

**MINUTES OF 249<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 FROM 11.00 A.M. ONWARDS, IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE, INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI AND ONLINE ON ZOOM APPLICATION.**

**Present:**

- 1) Prof. Abhay Purohit, President, COA
- 2) Ar. Gajanand Ram, Vice-President, COA
- 3) Ar. R Ramesh Kumar, Member
- 4) Ar. Nand Lal Chandel, Member
- 5) Ar. Punit Sethi, Member
- 6) Ar. Lalichan Zacharias, Member
- 7) Ar. P.Vaitianadin, Member, (Attended Online)

**In attendance:**

- 1) Shri R.K.Oberoi, Registrar-Secretary
- 2) Shri Deepak Kumar, Administrative Officer

The Registrar-Secretary welcomed the newly elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee and requested the Chairman to conduct the further proceedings of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Executive Committee and Officers of the Council for attending the meeting. Thereafter, the regular agenda of the meeting was taken up.

<b>ITEM NO.01</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 248<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 05<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022.</b>
	<p>The Minutes of the 248<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee, as circulated to the Members on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, were perused by the Executive Committee and confirmed.</p> <p>The Executive Committee decided that the matter related to compliance to be submitted by IIA with requirements as prescribed by the Council by continuation of enrolment of candidates by IIA be awaited till 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.</p> <p>The Executive Committee also directed the Registrar-Secretary to send a communication to IIA that any enrolment in contrary to the directions of the Council shall be invalid and solely at the risk and consequences of the IIA and the concerned applicants.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.02</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE MINUTES OF THE 248<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 05<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023.</b>
	<p>The Executive Committee perused the action taken report on the Minutes of the 248<sup>th</sup> Meeting and noted the same.</p>

<b>ITEM NO.03</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGET ESTIMATES OF COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-2024.</b>
	<p>The Executive Committee perused the draft Budget Estimates of the Council for the Financial year 2023-24. The Registrar-Secretary briefed the Members in detail about the proposed draft Budget Estimates. The Committee after detailed deliberations in the matter approved the Budget Estimates with Recurring Expenditure to the tune of Rs.2633.28 Lacs and Non-Recurring Expenditure to the tune Rs.1016.00 Lacs. Thus, making the total expenditure at Rs.3649.28 Lacs as against the income receivable to the extent of Rs.3649.37 Lacs.</p> <p>The Executive Committee authorized the Registrar, Council of Architecture to incur expenditure within the prescribed limits provided for in the approved budget. The Executive Committee further decided that the approved Budget Estimates be placed before Council for its information.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.04</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK DONE FOR CONDUCT OF NATA 2023</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has appointed M/s. Eduquity Career Technologies, Bengaluru, Karnataka, for conduct of online NATA 2023 examination. He also briefed about conduct of First Test of NATA 2023 which was held on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023.</p> <p>The First Test of NATA 2023 was conducted at 89 centres in the country and 08 international centres. This was a computer-based Test conducted at the Test centres in two sessions – 1st session from 10.00 am to 01.00 pm and 2nd session from 2.30 pm to 05.30 pm. Out of total 10901 registered candidates for the first test, 10140 (93%) candidates appeared in the Test. The results of the first test will be declared by the Council on 30.04.2023.</p> <p>The Registrar-Secretary, further informed the Committee that Dr. Ranee Vedamuthu, Former EC Member, has been assigned responsibility of moderating and finalising the NATA questions as prepared by the different experts.</p> <p>The Committee members informed that there were some complaints by the observers on the lack of infrastructure facilities at some NATA Centres and also their location was in outskirts of cities. The Registrar-Secretary informed that he has taken up the matter with service provider and they have assured to replace such centres.</p> <p>The matter is placed for information of the Hon'ble Members.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.05</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT, COA, FOR REAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FROM ONE UNIT TO ANOTHER UNIT AS PER COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE REGULATIONS, 1982.</b>

