

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Post Box No. 1604, Cochin 682 018

MINUTES OF THE 62nd ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON

18th JUNE 2020 BY ONLINE

The meeting was attended by the following members

1. Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, President
2. Dr. N.G. K. Pillai, Vice President
3. Dr. P.U. Zacharia, Exe. Member
4. Dr. M. R. Boopendranath, Exe. Member
5. Dr. G. Maheswarudu
6. Dr. K. K. Joshi, Chief Editor
7. Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Joseph Modayil
8. Dr. P. Vijayagopal
9. Dr. Rekha J. Nair
10. Dr. Mini. K. G.
11. Dr. Somy Kuriakose
12. Shri. Anuraj A.
13. Dr. K. V. Jayachandran
14. Dr. Anil M. K.
15. Dr. M. K. Sajeewan
16. Dr. P. Jayasankar
17. Dr. A. V. Raman
18. Dr. V. K. Pillai
19. Dr. Suresh V. V. R.
20. Dr. R. Jayakumar
21. Dr. G. Tamilmani
22. Dr. M. Sakthivel
23. Dr. P. Rameshkumar
24. Mrs. Remya L.
25. Shri. Vinothkumar R.
26. Shri. S. Thirumalaiselvan
27. Dr. Johnson B.
28. Dr. M. Sankar
29. Dr. Abhilash K. R.
30. Dr. C. Ramachadran
31. Dr. P. K. Asokan
32. Dr. K. Madhu
33. Dr. L. Ranjith
34. Shri. C. Kalidas
35. Shri. Loveson Edward L.
36. Dr. R. Saravanan
37. Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pradhan
38. Dr. Sreenath K. R.
39. Dr. Sandhya Sukumaran
40. Dr. Sumithra T. G.
41. Smt. Reshma K. J.
42. Dr. R. Jeyabaskaran
43. Dr. Geetha Sasikumar
44. Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan
45. Dr. Molly Varghese
46. Dr. Prathibha Rohit
47. Dr. Vidhya R.
48. Dr. R. Narayanakumar
49. Dr. Miriam Paul Sreeram
50. Dr. Jeena N. S.
51. Dr. Manojkumar P. P.
52. Dr. I. Jagadis
53. Dr. Grinson George, Bangladesh
54. Dr. Anikuttan K. K.
55. Dr. Tarachand Kumawat
56. Dr. Anuradha David
57. Dr. Abdul Azeez P.
58. Dr. Dinesh Babu A. P.
59. Dr. Rajesh K. M.
60. Dr. Jasmin S.

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| 61. Dr. K. S. Sobhana | 78. Dr. Kajal Chakraborty |
| 62. Dr. K. Vinod | 79. Dr. Jerald Wilson |
| 63. Dr. Sujitha Thomas | 80. Dr. Purushottama G. B. |
| 64. Dr. S. Lakshmi Pillai | 81. Dr. Ramya Abhijith |
| 65. Dr. P. S. Swathilekshmi | 82. Dr. Jyothi V. Mallia |
| 66. Dr. Imelda Joseph | 83. Dr. Subir Kumar Mandal |
| 67. Dr. Muhammed Moazzam Khan, Pakistan | 84. Dr. Eldho Varghese |
| 68. Dr. V. S. Chandrasekharan | 85. Dr. Reshma Gills |
| 69. Dr. Jawahar Paulraj | 86. Dr. K. Sivachandrabose |
| 70. Dr. Reeta Jayasankar | 87. Dr. Shilta M. T. |
| 71. Dr. L. Krishnan | 88. Dr. Livi Wilson |
| 72. Dr. R. Soudararajan | 89. Dr. Kapil S. Sukhdane |
| 73. Dr. B. Santhosh | 90. Dr. Josileen Jose |
| 74. Dr. Raghu Ramudu K. | 91. Dr. Sanal Ebeneezar |
| 75. Dr. Prajith K. K. | 92. Dr. Pramila S. |
| 76. Dr. Madhu V. R. | |
| 77. Dr. Jayasree Loka | |

The Annual General Body Meeting commenced at 4.00 pm on 18th June 2020 at Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi. Dr. Rekha J. Nair, Secretary welcomed the President, Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, Vice Presidents, Dr. N. G. K. Pillai, and Dr. K.K.C. Nair, Executive Members, Senior Members, teachers and all members to the 62nd Annual General Body Meeting of the Marine Biological Association of India.

