

***Indian Women's Association (IWA) Singapore***  
***26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 2023***  
***Minutes of the Meeting***

**Date:** 15th February 2023 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

**Location:** Singapore Swimming Club, Fort, Level 2, 45 Tanjong Rhu Road, Singapore 436899

***Agenda***

- Registrations at 10 AM
- Call to Order at 10:15 AM
- President's Welcome & Report
- Treasurer's Report
  - Audited Financial Statement
  - Appointment of Auditors for the next fiscal year.
- Secretary's Report
  - IWA Club Reports for the year
  - Nominations/Elections
- Incoming President's address
- Introduction of Team 2023-2025
- Group Photos
- Vote of thanks
- Any other business as may be properly brought before the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned.
- Networking Lunch

***Attendees***

***IWA Committee Members present:***

Madhu Suri , Jagariti Mathur, Preety Agarwal, Vidya Dasgupta, Saraswathi Balakrishnan, Sarita Prasad, Sharada Sahoo, Shobha Singla, Vidhya Nair, Padmaja Balaji

## ***Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Opening of the Meeting***

Jagariti Mathur introduced herself as Secretary of IWA 2021-2023 and welcomed the Executive Committee, Team, and members and guests to the 26th Annual General Meeting of IWA.

The Secretary called the AGM 2023 to order at 10:15am as the quorum was present in accordance with IWA 's constitution.

### ***President's Welcome and Report***

- President Madhu Suri welcomed all members and invited guests to IWA's 26th AGM and thanked them for their support.
- Ms. Madhu informed the members that she served as the Vice President of IWA from 14th Feb. 2021 to 2nd October 2022 and took over the role of President from Ms. Selme' Singh on 3rd October 2022 after Ms Selme's move to Scotland.
- She presented her report on IWA's ethos of Care, Connect and Celebrate.
- Ms. Madhu presented an overview of IWA's contributions in past two years towards IWA Vidya Scholarship, SUTD Gyan Jyoti Award, BSS, HOME, Swami Home and TWC2. She informed that despite the challenges of the pandemic, IWA fulfilled all their financial commitments to their I-Care partners and beneficiaries.
- Ms. Madhu updated the members about the promising partnership of IWA with the High Commission of India in Singapore. IWA partnered with High Commission of India on different projects. One of the projects that IWA worked on was a Friendly Guidebook for new/old immigrants in Singapore to familiarize themselves with the Singapore way of life.
- She informed that IWA has been a valued guest of the High Commission of India and regularly invited to receptions held for dignitaries and delegations. IWA was invited to address the Indian Diaspora and is always a part of the Republic day and Independence day celebrations.
- Ms. Madhu Suri further updated that Ms. Selme Singh and herself met with Directors of National Heritage Board and SFCCA and explored opportunities to collaborate. As part of this collaboration IWA has committed to writing articles for Oneness Magazine.
- Members were updated about the participation of 17 IWA members in National Day Sing- along , where 4 songs in 4 different languages were sung. This event was organized by Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations (SFCCA) and Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre (SCCC) and was widely covered by social media.
- IWA also collaborated with its valued partner SINDA and did various projects like volunteering for Deepavali and other outreach projects. IWA regularly attends the SINDA-IBR dialogues.

