

Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Society of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies held on 08.12.2022 on virtual platform at 3 pm.

The Minutes of the twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Society of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies held on 08.12.2022 on virtual platform at 03:00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of the Society of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata held on 08.12.2022 at 03:00 p.m. on virtual platform.

Members present:

1. Sri Arindam Mukherjee, Vice President of the Society, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies presided the said meeting as authorized by the Honorable Governor of West Bengal who is the President of the Society, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, under the Rule 12 (iii) & 15 (i) of the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, and

2. Mr. Arun Kumar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
3. Professor K. Warikoo.
4. Professor Nikhilesh Guha.
5. Professor Aswini Kumar Mohapatra.
6. Professor G. Gopal Reddy.
7. Dr, Rajib Nayan.
8. Dr. S. Uttam Kumar Jamadhagni.
9. Professor Dipankar Sengupta.
10. Dr. P. M. Kammath.
11. Professor Priyankar Upadhaya.
12. Professor Purabi Roy.
13. Sri Sudesh Verma.
14. Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director of Society, MAKAIAS and Member Secretary of MAKAIAS.

Leave of absence was granted to:

1. Professor Ripu Sudan Singh.
2. Dr. Om Jee Upadhaya.
3. Professor V.K.Malhotra, Member Secretary, ICSSR.
4. Professor J.S. Rajput.
5. Professor Santisree Dhulipudi Pandit.
6. Dr. Amarjeeva Lochan.
7. Professor Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty.
8. Principle Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal.
9. Professor V. Suryanarayan.
10. The Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
11. Professor Chandrasekhar.
12. Professor R K Mishra.
13. Sri Vinod Bawri.
14. Sri Kanchan Gupta.
15. Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta.
16. Professor Anuradha Lohia.

According to Rule 16 of MoA and R&R 12 members of the Society form a quorum at every meeting of the Society.

The proceedings of the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Society of MAKAIAS, Kolkata:

Agenda item 24.1 – To confirm the Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Society of MAKAIAS held on 24.08.2021 at Azad Bhavan, Saltlake, Kolkata.

Resolution taken: The Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of MAKAIAS held on 24.08.2021 at Azad Bhavan, Saltlake Kolkata were confirmed without any modification.

Agenda item 24.2 – To consider the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Society of MAKAIAS held on 24.08.2021.

Resolution taken: The Director placed the Action Taken Report on the Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Society of MAKAIAS held on 24.08.2021. The kind

suggestions given by the Honorable Members of Society are highlighted below and have been duly noted for necessary action.

a) The name of the Society members included into the Internal Committees of MAKAIAS were approved with a suggestion that those names which have been stated in the 24th Annual General Meeting will remain intact but the Director has been advised to consult Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Vice President of the Society as before and include all members of the Society in different committees. Thus it was suggested that the number of members in each Internal Committee which is 04 at present should be made 05. The names of the members of the Internal Committees approved in the Society meeting are:-

- i) Seminar / Workshop committee
- ii) Academic Committee
- iii) Purchase/ Tender Committee
- iv) Recruitment Committee
- v) Administrative Committee
- vi) Research Advisory Committee
- vii) Foreign Travel Grant Committee
- viii) Publication Committee
- ix) Evaluation Committee
- x) Library Documentation Committee
- xi) Committee for Quality Control of India (QCI)
- xii) Museum Committee
- xiii) Maintenance and Technical Committee
- xiv) Ethics Committee
- xv) Internal Complaints Committee

b) Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, the Vice President of the Society advised the Director with the consent of all members present to call next meeting of the Society at the earliest.

Agenda item 24.3 –

- i) To adopt the printed bilingual Annual Report and Audited Annual Accounts of the Institute with Separate Audit Report for the Financial Year 2020-21 for laying them on the Table of both the houses of the Parliament.

To approve the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of MAKAIAS for the Financial Year 2021-22 for the submission to the C&AG for conducting Separate Audit of Accounts for the Financial Year 2021-22.

Resolution taken:

- i) The Society approved the Annual Report and Audited Annual Accounts for the Financial Year 2020-21 which has been already audited by C& AG to be placed on the Table of both the houses of the Parliament.
- ii) The Society approved the Audited Report and Annual Accounts of MAKAIAS for the Financial Year 2021-22 which has been already audited by C&AG and directed to do the needful for placing it on the Table of both houses of the Parliament.
- iii) The Society suggested that the Director should do the necessary changes in the R&R, MoA and Draft bye-Laws after taking legal advice to change the rules of the composition of the Finance Committee of the Institute where provisions must be there so that members of the Society should be included in the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee consisting of 05 members should be nominated directly by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and not by the Executive Council as it is done at present. For this, necessary changes should be made and Quality Council of India (QIC) should be informed accordingly. The Society members felt these changes are needed to develop a better monitoring of the financial activities of MAKAIAS, Kolkata by the Society, Finance Committee and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- iv) The Society Members permitted that the Director should take necessary action for Internal Audit of the Accounts of MAKAIAS for Financial Year 2022-23 and have permitted the C&AG for conducting the Audit for Financial Year 2022-23 at an appropriate time.

