

Ref. No.: INYAS/CC/20/15

August 20, 2020

### Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Mid-Year E-Meeting of INYAS

August 1-2, 2020

Platform: Microsoft Team

List of INYAS Members Attendees: Annexure I

#### **Day 1 (August 1, Saturday)**

The meeting started at 09.45 hrs with opening remarks from the meeting convener, Rajendra Dhaka. Rajendra briefly mentioned the agenda of the two-days meeting and handed over the session to Chair-INYAS, Chandra Shekhar Sharma.

Chandra Shekhar Sharma greeted all INYAS members in his welcome note and mentioned that due to unprecedented pandemic situation, the meeting is being conducted in virtual mode although initial planning was to conduct the same in Mumbai. He however expressed his pleasure to have this start and wished that INYAS mid-year meetings will provide a much needed platform to all members for scientific discussions and possible collaborations. After his brief initial remarks, Chair handed over the session to V. Ramanathan, Session Chair of Technical session I (Topic: Women Scholars of Pre-independent India).

#### **Session 1: Technical Session I on 'Women Scholars in Pre-Independent India'**

- V. Ramanathan requested M.B. Rajani to introduce the keynote speaker, Prof. Rama Jayasundar, AIIMS-New Delhi.
- Prof. Rama Jayasundar delivered the keynote address and discussed women in science in the pre-independence era. Prof. Rama vividly discussed the achievements of great Indian women in the ancient era with her magical speaking ability.
- After the talk, V. Ramanathan thanked her for the wonderful deliberation and Prof. Rama Jayasundar also expressed her willingness to talk again in INYAS forum in future.
- After the keynote session, the Technical session I started with the talk of INYAS member, Nishad Fathima. Subsequently Ashwini Ratnoo and M.B. Rajani delivered lectures. After Rajani's talk, the session was open for questions and remarks.
- Chair requested the session chair to carry forward the discussion from this session to organize some future activity or release an article/monograph related to the session theme.
- The session was concluded by thanking all INYAS as well as non-INYAS participants, organizing committee members, core committee members and Chair-INYAS.

#### **Session 2: INYAS General Session**

- INYAS session began with opening remarks of Rajendra Dhaka. Rajendra thanked Prof. Chandrima Saha, President-INSA and Prof. A K Singhvi, Vice president-INSA for accepting the invitation from INYAS and agreed to share their thoughts in Mid-year e-Meeting 2020 with all



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members and handed over the session to Chair-INYAS, Chandra Shekhar Sharma for further proceedings.

· Chandra Shekhar Sharma greeted Prof. Chandrima Shaha, President-INSA and Prof. A K Singhvi, Vice president-INSA. Chair, INYAS informed that Mid-year e-Meeting is planned to mostly focus on technical sessions in order to strengthen networking among young leaders of our country. He summarized briefly the INYAS activities in the last half year and also appraised President and vice-President, INSA about INYAS participation in many joint outreach activities. Chandra also mentioned about INSA-INYAS joint celebration of National Science Day and thanked Prof. Shaha and Prof. Singhvi for their continuous support. The President and Vice-president were also updated about recent awards and accolades of INYAS members. He also highlighted contributions by INYAS members in the fight against unprecedented COVID19. He informed that INYAS is putting effort into getting connected with other young academies around the world and informed them about participation of young academies from Bangladesh and Thailand on the second day of meeting. He also presented briefly the future plan of INYAS and highlighted a few new activities that INYAS is planning to take up. Chair, INYAS concluded his presentation by thanking INSA for rendering continued support.

· Different activities of INYAS were presented in detail by core-committee members. Rohit Sharma has presented outreach activities of INYAS since March 2020. He also showcased societal works of different INYAS members against COVID 19 pandemic.

· Jitendra Patnaik updated the progress of White paper on 'Status and challenges of young researchers in India' and informed that a questionnaire has already been prepared for data accumulation. Subsequently, statistical analysis will be done and the white paper will be submitted to Chair, INYAS by October 30, 2020. He also informed that white paper related to 'Fostering curiosity driven fundamental research' is quite at an advanced stage and expected to be submitted to Chair-INYAS by September 15, 2020.