- Ms. Madhu informed that IWA took part in a dialogue session on “Racial Harmony: Realities and Aspirations” organized by SINDA. The speakers were Minister Indranee Rajah and Senior Minister of State Dr Janil Puthucheary.
- IWA was invited for a dialogue session with the Second Minister of Finance and National Development, Ms. Indranee Rajah along with Sr. Parliamentary secretary for Health and Law, Mdm Rahayu Mahzam on Budget 2023. This was organized by SCWO.
- IWA closely worked with PA (Peoples Association of Singapore) on its community integration projects and worked on projects like COP, Chingay, launching of HOT project.
- IWA representatives attended a curated tour of Army open house to celebrate 55 years of National Service.
- Ms. Madhu also informed about the lead that IWA took in hosting a webinar on Sharing Stories and Shifting Perspectives, a group project with NIC (National Integration Council), MCCY and Alliance for Action (AFA). The webinar included a panel discussion on Diversity and Inclusion in Social Integration in partnership with NIC and SNEF. The webinar invite had gone out to 1500 CEOs and their C-suites.
- IWA was invited by the Prime Minister’s office to participate in a closed-door dialogue session with Minister K Shanmugam, MOS (Minister of Social and family development of Singapore) Ms. Sun Xueling and MP Carrie Tan.
- It was updated that IWA has worked on various touchpoints with MCCY including, discussions on interracial harmony and workshops designed to equip leaders of organizations with the skills to facilitate complex conversations with the members of our community.
- IWA was invited to participate in a dialogue held by IPS’s (Institute of Policy studies) Women’s Conference on Gender Equality in Singapore - An Action Plan for Progress, where Guest of Honour was President Ms. Halima Yacob.
- Ms. Madhu further informed that IWA was also invited to a webinar where diplomats advised against accepting the glass ceiling and about having faith in ourselves.
- IWA attended the STS Konnects Fireside chat by Singapore Telugu Samajam where Mr. Piyush Gupta spoke about emerging markets and on ways to stay connected.
- Zee TV Asia Pacific did a segment with IWA where 25 of IWA members participated in a program titled Azadi ka Maha Utsav and it was aired on Zee TV prime time.
- It was further updated that IWA received a plaque at the Community Isolation Facility @ NSRCC Kranji for the contributions of IWA during COVID from OCT 2021- Dec 2021.
- Bihar Association President Ms. Abhilasha Mani invited IWA to Deep Utsav 2022, a Deepavali celebration, where a cultural program was put up to showcase the cultures of Bihar and Jharkhand states of India. IWA also attended Odia Society of Singapore’s cultural program as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The program was inaugurated by Mr. P. Kumaran, Indian High Commissioner in Singapore
- IWA was also invited by Vistara Airlines to the launch of the Singapore to Pune flight. High Commissioner of India in Singapore, Mr. P. Kumaran officially inaugurated the flight.
- IWA was invited for the CNY Lo Hei ceremony by Hua Yuan Association for the launch of the 4th Singapore New Immigrant Award. IWA is in the process of nominating two members for the award. IWA was also invited by SCWO to the Presidents' Forum and Lo Hei on the 4th of Feb. Many of the representatives including IWA participated in the sharing session about the work they do and their

plans for 2023.

- Ms Madhu also updated about the Holi outreach program for its members, where colors were handmade by the team, packed and delivered to the homes of our members with warm wishes to celebrate the festival of colors.
- IWA participated in International Women's Day challenge, where the theme for 2021 was #**“Choose to challenge: Empowering women as leaders for gender equality in the new normal”**, and in 2022 was # **“Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”**. In support and to spread the campaign's message, IWA members came together and voiced their opinion on the challenge. IWA also made a creative feature showcasing all our Clubs.
- Ms Madhu proudly informed that to commemorate IWA's 25th Anniversary, a limited edition saree was designed by the IWA in-house artist. It was woven and hand-painted by the weavers and artisans in India. The IWA Saree was officially launched by Ms. Indranee Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and National Development. The saree was also presented to Mrs. Ritu Kumaran, the wife of The High Commissioner of India in Singapore.
- IWA represented Indian contingent at the Chingay Parade held at Jewel in 2022. The event is annually organized by the People's Association.
- Ms Madhu Suri also updated that team IWA brought out the gift of Diwali vouchers to add sparkle to the festive spirit. The Membership, Media and the Bazaar teams got us some fabulous discount coupons, and these were mailed to all members on Diwali 2021.
- Ms Madhu thanked Bazaar Chairs for successfully organizing Bazaar 2022, which was one of the most profitable bazaars in the history of IWA.
- IWA celebrated International Yoga Day with the Save Soil Foundation.
- IWA's Annual Gala took place after a gap of 3 years and it was a roaring success. Members and their families enjoyed the show that showcased our in-house talents who entertained our members with their songs and dances.

Ms Madhu Suri thanked members and Team IWA for their dedication and hard work.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

The link to the Auditors Report has been sent along with the Notice of Meeting of the AGM. Treasurer Ms. Preety Agarwal was invited to present the Treasury Report.