Agenda item 24.4 – To adopt the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of MAKAIAS with Ministry of Culture, Government of India for the Financial Year, 2022-23.

Resolution Taken:

The Members directed that the Internal Audit of MAKAIAS for the Financial Year 2022-23 should be completed within 30th June, 2023 so that the auditing of MAKAIAS accounts remains updated.

The Members pointed out that the MOU should be followed in both letter and spirit and if any alteration is made in MoU in future even within GIA General, GIA Salary and GIA Assets the Finance Committee and the Society should be pre-informed and their prior approval will be needed. Taking advantage of this gap in R&R, MoA and Draft Bye-Laws the outgoing Executive Council headed by Dr. Sujit Ghosh and his Vice-Chairman Prof. Kailash Chandra Boral have superimposed their opinion in MAKAIAS till mid of September' 2022. For this reason necessary amendments have to be made in the R&R, MoA and Draft Bye-Laws in this regard because the Society Members found that the outgoing Executive Council headed by Dr. Sujit Ghosh has often taken advantage of these gaps in the R&R, MoA and Draft. Furthermore the Draft Bye-Laws were never presented before the Society earlier. The previous Seminar and Workshop Committee chaired by Prof. Kailash Chandra Boral has approved thirty four lakhs and eighty thousand rupees only for different Seminars and Workshops in the Financial Year 2022-23 when the approved amount in MOU is seven lakhs rupees only for the Financial Year 2022-23. The Society Members also found that the recruitments of Azad Fellow, MAKAIAS Fellows, Research Assistants and Interns have been approved by the outgoing Executive Council headed by Dr. Sujit Ghosh without exploring any ways and means to make arrangements of their Fellowship in the MoU for the Financial Year 2022-2023 before such appointments are executed. Therefore the Society members felt that the Draft Bye-Laws need adequate modifications under QCI process. This existing Draft Bye-Laws which have never been placed before the Society between 28.07.2015 when it was adopted till 08.12.2022 when it was placed but such Draft Bye Laws have not been accepted by the Society. The registration fees of the Society are unpaid since 10.05.2011. Therefore it is paid till Financial Year 2010-2011 so the registration fees of the Society remains unpaid since 01.04.2011. Under these circumstances the Vice-President Mr. Arindam Mukherjee and Director Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh have to sign all documents which were related to registration for the period when the registration fees remained unpaid. A question regarding this Draft Bye-laws for not being placed in the Society meeting has been also asked by the Central Information Commission Order dated 15.11.2022 that whether the Draft Bye-Laws were ever been placed in the Society meeting earlier to 08.12.2022 The answer is self-explanatory. The said Bye Laws have given such powers to the Executive Council which have been often one-sidedly interpreted by the erstwhile Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh and his Vice Chairman Prof. Kailash Chandra Boral to show indifference to the suggestions given by the Society. The Society members were never called for as Resource Persons in Academic Seminars and Workshops by the former Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh who repeatedly called

Prof. Kilash Chandra Boral and Prof. Smriti Kumar Sarkar as Resource Persons times together in different Academic Seminars and Workshops. There was written communication by Honourable Governor of West Bengal to involve the Society members in all activities of MAKAIAS which was ignored. The 87th Executive Council in its meeting dated 19.01.2020 empowered the Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh to monitor regular academic activities and research of the Institute which is unique and have never been done earlier. The language stated in the minutes of the 87th Executive Council is "The Executive Council resolved that Research and Academic Cell to be formed and it should be advised and monitored by the Chairman." This proposal was not in the Agenda of the said Executive Council Meeting but was placed by Prof. Kailash Chandra Boral the Vice Chairman as an item with the permission of the then Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh. The Director in a letter expressed that this effort was to disempower the Director. The Society members also felt from their own experiences by observing the process of working of the then Executive Council headed by Dr. Sujit Ghosh where the Vice Chairman was Professor Kailash Chandra Boral that there have been efforts to keep the Society completely isolated from the academic activities of the Institution. Therefore the R&R, MoA and Draft Bye-Laws have to be amended to create opportunities for a more participatory administration where Ministry of Culture, Society Members and Finance Committee should have equal role to play and they should be pre-informed about any major policy decisions taken by the new Executive Council in future after the structure of the Executive Council is reformed to keep pace with time. The loopholes in the R&R, MoA and Bye-Laws are to be rectified with legal advice. In the process of financial approval of the fellowship the Finance Committee should be taken to confidence at first before beginning the process of recruitment of Research Fellows, Research Assistants and Interns in future. The approval of funds for Seminar and Workshop for Financial Year 2022-23 just till September, 2022 i.e. for just six months was thirty four lakhs and eighty thousand rupees only. In September'2022 Dr. Sujit Ghosh's term ended as Chairman. If the amount of fund released for Seminar and Workshop for Financial Year 2022-23 is compared with the amount given for Seminar and Workshop for Financial Year 2021-22 then it can be concluded that in just in six months of this Financial Year i.e. 2022-23 more fund is distributed by Seminar and Workshop Committee if the amount of 2021-22 is taken in consideration when the MoU of the Financial Year 2022-23 permitted an amount of seven lakh rupees only. The Seminar and Workshop Committee is headed by Prof. Kailash Chandra Boral during the tenure of the then Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh. The Director is bound to do the needful when it is passed by the Seminar and Workshop Committee. Most of the Internal Committees were headed by Prof.