· Mithun Palit introduced newly formed local chapters of INYAS in the Mid-year e-meeting. There are a total of 7 local chapters and Coordinator and Co-coordinators have been chosen by the individual chapter members. He discussed the aims and objectives of these local chapters in terms of collaboration, research facility sharing, cluster concept etc.

· Rajendra Dhaka talked about a new membership call for 2021. He informed the members that the call is open since July 1, 2020 and evaluation will start from September onwards. He also told that to reach out to more people and encourage them to apply, membership promotional videos are also planned.

· Prof. Chandrima Shaha then in her presidential remarks expressed her pleasure and positive seeing all INYAS members even virtually. She shared her concern over the current pandemic situation but was hopeful that in this era of huge technological achievement mankind will again win over the situation. She expressed her contentedness with White paper documentation from INYAS. She also cautioned that INYAS members should report only evidence based unbiased suggestions in the proposed white papers. She emphasized that young researchers should be prepared for trans-disciplinary research and global interactions and should engage in diverse fields so that a complex situation like the present pandemic can be tackled. The science academies must play a fundamental role in multi-sectorial policy making where an effective amalgamation of wisdom of seniors, ideas of juniors and communications of the public can lead to fruitful results. Prof. Shaha put emphasis on climate change, food sustainability, society responsibility, public response, selflessness, accountability

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etc. She also suggested that INYAS must also work towards promotion of science in regional languages. She expressed her satisfaction towards INYAS activities and informed that she expects that INYAS will put more effort for this.

- Prof. A K Singhvi in his special address to INYAS members complimented and congratulated INYAS. He suggested that INYAS must self-retrospect and reach to the height of GOLD standard, so that the recommendation from INYAS be treated by policymakers with due respect. He truly said that responsibility brings respect and thus by interfacing science with society, INYAS can efficiently act as responsible as well as respectable platform. Prof. Singhvi stressed upon self-reliance and self-sustainability. He suggested to be proactive and expects that INYAS can be a vehicle for India's science trajectory. He suggested maintaining synergy with other scientific organizations, publish quality articles in peer-reviewed journals. He said that he is optimistic about INYAS's potential to reach GOLD standard. He also advised INYAS local chapters to work synergistically with respective INSA local chapters.

- The Chair, INYAS thanked both Prof. Shaha and Prof. Singhvi for their valuable inputs and guidance to INYAS.

- This was followed by the discussion and seeking members' inputs on Event Guidelines and Revised Code of Conduct document which was shared with all members on July 30. Gitanjali, Samavedi, Rohit, Rajendra provided their inputs. The respective committee members noted down the suggestions for further discussion. Members were further requested to provide any further inputs by August 7 followed by which Committee as formed will submit its recommendations to CC for final approval and implementation.

- Inputs were asked on a preliminary report by a special committee on INYAS Autonomous Status. Tarakanta, Gitanjali, Shalini, Upasana provided their inputs. The respective committee members noted down the suggestions for further discussion. Members were further requested to provide any further inputs by August 7 followed by which Committee as formed will submit its recommendations to CC for final approval and implementation.

- A short presentation on the resources generation plan for INYAS was made by Mudrika and Mithun. Members provided their quick inputs. Chair, INYAS requested members to send their comments even after the mid-year meeting till August 10 by email.

- Notification was made about the issue of unequal opportunities of few members for contesting for Chair position (details will be discussed in next year in-person GBM).

- Prabhat and V. Ramanathan briefly presented about the process and candidates' names for the e-Election for vacant CC position in Biological and Medical sciences. Voting started at 5:00pm for 5 hrs electronically.

Day 1 meeting ended at 5:15pm.

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### Day 2 (August 2, Sunday)

Day 2 of the mid-year meeting started with Technical session 2.

