meeting of the Marine Biological Association of India (MBAI) was conducted on 18th May 2017 in Room No. 606 of ICAR- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi and commenced at 17:15 hours. It was attended by 115 members.

The programme commenced with the Welcome Address by Secretary Dr. Sunil Mohamed. He welcomed the President, Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Vice Presidents, Prof. (Dr.) N. R. Menon and Dr. N.G.K. Pillai and other distinguished members like Dr. T. Balachandran, Dr. K. Padmakumar,

Dr. V. N. Sanjeevan, Dr. C. P. Gopinathan, Dr. E. V. Radhakrishnan and all members of MBAI and newly joined scientists of CMFRI who were attending the meeting for the first time.

Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan felicitated the Vice Presidents, members of the Executive Committee, the eminent guests present and the members of MBAI. He mentioned that the Executive Committee has been meeting very quarter to discuss the matters of the MBAI. He appreciated the efforts of members from Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI for their active support in sorting out the issue of the revival of registration for MBAI which has allowed the MBAI to retain its name and continue with its activities. It was hoped one of the next Executive Meeting of MBAI could be held at Mandapam in December 2017-18. He also touched upon the institution of the award of small grants for research and the S. Z. Qasim Prize for the best paper published in the Journal of MBAI. The J.V.H. Dixitulu Memorial Award being constituted for the best article in the fisheries sector published, including newspaper reports, was mentioned so also the special issue of JMBAI Volume 58 which was devoted to papers from the World Ocean Science Congress held from 5th to 8th February 2015 at Kochi. He also expressed happiness of having a lecture delivered by Dr. Maarten Bavinck of the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands under the aegis of MBAI this year at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi.

Secretary's Report

The next item on the agenda was the Report of Activities made by Dr. Sunil Mohamed Secretary, MBAI. He presented an Action Taken report of the previous year which detailed that the task of conducting a marine life photo contest was given to Dr. K. Vinod who was not able to complete the activity. Dr. Vinod assured that this activity would be taken up during the current year.

(Action: Dr. Vinod K.)

A national level quiz programme was to be organised by Dr. V. Kripa. She also assured that this activity will be completed during the current year.

(Action: Dr. V. Kripa)

Dr. V. V. Singh and Dr. S. K. Chakraborty has been assigned with opening a chapter of MBAI in Mumbai during the previous year. Dr. Singh assured that an attempt will be made during the current year.

(Action: Dr. V. V. Singh)

Veraval and Vizhinjam Research Centres had been tasked with conducting some programmes the previous year. Dr. Mohamed Koya of Veraval RC asked that the duties may be taken over by new member Shri Tarachand Kumavat as he was under transfer.

(Action: Shri Tarachand Kumavat)

The Certificate of Compliance issued by the Tamil Nadu Government regarding registration revival was displayed and the efforts taken by Dr. Abdul Nazar, Dr. B. Johnson and Mr. G. Subbaraman were gratefully acknowledged by presenting them with mementos.

Chennai Chapter: The opening of the Chennai Chapter of MBAI was reported. The office bearers elected were Chairperson of the Chennai Chapter Dr. P. Laxmilatha, Vice President Dr. A. R. Thirunnavukkarasu, Secretary Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan, Assistant Secretary Dr. Vidhya Jayasankar and Treasurer Dr. R. Geetha.

Membership Status: The membership status of MBAI was reported as 723 members as of 2016-2017 which had gone up considerably from 687 members in 2015-16 with the addition of 35 new Life Members.

Talks Organized: A talk was organized to promote marine science on 18th April 2017 at CMFRI Kochi by MBAI where Dr. Maarten Bavinck of the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, spoke on Tropical Marine Fisheries Governance: the Way Forward. An awareness programme at the Kadamakudy High School in association with the Indian Science Congress, Kochi Chapter was also organized on 3rd March 2017.

Small Grants Programme (SGP): The Secretary also apprised the General Body of the Small Grants programme of MBAI instituted to encourage brilliant young graduate students to pursue small and significant research activities pertaining to marine ecosystem/fisheries. The SGP is of ₹. 20,000 and awarded for two studies in a year. The grant could be used only for the approved project work. In 2016-17 it was awarded to Mr. Sudhan C. of the Dept. of Fisheries Biology and Resource Management, Fisheries College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Fisheries University, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu for working on sea turtle nesting grounds identification and its conservation along the Southeast coast of Tamil Nadu, and to Ms. Soumya Balakrishnan, Department of Marine Biology, CUSAT, for studying the management of pathogens in

aquaculture with specific reference to White spot syndrome virus and *Vibrio harveyi* by way of administering Natural Pyocyanin. Final reports of both are awaited.

MOA Amendments: An update was given on the MOA Amendments. The current constitution was passed in 1960 during the formation of MBAI. As amendments were needed from time to time, and there were passed in the 56th AGM. It needs to be redrafted in a specific format and when done would be circulated among members.