	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the President, Council of Architecture, vide note dated 01.04.2023, has reappropriated the funds of the Council from one unit to another after the exhaustion of prescribed budgetary provisions for the financial year 2022-2023.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the office note dated 01<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 and ratified the action taken by the Chairman, Executive Committee for reappropriation of funds from one unit to another unit as per Council of Architecture Regulations, 1982.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.06</b>	<b>CONDUCT OF INSPECTIONS BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024, FOR GRANT APPROVAL FOR INTRODUCTION OF DIPLOMA IN ARCHITECTURE, B.ARCH. AND M.ARCH. COURSES AND ALSO FOR GRANT OF EXTENSION OF APPROVAL FOR DIPLOMA, B.ARCH. AND M.ARCH. COURSES.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the Members that Council has received the applications for, intro of Diploma courses, intro of B.Arch. Course and intro of M.Arch. Course.</p> <p>Further, the Council has also received applications for extension of approval for, diploma in architectural assistance ship, diploma in Interior Design, B.Arch. and M.Arch. Courses.</p> <p>The Chairman further informed the Members that Council should finish approval of all Institutions within preferably by 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2023 as per its academic calendar.</p> <p>He also informed the Members that a Sub-Committee consisting of Prof. Pushkar M Kanvinde, Prof. Binumol Tom and Prof. Milind Kollegal has been constituted by for verifications of the applications/ preliminary scrutiny report of the institution so as to ensure that no glitches are faced at the time of Inspection.</p> <p>He also informed the Members that at first application for introduction of B.Arch and M.Arch and Diploma courses will be considered and their inspection will be scheduled and thereafter for extension of approval.</p> <p>Further, the Chairman informed that the Council would not inspect Institutions which fulfils the Council's criteria/ marking system with atleast 70% and above and those Institutions which fall below 70% and against whom Council has received complaints will be inspected and list of such institutions would be shared with the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Chairman also informed the members that that Council would conduct surprise inspection in some Institutions where serious lapses/ deficiencies were noticed.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.07</b>	<b>FINALIZATION OF THE PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS IN THE ARCHITECTS ACT, 1972</b>

	<p>The Chairman informed the Members that in the last (79<sup>th</sup> Meeting) of the Council the proposal for amendments in the Architects Act, 1972 was discussed.</p> <p>The Members of the Council were requested to send their views/suggestions on definition on “Architectural services”, however, no comments/suggestions have been received.</p> <p>The Executive Committee deliberated in the matter and decided that all the Members of the Council be once again requested to send their views and suggestions to the Council so that the same can be consolidated and a proposal can be submitted to the Central Government for its consideration and further action.</p> <p>The President further informed that in order to have wider consultations in the matter, he would be meeting with the Association of Engineers and other stakeholders so that a consensus can be formed and there are no objections from any quarter on the proposal of the Council for amendments in the Architects Act, 1972.</p> <p>The Executive Committee also decided that an Advisory be sent to all members of the Council to send views/ suggestions on the Minutes of the Council Meetings only to the President and Registrar of the Council.</p>
<p><b>ITEM NO.08</b></p>	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF SUB-COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED BY PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TO ASSIST THE COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE TO SUGGEST APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO THE CURRICULUM IN ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTIONS ON THE ISSUES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed that the then Chairman, Executive Committee has constituted a Sub-Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 to assist the Council in preparation of curriculum of the subject “Climate Change” for introduction in B.Arch. Course.</p> <p>The Committee consists of following members :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ar. Vishal Vyas, Convenor;</li> <li>2. Ar. Sandeep Shikre, Member;</li> <li>3. Dr. Anand Achari, Member;</li> <li>4. Prof. Prasad Vaidya, Member;</li> <li>5. Prof. Ashok B. Lall, Member;</li> <li>6. Prof. Rajiv Mishra, Member</li> <li>7. Prof. Hina Zia, Member;</li> <li>8. Prof. Suresh Murthy, Member;</li> <li>9. Ar. Swati Puchalapalli, Member;</li> <li>10. Dr. Vijayalakshmi Iyer, Member.</li> </ol> <p>The Executive Committee noted the information and appreciated the action taken in the matter.</p>