This was followed by the Welcome address by the President and Director CMFRI, Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan who also welcomed all the senior members to the function. Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan in his presidential address first expressed happiness that since it was a virtual meeting many senior members who could not move out of their house due to unlock situation could attend the General Body. Dr. Gopalakrishnan mentioned he was able to see many of his gurus and teachers especially Dr. V. K. Pillai Sir, Dr. Soundarajan Sir, Dr. K. J. Mathew Sir, Dr. Krishnan among the login members. Continuing his address, President also flagged the following points. United Nations has proclaimed 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and has set goals to increase scientific knowledge, improve ocean health, enhance contribution to marine biodiversity knowledge and therefore the Marine Biological Association of India, should also look into organizing programs in these areas for the coming year. He further added that in January 2020 the Marine Biological Association of

India has conducted the International Symposium MECOS3 in a grand and completely green protocol with mobile apps for programme guides and using only recyclable articles for the conference. He congratulated Dr. Sunil Mohamed the Convenor of MECOS-3 for the effort taken in conducting it in a befitting manner. We even had our State Fisheries Minister visiting us during the Conference and interacting with us during the session, he added.

Continuing his address, President also informed the GB that in view of the resignation of the Secretary Dr. V. Kripa, the post of Secretary has fallen vacant. As per the Bye-law sections [Sections 8a (ix), (xi) & 9a (xiv)], Dr. Rekha J Nair, Associate Secretary has been authorized to function as Secretary as per the consensus arrived by the majority of the members of the Executive Council, MBAI for the remaining period of the present Executive Council till elections are held in 2021 for the whole Executive Council.

Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, President once again congratulated the Convenor and his team for the excellent conduct of the Symposium and concluded by wishing the Association all success.

Agenda-2: Secretary's Report

Dr. Rekha J. Nair, Secretary presented the report of activities carried out during the previous year.

Dr. Rekha J. Nair explained the activities of the MBAI during the year.

1. MECOS-3: The major activity of the year was MECOS3 which was conducted exclusively done as a green initiative, Dr. Rekha informed that the Convenor was Dr. Sunil Mohamed, Co-Convenor was Dr. Kripa. The details on MECOS3 will be presented by the Convenor in his report.
2. The other two events planned were a Marine Life Photo contest, which was to be held along with MECOS 3; unfortunately it was not held.
3. A National level Marine Quiz programme for PG students was also planned to be conducted during next year after MECOS3, unfortunately it was not held because Dr. Kripa, the Secretary has moved to take up a higher post as Member Secretary, CAA.

Membership Status: The membership status of MBAI was reported as 776 Life members as of 2019-2020 which had gone up from 769 members in 2018-2019 with the addition of 7 new Life Members. Dr. Rekha emphasized that every year the membership increase is mainly due to the

new ARS Scientists who join CMFRI also enroll as member of MBAI. She urged all members to have a membership drive to increase the strength of the Association.

Dr. E. G. Silas Small Grant Programme: Dr. Rekha J. Nair explained about the Dr. E. G. Silas SGP 2019 which was awarded to Ms. Rachana Rao from National Centre for Biological Science, Karnataka and Mr. Saoumoya Ghosh & Ms. Ankita Purkayastha (Jointly) from Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu based on the selection process. The final reports are yet to be submitted by the awardees and MBAI has not paid the full amount of grant Rs. 20000/- each to the awardees for want of the final report. The work was not completed mainly due to Covid-19 and only the first part of the fund Rs. 10000/ each was released to the students. The matter was discussed in the G B. and Dr. Reeta Jayasankar opined that they could have been given a chance to present the final report work virtually. After detailed discussions, it was decided that if the awardees submit the final report of their investigations within three months, the SGP Grant 2020 can be released.