Dr. S. Z. Qasim Best Paper Award: He also said that the S. Z. Qasim Best Paper Award with a certificate and a cash prize of ₹ 10,000 was instituted from this year onwards. The Editor, JMBAI would announce the awards.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Somy Kuriakose, Treasurer presented the Audited report for the period 2015-2016. The income of MBAI during this period was ₹ 27,047 /- and the fixed deposits with State Bank of India as on 31st March 2016, is ₹ 22, 68,640/-. The amount presently available in the SB account at State bank of India was ₹ 2, 74,430/- and with Axis bank was ₹ 88,254/-. The Association has remitted a sum of ₹ 10,32,301/- with the District Registrar, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu towards Annual Registration Renewal and documents submission compliance, pending for the past few years. This amount, since not relating to the expenditure of current year alone and also the benefits were not limited to current year alone, the Executive Committee of the Association, in discussion with the Auditors had charged only a relevant portion of the remittance to current year's Revenue accounts and the balance was treated as Asset to be written off over the subsequent two years. She thanked the Executive Committee for the unwavering support and M/s Shenoy and Shenoy, Chartered Accountants for having audited the accounts for the period. A special thanks was proposed to Ms. Melna Rodrigues for her able assistance. The audited accounts were passed unanimously by the house.

Editor's Report

The Editors Report was present by Dr. P.U. Zacharia, Editor, JMBAI. Dr. Zacharia informed that of the 101 manuscripts received this year 21 were rejected and the rest subjected to review. The last issue volume 58(2) contained 11 papers and 04 short communications. The next issue

Volume 59 (1) was expected to be published in July 2017. The Journal had received an upgrade in NAAS ratings from 4.8 to 5.29 this year. An award was also instituted this year in the hope of inspiring more and better submissions. Elaborating on the Dr. S.Z. Qasim Best Paper Award, he said that it was given to the best publication in the journal for the year. The selection committee comprised of the Chairperson, two Experts and a Convener. This year the Chairperson was Dr. I. S. Bright Singh, the experts Dr. N.G.K. Pillai and Dr. Boopendranath and the Convener Dr. P.U. Zacharia, Editor, JMBAI. The papers were judged for usefulness, clarity and presentation. This year 15 papers were judged and the prize awarded to two, namely, "Isolation, identification and culture of the marine rotifer *Colurella adriatica* Ehrenberg, 1831 (Family: Lepadellidae) from Andaman & Nicobar Islands: A promising live feed for larval rearing of high value shellfishes and finfishes" authored by K. Madhu, Rema Madhu, M. P. Mohandas and M. T. Vijayan and "Early developmental stages of the Indian mackerel *Rastrelliger kanagurta* (Cuvier) along the Kerala-Mangalore coast of southeastern Arabian Sea" authored by G. Sree Renjima, V. N. Sanjeevan, B. R. Smitha, C. B. Lalithambika Devi and M. Sudhakar.

The Award, comprising of a cash prize and citation was presented to the awardees by the President and Vice Presidents amidst applause from the audience.

Dr. Zacharia thanked Dr. Molly Varghese, Dr. Rema and Dr. Vidya for editorial assistance and Ms. Melna Rodrigues for secretarial assistance. He thanked the authors, Executive Committee members and members of MBAI for making the journal a success. He also appealed for more volunteers for reviewing articles for the Journal as only timely reviewing would aid in successful publication.

Any other matter with the permission of the President

The Secretary then opened the floor for discussion of any other matter with permission of the President. He also called for suggestions on course correction, if any. A question was raised on the availability of the MBAI byelaws on the website. The existing byelaws are placed in the website and it was assured that the new byelaws would be circulated soon. Dr. Reeta

Jayasankar requested that the Audit Statement be circulated. (**Action: Dr. Somy Kuriakose, Treasurer**)

It was assured that it would be made into a PDF and circulated. Another question was raised on what the fine regarding registration was about. It was explained that after 1972 the association did not file annual accounts/reports to the Registrar of Societies due to inadvertent oversight. Therefore a fine and penal interest was levied by the Tamil Nadu Government when revival of registration was sought. Dr. N. R. Menon commented that getting the registration revived was an excellent achievement. Had it not been done the association would have to forgo the: of India" title in its name as it needed Government approval. Dr. N. G. K. Pillai congratulated all the executive committee members for the good work carried out by them. He said that since this was the only opportunity for all members to meet annually the time allotted was insufficient. He suggested that the next meeting should be made into a dinner meeting with contributory participation. He also pointed out that 2019 would be the Diamond jubilee Year for MBAI. The triannual MECOS and the Journal were fixed activities of the MBAI. Apart from this there could be seminars planned. He sought an opportunity for youngsters to come forwards and organize events. He suggested more involvement with youth and schools and leading young people to take up marine biology. Dr. Joe Kizhakudan explained how the Chennai chapter is tying up with NGO s to hold one day camps for students. The Secretary promised to host a dinner next year and also arrange a talk on new trends in marine biology at the occasion. Dr. Reeta Jayasankar suggested that the Journal could go in for paid reviews. The suggestion was not accepted as it involved ethical issues. The Secretary suggested going in for centralized automation of the review process by adopting a system like Manuscript Central. The President remarked that such a system was adopted by National Academy of Science, Hyderabad. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Dr. K. G. Mini, Associate Treasurer. The meeting concluded at 18.15 hours.