<p><b>ITEM NO.09 &amp; 10</b></p>	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION OF NHAI FOR DESIGN/ BEAUTIFICATION OF BOUNDARY OF WALLS OF ALL NATIONAL HIGHWAYS.</b></p> <p><b>TO TAKE THE NOTE OF PROGRESS OF DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION OF NHAI, FOR ERECTION OF ICONIC STRUCTURE ON DHAULA KUAN ROAD, NEW DELHI.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that National Highway Authority of India has launched 2 Ideas Design Competitions, one for Design/beautification of Boundary Walls of all National Highways in India and second for erection of iconic structure, Dhaula Kuan Road, New Delhi.</p> <p>He further informed that more than 250 architects have registered with both the categories. The last date of Registration is 30.04.2023 and last date of submission is 08.05.2023 and 15.05.2023 respectively. The Council is now required to constitute the Jury for assessing the designs/ entries to be received for these competitions.</p> <p>The Chairman requested Ar. Lalichan, Member and Ar. Punit Sethi, Member, to suggest name of Jury Members at the earliest for the competitions so that the further process may be initiated and results of the Competition can be shared with the National Highways Authority of India at the earliest.</p>
<p><b>ITEM NO.11</b></p>	<p><b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION FOR “TOILETS” UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION 2.0-URBAN CONDUCTED BY COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS GOVT. OF INDIA.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council has successfully conducted the Design Ideas Competition For “Toilets” Under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0-Urban on behalf of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Govt. of India.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the information and appreciated the efforts made by the Council office in assisting the various Ministries of Government of India in their initiatives for betterment of society and to ensure fair and transparent procedures are adopted for selection/ appointment of architects in government departments.</p>
<p><b>ITEM NO.12</b></p>	<p><b>TO CONSIDER REVISION OF HONORARIUM TO RESOURCE PERSONS FOR CONDUCT OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT TRC’S OF COUNCIL.</b></p>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Council, presently Honorarium @ Rs.1500/- per session is being paid to Resource Persons for conduct of training programmes at TRC’s. Council. The Honorarium was last revised in the year 2017.</p>

	<p>The Directors, TRC's have requested for enhancement of Honorarium to Rs.3,000/- per session.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after deliberations in the matter approved the honorarium for resource persons as under:</p> <p>i) Rs. 2500/-per session if the session is of 1.5 hours or more. ii) Rs. 2000/- if the session is less than1.5 hours.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.13</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MEETING ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT, COA, IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, GOVT. OF INDIA.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the Members that the President, COA, along with Registrar and Administrative Officer attended a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2023, chaired by Hon'ble Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Ji on Export of Services, jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India and Services Export Promotion Council.</p> <p>The Hon'ble Minister stressed for enhancing exports for services in all sectors and sought views and suggestions of all stakeholders. He extended support and help of his Ministry for entering into reciprocal arrangements with foreign authorities so that Indian professionals can exports their services either from India or by moving abroad.</p> <p>The Chairman informed that though foreign lawyers are allowed to get registration in India but they are not allowed to appear before the courts. Similarly, the Council has to prepare norms/ SOPs for regulation of foreign architects and the services to be provided by them in India.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.14</b>	<b>TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MEETING CONDUCTED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, WOMEN, CHILDREN, YOUTH AND SPORTS OF RAJYA SABHA.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that he along with Registrar and Administrative Officer attended the meeting of Parliamentary Standing on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports of Rajya Sabha on Internationalization of Higher Education and submitted the relevant information related to NATA before the Committee.</p> <p>The Executive Committee noted the information.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.15</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE LETTER DATED 17.04.2023, RECEIVED FROM SHRI PAWAN KUMAR, UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF INDIA REGARDING CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Hon'ble Karnataka High Court in W.P. NO.16114 of 2021, Shri Sharan Desai V/s. State of Karnataka vide order dated 08.02.2023, has directed the Ministry of</p>