Kailash Chandra Boral like Research and Advisory, Committee for Seminar/ Workshop, Administrative Committee etc. Society members were not included in any of these Committees either by the outgoing Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh or by Prof. Kailash Chandra Boral.

Reporting Items:

1. To place the vetted draft Bye-Laws of MAKAIAS approved by the then Honorable Culture Minister, Government of India, vide Ministry of Culture letter F.NO.12-5/2013/ C&M-A&A dated 28 July, 2015.

Resolution taken:

1. The Society Members told that the said Draft Bye-Laws were signed on 28.07.2015. But from then till 08.12.2022, the said Draft Bye-Laws were never been placed before the Society. The appropriate process would have been that the same should have been sent to the Ministry after being approved by the Society but this process has not been followed. Therefore the Director has been advised to take legal advice and to register with QCI so that the gaps in the R&R, MoA and the Draft Bye-Laws are duly addressed and the loopholes should be rectified. The Society members noticed the sequence of the dates very meticulously. The 21st Annual General Meeting of MAKAIAS Society took place on June '27th 2015 at Rajbhavan where the Draft Bye-Laws were neither placed nor discussed. It was taken straight to the Ministry without being placed in the Society. The Rajbhavan answers the letter to the then Director dated 16.09.2015 where not a line was written regarding the Draft Bye-Laws which have been signed by the Under Secretary, Government of India is dated 28.07.2015. The erstwhile Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh came to MAKAIAS on 14.09.2017 and no meeting of the Society took place in the year of 2018 although the Society came in existence on 16th March 2018. This Draft Bye- Laws were placed in the 24th Annual General Meeting held on 08.12.2022 only after Dr. Sujit Ghosh retired in the mid of September 2022. In the 22nd Annual General Meeting the Vice President and Society Members expressed their displeasure that there was no Society Meeting in the year of 2018 and have expressed that Society members were not involved in the academic activities of the Institute. The Director reported in the 23rd Annual General Meeting held on 24.08.2021 that the office of the Institute has to be changed from Rajbhavan to Azad Bhavan because the Honorable Governor so desired. At this time the question of registration fees of Society came up.

2. To report status on the ongoing court case number WPA 9996 of 2019 (Writ Petition filed by Sri Dipak Kumar Dutta in the Honourable High Court at Calcutta).

Resolutions taken - The Director placed the status report and it was noted.

3. To report status of the ongoing court case number WPA 6266 of 2022 (Writ Petition filed by Sri Sandip Sarkar in the Honourable High Court at Calcutta).

Resolutions taken - The Director placed the status report and it was noted.

4. To report on status on the issue of merger of MAKAIAS with Viswa Bharati University, Shantiniketan.

5. **Resolutions taken** - The Society members have expressed their observations. After going through the observations of the Society Members in this regard it was decided that a next meeting on this issue will be called by the Director at the earliest. The Vice-President directed the Director to take necessary steps in this regard to call a meeting of the Society at an early date.

6. To report on Seminars-Webinars/Workshops and other Academic Activities of MAKAIAS held from 01st August, 2021 till 30th November, 2022.

Resolutions taken - The Director placed the status report and it was noted.

The Society Members advised that even through in the 23rd Annual General Meeting held on 24.08.2021 where it was clearly stated that the academic activities which would be taking place in MAKAIAS should be consulted with the Society but it was never done. The Director according to R&R, MoA is the Director of the Society therefore he is advised accordingly to do the needful with legal assistance so that changes in R&R, MoA and Draft Bye-laws are made to reflect this spirit in the process of implementation of rules and regulations in the Institution. In the process of deciding on academic activities the opinion and suggestions of the Society should be invited and taken. This is needed for the best interest of the Institution but the erstwhile Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh who was taking all decision on academic activities and research as per the resolutions taken in the 87th Executive Council Meeting held on 19.01.2020 has never involved the Society in any activities of the Institution. In the 22nd Society Meeting on 23.12.2020 where Prof. Kailash Chandra Boral was present as an invitee there the Society members expressed their deep concern in presence of the Honourable Governor regarding the way academic

decisions are unilaterally taken by the erstwhile Chairman Dr. Sujit Ghosh since the year 2017.