- Treasurer informed the members that IWA earned a total income of S\$96,661 and had a total spend of S\$ 78,661 This has resulted in a net surplus of S\$ 18,000.
- Treasurer further informed that after a gap of three years, IWA had a very successful Festive Bazaar which earned a revenue of S\$ 62,450 and a net profit of S\$ 29,963 which was the highest profit till date in IWA. Further, the membership fee contributed S\$ 24,960 and contribution from privilege partners was S\$1,450. Other Revenue of S\$7,801 comprised GALA tickets plus interest on deposit of around S\$1,700.
- Treasurer spoke about expense and informed the members that IWA has kept its yearly commitment to donations to the partner organizations like Beyond Social Services, H.O.M.E, SMU, SUTD and TWC2- amounting to S\$ 24,000. The Festive bazaar's spend was S\$ 32,487, and there was no change in Auditing and Accounting charges from last year - S\$3,202. Event expenses covered Gala event expenses and other club event expenses totalling to S\$ 5,332. IT expenses oSf

\$ 3,592 consists of Domain charges, website maintenance etc and other expenses of S\$ 10,049 included SCWO membership fees, printing, bank charges, admin expenses, rental expenses, AGM exp etc.

- She requested the members to get the membership number increase for FY 2023 by a cumulative effort by all the members.

Ms Preety Agarwal thanked the Team for their support.

### **Appointment of Auditors for next fiscal year:**

It was proposed that Sashikala Devi and Associates be appointed as the auditors for 2023 as well. This was proposed by Ms Preety Agarwal and seconded by Ms. Madhu Suri and carried forward unanimously.

### ***Secretary's/IWA Report***

Ms Jagariti Mathur presented the Secretary's report for the year 2023.

The report gave a brief overview of the work, roles, and contributions of all the Team members. The report highlighting the activities and events of the following was presented:

- IWA Bazaar
- Editors
- Membership
- Media Sales
- Newsletter
- Social Media
- LinkedIn
- Website
- 14 interest clubs

Ms. Jagariti Mathur took this opportunity to thank all Team members on behalf of the Executive Committee for their dedication and hard work.

### ***Nominations and Election***

Ms. Jagariti Mathur then proceeded to the Nomination and Election process.

She updated that as a part of the IWA committee election process, nomination forms were sent out on 14th December 2022. The results were compiled by the Secretary.

There were 16 nominations received in total out of which 13 were accepted. There was 1 withdrawal, and 2 entries were declared invalid due to the rules of the process. As on the date of the AGM, there were 13 positions out of which 10 are citizens of Singapore in compliance with regulations of ROS.

All positions were unopposed and uncontested.

She then proceeded with the election process by requesting a proposer and a seconder for each Committee position to be followed by show of hands.

The nominations for the Executive Committee are as follows:

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Gauri Savadi** was nominated for **President, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Ms. Chandan Lehal and Seconded by Ms. Saraswathi Balakrishnan
  - As per Nominations received, **Ms. Preety Agarwal** was nominated for **Vice President1, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Ms. Sudeepta Dasgupta and Seconded by Ms. Sukanya Pushkarna
  - As per Nominations received, **Ms. Nimisha Kesarwani** was nominated for **Vice President2, 2023-2025**  
Proposed by Ms. Nirupa Vasudev and Seconded by Ms. Raji Viswanathan
  - As per Nominations received, **Ms. Girija Viswanathan** was nominated for **Secretary, 2023- 2025**  
Proposed by Ms. Savitha Guntury and Seconded by Ms. Madhu Suri
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Bhavani Banerjee** was nominated for **Treasurer, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Ms. Shobha Singla and Seconded by Saraswathi Balakrishnan

The Committee members in alphabetical order.

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Padmaja Balaji** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Ms. Sharada Sahoo and Seconded by Ms. Priya Aditya
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Rakhi Shankar** was nominated for.  
**Committee Member, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Priya Aditya and Seconded by Viji Ramki
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Saraswathi Balakrishnan** was nominated for.  
**Committee Member, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Ms. Vimmi Vaid and Seconded by Ms. Anindita Ghosh
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Seema Gupta** was nominated for.  
**Committee Member, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Ms. Padmaja Balaji and Seconded by Ms. Praveena B. Jain
- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Sarita Prasad** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2023-2025**.  
Proposed by Ms. Sharada Sahoo and Seconded by Ms. Rakhi Shankar

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Shraddha Singh** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2023-2025**.