#### **Session 3: Technical Session II on ‘Science and Serendipity’**

- The session on ‘Science and Serendipity’ started at 10.00 hrs with opening remarks of session chair, Chandra Shekhar Sharma. Chandra also introduced the keynote speaker Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta.
- Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta delivered the keynote address and discussed how science is interspersed in nature and our way of living. He made a very interesting presentation highlighting several examples and illustrations.
- After the talk, Chandra Shekhar Sharma thanked him for the wonderful deliberation and Prof. Gupta also expressed his willingness to talk again in INYAS forum in future.
- After the keynote session, the Technical session II started with the talk from INYAS members. Gitanjali Yadav. Subsequently Upasana Ray and Chandra Shekhar Sharma delivered lectures. After all three technical talks which were well appreciated by members, the session was open for questions and remarks.

After the technical session, Prabhat declared the result of election for the CC position (Bio & Medical Sciences) by congratulating Paramdeep Singh for being the new CC member.

#### **Session 4: INYAS-NYA Special Session**

- INYAS-NYA Special Session was moderated by Shalini Arya with a welcome note on working together for Science.
- Chair, INYAS thanked President, NYAB and Co-Chairs of TYSA for accepting the invitation and extended his warm welcome to all Executive committee members of National Young Academy of Bangladesh (NYAB) and Thai Young Academy of Science (TYAS) in INYAS mid-year e-meeting. He informed that the idea of the inter-NYA meeting is to explore the possibility of networking and joint outreach activities among young scientists in order to address global challenges. He thanked GYA-Co-Chair Anindita for her support. He also acknowledged the support of EC members of GYA, Yoko Shimpuku and Elyoussfi Lahcen and INYAS Immediate past chair Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Ms. Anna from GYA office for helping INYAS to connect with NYAB and TYAS and extending all support for this special session.
- Shalini invited GYA-NYA portfolio in charge and EC member Yoko to share her comments. Dr. Yoko explained the relationship between GYA and NYA. She highlighted various activities and events of GYA related to NYAs. She also emphasized on various opportunities for young scientists under different programmes of GYA.
- GYA-NYA portfolio in charge and EC member Lahcen started his remarks by thanking all. He emphasized on support of GYA in order to improve communication and organization of regional events of NYAs. He also highlighted more visibility and impact through collaborative projects both at the regional as well as international level through NYA –GYA interaction.



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- Anindita Bhadra, GYA Co-Chair expressed her happiness to be present in INYAS mid-year e-meeting. She informed all attendees about the vision and mission of GYA. She highlighted the importance of networking amongst young academies and highlighted the major strategic plan of GYA.
- Chair, INYAS made a brief presentation on various INYAS activities. He explained the mission and vision of INYAS along with structure, initiatives, achievements, societal responsibilities in current pandemic situations etc.
- Mohd. Abdul Basith, President, NYAB presented their activities, outreach events, list of members and their role in the current pandemic situation. The talk ended with a future plan and opportunity of collaboration with NYAB.
- Next presentation was made by TYSA co-chairs, Kampanart Silva and Sasitorn Srisawadi. The presentation encompassed vision-mission, structure, details of empowerment of young scientists, science communication, policy recommendations, collaboration details with other NYAs and GYA, international science cooperation and many more other details. TYSA showcased their collaborative activities with ASEAN academies and invited ideas from INYAS and NYAB regarding sustainable collaborative activities.
- The session was open for discussion/suggestion regarding collaboration. In the discussion, several important issues came up, such as open science and fighting against its dark side in the form of predatory journals, joint meeting with other Asian academies, joint white paper writing, exchange programmes for young researchers, participation in ASEAN events, opportunities for students from other countries to pursue PhD in India through TWAS and ASEAN fellowships etc.
- Chandra Shekhar Sharma, Chair, INYAS presented a vote of thanks and told that based on the discussion and inputs from respective members of NYAB, TYSA and GYA, an action plan will be worked out to start the joint activities in near future. Chandra also informed that INYAS will take an initiative to organize an exclusive INYAS-Asia NYAs meeting with the help from NYAB, TYSA and GYA sometimes in Nov.-Dec. 2020. Mahesh summarized the discussion and made concluding remarks.

The meeting ended at 5:00pm.

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