

## **Minutes of the meeting held for the official launch of the Chennai Chapter of the Marine Biological Association of India**

A meeting was held for the official launch of the Chennai chapter of the Marine Biological Association of India (MBAI) at 4.00 p.m. on Thursday, 20 April 2017 at the Library-cum-conference room of the Madras RC of CMFRI. The meeting was attended by 37 people, including scientists from CMFRI and CIBA (current and retired), Zoological Survey of India and students from the University of Madras. The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- Formal launch of a separate chapter of MBAI at Chennai: Signatures of over 12 members were obtained for consent to launch a Chennai chapter of the MBAI. This will be sent to the MBAI Executive Committee at Kochi for approval.
- Election of office bearers for the new chapter of MBAI: The following MBAI members were elected as office bearers of the new MBAI chapter.
  1. **Chairperson: Dr. P. Laxmilatha** (Principal Scientist & SIC, CMFRI, Chennai). Nominated by Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan, Principal Scientist, CMFRI and seconded by Dr. P. Nammalwar, Principal Scientist, CMFRI (Retd).
  2. **Vice-Chairperson: Dr. A.R. Thirunavukkarasu** (Principal Scientist, CIBA, Retd.). Nominated by Dr. A. Margaret Muthu Rathinam, Principal Scientist, CMFRI and seconded by Dr. R. Soundararajan, Principal Scientist, CMFRI (Retd).
  3. **Secretary: Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan** (Principal Scientist, CMFRI). Nominated by Dr. Sathyanarayana Sethi, Senior Scientist, CIBA and seconded by Dr. R. Soundararajan, Principal Scientist, CMFRI (Retd).
  4. **Assistant Secretary: Dr. Vidya Jayasankar** (Senior Scientist, CMFRI). Nominated by Dr. Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, Principal Scientist, CMFRI and seconded by Ms. Elina Chandraprajnadarshini, Scientist, CMFRI.
  5. **Treasurer: Dr. R. Geetha** (Scientist, CIBA). Nominated by Ms. Elina Chandraprajnadarshini, Scientist, CMFRI and seconded by Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan, Principal Scientist, CMFRI.

Following the election of the office bearers, the newly elected Chairperson and Vice chairperson addressed the gathering and requested the members to actively participate in the planning and execution of activities for MBAI. They also encouraged increased student participation.

Other senior members of MBAI, including Dr. M. Kathirvel, Principal Scientist, CIBA (Retd.) and Dr. P. Nammalwar Principal Scientist, CMFRI (Retd) wished the new chapter all success in its future activities. Dr. Nammalwar suggested reviving the issue of the certificate "Fellow of the Marine Biological Association of India".

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Joe K. Kizhakudan.