Proposed by Ms. Praveena B. Jain and Seconded by Ms. Savitha Guntury

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Shobha Singla** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2023-2025**

Proposed by Ms. Neeta Bhatt and Seconded by Ms. Mansi Shroff

- As per Nominations received, **Ms. Vidya Dasgupta** was nominated for **Committee Member, 2023-2025**

Proposed by Ms. Abhinika Mitra and Seconded by Ms. Shobha Singla

Ms. Jagariti thanked all the members for formally completing the elections process. She congratulated the new Committee for 2023-2025 and invited Ms. Madhu Suri on stage where she welcomed new President for 2023-2025, Ms. Gauri Savadi.

#### *President 2023-2025 Gauri Savadi's Acceptance Speech*

- Ms. Gauri Savadi greeted the members, partners, and past Presidents of IWA.
- She introduced herself as a woman currently serving the country as a volunteer police officer, a mountaineer, an educator, an athlete, a volunteer, a mother, a wife and a daughter.
- Gauri, in her speech, expressed that she believes in the philosophy of “No Woman left behind” and emphasized that through our club leaders we must push for spaces that amplify the voices of us women.
- Gauri asserted the notion of “Everyone Matters” and “No woman left behind”.
- She emphasized on taking new challenges head-on as women leaders and welcomed everybody to the new term 2023-2025.

She thanked everybody for their presence and encouraged them to continue to prioritize diversity amongst them as it enables organizations to be more adaptive, and our society to be more progressive.

Ms. Gauri, then announced the names of the Team 2023-2025 as follows:

## **IWA Committee & Team 2023-2025**

- **President** – Ms. Gauri Savadi
- **Vice-President 1** –Ms. Preety Agarwal
- **Vice-President 2** –Ms. Nimisha Kesarwani
- **Secretary** –Ms. Girija Viswanathan
- **Treasurer** – Ms. Bhavani Banerjee
- **Assistant Treasurer** – Ms. Roochi Sood
- **Assistant Secretary** – Ms. Savitha Guntury
- **Immediate Past President** – Ms. Madhu Suri
- **Bazaar Chair** – Ms. Praveena B. Jain
- **Membership Chair** – Ms. Chandan Lehal
- **Membership Chair** - Ms. Sudeepta Dasgupta
- **Media sales** – Ms. Seema Gupta
- **Newsletter Chair** – Ms. Sudeepta Dasgupta
- **Website Chair** – Ms. Rakhi Shankar
- **Social Media Chair** – Ms. Ayana Chatterjee
- **BSS Chair** – Ms. Sarita Prasad
- **H.O.M.E Chair** – Ms. Padmaja Balaji
- **TWC2 Chair** – Ms. Shradha Singh
- **SWAMI Home Chair** – Ms. Nirupa Vasudev
- **Acts of Kindness Club Chair** – Ms. Jagariti Mathur
- **Adda Club Chair** – Ms. Saraswathi Balakrishnan
- **Book Club Chair** – Ms. Vidya Dasgupta
- **Creative Hands Club Chair** – Ms. Jolly Vatsa
- **Family Club Chair** – Ms. Abhinika Mittra
- **Games Club Chair** – Ms. Shobha Singla and Ms. Priyanka Chandhok
- **Gourmet Goddess Club Chair** – Ms. Anita Goenka
- **Movie Club Chair** – Ms. Rajashri Viswanathan
- **Music Club Chair** – Ms. Monika Bhagwat
- **Privileges and Entrepreneurs Chair** – Ms. Chhaya Banga
- **Textile Club** – Ms. Kumuda Krovvidi and Ms. Mansi Shroff
- **Travel Club Chair** – Ms. Sukanya Pushkarna
- **Writing Enthusiasts' Club Chair** – Ms. Alka Balain

Ms. Gauri Savadi thanked the outgoing Team, especially the Executive Committee 2021-2023.



### ***Vote of Thanks***

Ms. Jagariti Mathur thanked the partners, guests and the members for their support and cooperation.

### ***Meeting Adjourned***

The Secretary, Jagariti Mathur declared the AGM 2023 adjourned at 12:01 PM.

*(Minutes written by Secretary Jagariti Mathur and approved by President Madhu Suri)*