	<p>Education to lay down criteria for nomination of members of the Council under Section 3(3) (f) of the Architects Act, 1972 by the State Governments.</p> <p>The Under Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education vide their letter no.4-7/2020-TS.VI dated 17.04.2023 has requested the Council to submit a proposal to the Ministry in the matter within 30 days of their letter.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the communication and also draft criteria prepared by office of the Council and sought 7 days times to submit their views/ suggestions on the same.</p>
<b>ITEM NO.16</b>	<b>ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.</b>
<b>1)</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF A TRUST/SOCIETY REQUESTING FOR INTRODUCTION OF B.ARCH. COURSE AT A REGION FALLING UNDER CATEGORY – IV OF COA PERSPECTIVE POLICY WHICH WAS EARLIER REFUSED BY THE COUNCIL FOR PROCESSING OF ITS APPLICATION</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed that the Council is in receipt of a letter dated 19.04.2023 from Bholaram Education Society, a Society applying for introduction of B.Arch. course for 2023-2024 at its new institution in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The application could not be processed by the Council as it was located in Category - IV (No New Institutions permitted) as per COA Perspective Plan Policy. The Trust of the institution has requested the Council to reconsider its Policy considering the fact that several institutions have closed down in the region.</p> <p>The Chairman, EC, informed that he sought opinion of Prof. Pushkar Kanvinde, who was earlier a member of the COA Perspective Plan Policy. Prof. Kanvinde has suggested to allow the institution subject to furnishing of an undertaking.</p> <p>The Executive Committee perused the email sent by Ar. Pushkar Kanvinde and decided that if any Institution which wants to introduce B.Arch. course and coming under Category IV of Perspective Plan, but in case some institutions have already closed down in that region, new institutions may be allowed subject to furnishing of undertaking. However, under no condition number of Institutions shall be more than as mentioned in Perspective Plan for the region.</p>
<b>2)</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER THE COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC REVIEW (CAR) COMMITTEE REPORT OF UP49-DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND DESIGN, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (BHU), VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH.</b>
	The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the Department of Architecture Plan and Design (IID) Varanasi started the B.Arch course without approval of the Council and sought approval of the Council later on.

	<p>A Comprehensive Academic Review Committee was constituted to examine the facilities available with the Institution and the education and training undergone by the students during the period for considering regularization of these batches of B.Arch. course.</p> <p>A Committee consisting of Prof. Pushkar Kanvinde, Dr. Kavita D Rao, Ar. Atul Rai was constituted which has conducted the Comprehensive Review of the Institution and submitted its report.</p> <p>The Committee perused the report of the Comprehensive Academic Review Committee and after detailed deliberations decided to regularize the unapproved batches of B.Arch. course as a special case in the interest of the career of the students and the institution be warned not to commit such irregularities in future. The Executive Committee also decided that the matter may be brought to the notice of Ministry of Education.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Registrar-Secretary was asked to send the approval of the Council to the concerned Institution for the unapproved batched of B.Arch. Course.</p>
<b>3)</b>	<b>CONSTITUTION OF SUB-COMMITTEE OR IMPROVING QUALITY OF ARCHITECTURE SERVICES IN INDIA THROUGH VOLUNTARY AUDIT OF THE PRACTISING ARCHITECTS/FIRMS OF ARCHITECTS.</b>
	<p>The Executive Committee members expressed concern about the quality of architecture services in India.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after detailed deliberations constituted a Sub-Committee consisting of Ar. Punit Sethi, Ar. Lalichan Zacharia and Ar. Nand Lal Chandel to suggest the ways and means for improving the quality of architectural practice in India through voluntary audit of the practicing Architects/ firms of Architects.</p>
<b>4)</b>	<b>COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCREDITATION.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the Members that in order to improve the quality of Architecture Institutions and the Architectural Education being imparted by them, it is proposed to formulate a scheme for accreditation of architectural Institutions and for the purpose, Council may collaborate with National Board of Accreditation. This would further help in working out strategy for signing Canberra Accord.</p> <p>The Chairman requested the Registrar-Secretary to initiate necessary further action in the matter.</p>
<b>5)</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER BEING SIGNATORY TO CANBERRA ACCORD ON ARCHITECTURE EDUCATION.</b>