Dr. S. Z. Qasim Best Paper Award:

Secretary informed that due to the Nationwide lockdown selection of the best paper could not be done. A selection committee has been formed with Dr. K. K. Joshi as Chairman during the last Executive Committee meeting and the awardee will be selected soon.

After the presentation Dr. Rekha J. Nair requested Treasurer, Dr. Somy Kuriakose to present the accounts during 2018- 2019.

Agenda-3: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Dr. Somy Kuriakose, presented the Audited report for the period 2018-2019. Dr. Somy mentioned that the income during this period was ₹ 5,79,232, as compared to the previous year income of ₹ 5,76,051. Fixed deposits with State Bank of India as on 31.03.2019 is ₹17,75,821/-. Interest accrued from the deposits in the bank amounts to ₹1,31,205/-. The amount presently available in the SB account at State bank of India is ₹3,52,332.74/- and with Axis bank is ₹1,77,804.94/- The COMAD 18 accounts audited were also presented by Dr. Somy. The audited accounts were passed unanimously by the house.

Agenda-4: Editor's Report

Dr. K. K. Joshi, Chief Editor of JMBAI presented the Editor's report. He said that MECOS3 Abstract book contains 357 abstracts, covering 7 focal themes and articles of 23 Lead Talks by eminent scientists in their respective fields. He further that the Book of Abstracts was not printed, but handed over as PDF copies to all the participants. The Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India Volume 61(2) June-December 2019 was also published during this period. It contains 16 Original Research Articles and two short communications. The editorial work for the next issue Volume 62(1) January-June 2020 is in progress. Four PDFs of the original Articles is ready. Total number of new papers in hand is 24, papers with reviewers 31, pending with authors for revision 4, papers in editing 2 and number of rejected papers is 4. Dr. Joshi, also informed that the UGC has recognized Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India and listed. He thanked the President, Vice Presidents and Executive Committee members for their continuing support.

Agenda-5: Bye Law amendment for Remote/online meeting

Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan, President informed GB members that in view of the present situation of Covid 19, there was an urgent need for amendment of Constitution of MBAI to hold virtual meeting. This was agreed by all members. The Bye Law: Sub 7(C) now reads "in exceptional situations Annual General Body Meeting and Executive Committee meeting can be held on suitable platform virtually".

Agenda -6: Any other matter

Programmes Planned for next Year:

Virtual Talk: Secretary informed it was decided to hold a series of virtual talk during July-August 2020. Two speakers have tentatively agreed to give talks.

1. Dr. Luiz A. Rocha, Associate Curator of Ichthyology, California Academy of Sciences - Reef fish biodiversity slated for late July 2020.
2. Dr. Yvonne Sadovy, Chair, Groupers & Wrasses Specialist Group - early July 2020

During the discussion Dr. N. G. K. Pillai, Vice President suggested holding of webinars on topical importance; it was suggested that two webinars could be held.

1. Impact of COVID-19 on Ocean ecosystem/marine fisheries/marine ecosystems
2. Role of extreme climatic conditions
3. Ocean Resources & mankind
4. Ocean ecosystem & health
5. Ocean Acidification and its impacts on Fishes
6. Mapping the Oceans and Marine Spatial Planning
7. Inventory of Ocean Ecosystems with emphasis on seagrass beds.
8. Coral reef and Reef fishes

Since the number of topics proposed by members were increasing, the President suggested that members can further send suggestions via mail. Finally the topics will be circulated to all members who could choose the appropriate one and the webinars will be held.

It was also decided to have the Photo contest either virtual or at Kochi and also a virtual Quiz on Marine Biology to be held

The Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Sreenath K. R., Editor of JMBAI. The meeting came to an end by 5.30 pm.

Dr. Rekha J. Nair
Secretary, MBAI

