

# **Minutes of Meeting**

## **General Body Meeting of the International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS)**

Date: 08<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Time: 12:30 (IST) and 9 am (CET)  
Venue: University of Heidelberg, Germany and Online via Zoom.

The General Body Meeting was held offline at the University of Heidelberg and online via zoom by members who could not be at Heidelberg, Germany for the 20<sup>th</sup> IALS Conference 2023.

The meeting was presided by the outgoing president and the Election Officer 2023, Dr. Sonam Wangchok who announced the election results for the 20<sup>th</sup> IALS Election. The election results were announced with the new executive body as follows:

**PRESIDENT:**

Monisha Ahmed (Unopposed)

**SECRETARY:**

Rigzin Chodon (Unopposed)

**TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

Lauren Smyth (Unopposed)

**WEBMASTER:**

Sebastian Forneck (Unopposed)

**EDITOR:**

Sunetro Ghoshal

**LADAKH LIASON OFFICER, KARGIL:**

Nazir Hussain

**LADAKH LIAISON OFFICER, LEH:**

Stanzin Tsetan

**ADVISORY:**

1. Betinna Zeisler
2. Christian Luczanits
3. Marus Nüsser
4. John Bray
5. Quentin Devers
6. Sonam Joldan
7. Stanzin Dorjai Gya
8. Tashi Ldawa Tsangspa

Other major issues addressed included, the registration of the IALS as an organisation, the handling of the IALS accounts, the logo for the IALS website, the 21<sup>st</sup> IALS Conference,

Conference proceedings Publications, annual meeting of IALS members and amendments to be made in the IALS constitution.

The first and foremost discussion was about the registration of the IALS as an organisation. A consensus was not reached and more discussions over the registration is to be further discussed over email.

The major issues of handling a UK based account addressed by Lauren Smyth was read out from the email she had sent out. She agreed to be on board until 2025 as the incumbent Treasurer and Membership Secretary after which she will not be able to work in that position. And an IALS member from the UK will have to volunteer to handle the UK account.

Regarding the logo of IALS, it was decided that the secretary will give out a call for entries to all the IALS members. Currently, three entries were made for the logo after the 19<sup>th</sup> IALS Conference, which will be reconsidered during the call.

The 21<sup>st</sup> IALS Conference in 2025 was planned to be organized in Kargil in collaboration with the Cultural Academy of Kargil. It was also recommended to have certain rules and responsibilities to be allocated to the executive body for the commencement of the conference and a conference committee to be formed.

As part of the proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> IALS Conference, the papers presented at Heidelberg is planned to be published by the University of Heidelberg Library, Germany at the Heidelberg Asian Studies Publishing. It will be an open access and an online publishing. The publication shall be overseen by Prof. Marcus Nüsser and Prof. Sussane Schmidt along with the editor of IALS.

The members also spoke about having a calendar marked for IALS members during their (On Google sheet or other online platforms) filed works visit to Ladakh. Talks, workshops could be conducted by senior researchers for young researchers, college students in Ladakh. It was decided that the larger plan of conducting workshops in various disciplines, over the course of two years of the tenure of the newly appointed executive, was aimed towards having a more robust and an active forum. Collaboration for such workshops with the University of Ladakh (with active IALS members and executive members) was also discussed.

An annual meeting for the IALS members was also planned. A time frame for such a meeting is yet to be decided.

During the meeting, it was recommended to co-opting an advisory member from Kargil.

Overall, the 20<sup>th</sup> IALS conference (05<sup>th</sup> to 08<sup>th</sup> October 2023) was a great success, with 04 paper presentation from Ladakh via Zoom and rest of the paper presentation at Heidelberg University, Germany.

Rigzin Chodon  
Secretary, IALS

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Leh.