	<p>The Chairman informed the Members that for Architectural Education and Standards, professional bodies of various countries have come together signed an Accord called “Canberra Accord’ to have uniform norms and standards in member countries to facilitate recognition of such qualifications and facilitate registration of architects possessing such qualifications in member countries.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that Council should become signatory to the Canberra Accord so that that Indian Architectural qualifications can be recognised in these countries and Indian Architects can export Architectural services.</p> <p>The Executive Committee deliberated in the matter and agreed in principle to become a Member of the Canberra Accord.</p>
<b>6)</b>	<b>FILLING UP THE VACANT POSTS IN THE COUNCIL.</b>
	<p>The Registrar-Secretary informed the Members that the process for filling up vacant posts with the Council will be initiated shortly.</p> <p>The Executive Committee deliberated in the matter and decided that as proposed 12 vacant posts (i.e. 3 LDC, 1 UDC, 2 Computer Operator, 1 Sr. Computer Operator, 2 Assistant, 1 Programmer, 1 Research Associate, 1 PS to President) in the Council be filled up as per the procedure laid down in the Council of Architecture Regulations, 1999.</p>
<b>7)</b>	<b>STATUS REPORT ON FUNCTIONING OF COUNCIL’S TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTRES.</b>
	<p>The Vice-President highlighted the need for rationalization of the work being undertaken at Council’s TRCs and suggested that a complete report on the work and the functioning of the TRCs be prepared for consideration of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Executive Committee deliberated in the matter and decided that a detailed Report on the functioning of TRCs be prepared and placed in the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The Chairman informed the Committee that the TRCs’ has already been requested to supply the relevant information.</p>
<b>8)</b>	<b>PAYMENT OF HONORARIUM/ SITTING FEES TO PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.</b>
	<p>The Chairman informed the members that presently whenever the President or Vice President takes part in any of the Committee or Sub-Committee meeting, they are not paid honorarium/sitting fees for the same by the Council.</p>

	<p>He suggested that they should be paid honorarium/sitting fees if they attend/participate in any of the meetings of Committee/Sub-Committee of the Council.</p> <p>The Executive Committee deliberated in the matter and desired that the practice followed by UGC and AICTE and other bodies be enquired and placed before the Executive Committee for its consideration.</p> <p>The Chairman also requested the Registrar-Secretary to place the legal opinion of the Council's Advocate regarding offering of Stay and conveyance facilities free of cost to former President, Vice-President and Executive Committee members at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, in the next meeting of the Executive Committee.</p>
<p><b>9)</b></p>	<p><b>TO CONSIDER THE PRESENTATION MADE BY AR.SANDEEP PATHE AND AR.SHUBHANKAR OF 361 BIT COMMUNITY REGARDING PESENCE OF COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE IN SOCIAL MEDIA AND COA SOCIAL PLATFORMS.</b></p>
	<p>The Executive Committee considered the presentation made by Ar.Sandeep Pathe who was handling the social media account of the Council for increasing the presence of Council in the society and also the presentation made by Ar.Shubhankar of M/s. 361Bit India, for taking up the Media and Social Media Campaign on activities and initiatives of the Council for increasing its reach not only amongst Architects but also amongst students, Institutions and general public.</p> <p>The Executive Committee after deliberations asked them to submit their detailed proposal along with financials for further consideration by the Executive Committee.</p>

The Meeting ended at 05:35 p.m. with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

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