7. To report the registration of MAKAIAS with the Quality Control of India (QCI) for necessary amendments/revision in the Memorandum of Association and Rules & Regulations, Draft Bye-Laws of MAKAIAS to address the loopholes.

Resolutions taken – The Society approved the decision of MAKAIAS to register itself with Quality Control of India (QCI). The answer given by MAKAIAS in the format served by Quality Control of India (QCI) has also been approved by the Society in its meeting. It was pointed out in the answer to study questionnaires that how a Chairman at this present structure with a support of a small coterie can monopolize the powers of the Institute and ignore all other bodies taking advantage of the gaps in the present R&R, MoA and Draft Bye-Laws. Therefore the Director is advised to do the needful with legal advice and with the QCI team to amend the R&R, MoA and Draft Bye-Laws to make it more participatory. Till then, the Society and the Internal Committees formed with the members of the Society which has been approved in the meeting of the Society dated 08.12.2022 should be consulted by the Director at the time of discharging his duties. The Vice President of the Society, as he has been authorized by the Society members, should be kept regularly informed about the functioning of the Institution. As the Ministry of Culture, Government of India has already circulated a letter no F.No 32-11/2015-A&A dated 14.07.2022 for reconstitution of Executive Council therefore, any meeting of the Executive Committee should be called after the R&R, MoA and Draft Bye-laws are duly amended to check the loopholes at present. The Fellows have shown their interest for a Degree in front of the QCI Team after their Research on this point the Society advised the Director to do the needful changes in the R&R, MoA and Draft Bye Laws so that the issue can be addressed. The concerns of the Staff members and Outsource have also come up for discussion and it was noted that their concern will be taken care at the time of amendments done in the R&R, MoA and Bye- Laws. The Director placed the new Recruitment Rules for the Institute which he is advised to submit also to QCI and has been advised that Consultants if taken their Recruitment process has to be placed in the Society meeting at first and recruitment rules have to be formulated in this regard too. The Director has been advised to complete the amendment process on or before 31 March, 2023 i.e. within this Financial Year 2022-23. The Director has

informed that he is in consultation with reputed lawyers regarding the issue and he is taking legal advises.

8. To report nomination of Professor Purabi Roy to the Society of MAKAIAS as per clause 3a (viii-xxii) of the Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations of MAKAIAS.

Resolutions taken –

The Society Members wholeheartedly greeted Professor Purabi Roy. The Director presented a short profile of Prof. Purabi Roy which was highly appreciated in the meeting.

Any other item with the permission of the Chair:

1. The Director presented the certificate of Societies West Bengal Act XXVI of 1961 where it is stated that legacy registration number is S/72328 and it is written that Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asiah Studies is registered under West Bengal Societies' Registration Act 1961 on 04.01.1993. Now, the Institute has kept the registration fees of MAKAIAS pending for nearly more than 10 years which has now been processed and the modalities from the Institute end have been completed on 18.08.2022. MAKAIAS will pay the dues as soon as it is informed about the figure from the Registrar's Office. The Vice President advised to do the needful in order to pay the pending fees within 31.12.2022.
2. The Director proposed the names for different Seminar Halls, Conference Rooms, Reading Rooms in this year of Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav.hnnn
 - i. The Society accepted the proposal that the big Seminar Hall at Second Floor be named as Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Auditorium.
 - ii. Round Table Conference Hall at Second Floor be named as Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak Conference Room.
 - iii. Classroom Hall at Ground Floor to be named as Chinnaswami Subhramanium Bharati Auditorium.
 - iv. Azad Museum Conference Hall at First Floor to be named as Lala Lajpat Rai Auditorium.
 - v. The Library of the Institute to be named as Sister Nivedita Library.
 - vi. Reading room of the Institute to be named as Atisa Dipankara Srijnana Reading Room.

The Director requested the Society members for a name to be given to the Guest House of MAKAIAS and it was advised that the Director should consult the Vice President and place the name in the next meeting of the Society.

The meeting ended with a thanks to the Chair. After that Mr. Arindam Mukherjee who presided over the meeting with the approval of the Honourable Governor of West Bengal concluded the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Society, MAKAIAS and assured the Members of the Society that the next meeting of the Society will be called very soon.

Arindam Mukherjee 15/12/2022

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Shri Arindam Mukherjee
The Hon'ble Vice President of Society,
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies
Kolkata

Sarup Prasad Ghosh
.....
15/12/2022

Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh
Director,
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Institute of Asian Studies
Kolkata