

## Local Organising Committee

Dated: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Dr. Abhijit Ghosh**  
Chairman, LOC

Respected Seniors and Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings from the LOC of AIOC 2024.

**Dr. Ratish Chandra Paul**  
Working Chairman

A mere thank you falls short in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to each member of OSWB who supported us in organizing the mega event - 82<sup>nd</sup> All India Ophthalmological Conference of AIOS at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Newtown, Kolkata from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. Today all 6500 plus delegates who attended and all our AIOS office bearers have voiced, both in spoken and written words, that this has been the best conference in recent memory. The trade delegates from nearly 200 companies have unanimously described the facilities as the best they have had. The international Faculty numbering more than 100 have also enjoyed the conference very much. It is indeed very gratifying to get this sort of positive feedback after months of hard work.

**Dr. Subhasish Nag**  
Organising Secretary

To us the enjoyment of having organized this Conference successfully, increases manifold when we learn that our own members of OSWB have found this journey to AIOC 2024 very satisfying. That is the reward for our passion, when many of you came forward to share the experiences that you have had with your friends and colleagues who attended from other parts of India. Right from the early planning stage to the final execution, we have tried to involve as many as possible and you have also responded kindly. The extended LOC consisted of more than 200 of our members and most of you at some stage or other have corresponded and participated in the preparations of this conference. We also thank profusely the leadership of EIZOC and all the Eastern states for their whole-hearted support and cooperation for coming together in making LOC of the East and for successfully organizing this 'Conference by the East'.

**Dr. Debashis Das**  
Treasurer

**Dr. Aniruddha Maiti**  
Additional Organising Secretary

Do consider the vastness of the conference – 20 scientific halls plus 1,50,000 sq feet of space occupied by trade and other activities; along with the hugely popular lavish Food Court of about 50,000 sq feet; a dedicated Multi-level-car-parking facility at our disposal for as many as 1500 vehicles and of course the Gala dinner venue - comprising of a vast AC Hangar for performance and the indoor Banquet with its adjoining open lawns- it was like a real destination evening. Add to this, the more than 500 sessions with 21 international Societies collaborating; 200 plus posters and videos; 7 sub-specialty days introduced first time and the very successful Glaucoma Walk & Cyclothron Rally consisting of over 500 participants, that we had on 15<sup>th</sup> March'24 morning to celebrate the International Glaucoma Week. Even the West Bengal Medical Council sanctioned 24 CME Credit Hours to AIOC 2024, which is unprecedented in history of AIOS. There were also the inaugural AIOC Utsav cultural program; the popular River Cruise on Ganges; an awesome Heritage Walk through the streets of Kolkata; and then the usual meetings of AIOS. We also engaged with all the delegates through email, SMS and an app created for the purpose for providing support to make their visit hassle-free. We had a QR code and website-based Grievance Redressal system for the attendees. We maintained a 24X7 Toll-free phone number 1800-202-2024 for answering any queries from the delegates for more than 1 month before the conference. For receiving the delegate, we maintained a round-the-clock Welcome-kiosk inside the Kolkata Airport beside Belt No. 5 and all the belts carried the Welcome Message from AIOC 2024 on LED screens playing in loop all through the week. There was also a Beyond Ophthal Studio, Music Lounge and many more activities for the delegates. We had a Prayer Room facility with Iftaar arrangements for those of our delegates who were on Ramadan fasting. There was round the clock tea-coffee arrangements in the venue with a shop facility for buying refreshments if anybody wanted. We ordered packet lunch box for those delegates who preferred having the same. Towards realizing our endeavour to reduce the carbon footprint of such a large meeting, we had decided to implement a few eco-friendly measures. We provided sustainable and recyclable jute fibre kit bags; we gave each delegate a reusable branded stainless steel water bottle to be refilled from water cooler stations throughout the venue in order to minimize the use of plastic water bottles; we had recyclable earthen cups used to serve tea from the counters; we encouraged use of LED and minimized diesel generator set usage; we also had e-Brochure and e-Souvenir. There was indeed a lot going on.

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## CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

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For the camaraderie and strengthening of EIZOC bonds, we had the 'Welcome Tableau' at the main entry of the Conference where dance and music from the EIZOC states were performed on the first 3 days of the conference. The EIZOC Lounge with its facilities was a hit among the delegates. The LOC of the East badge was like a unifying ID for all of us. There was the EIZOC session allotted by AIOS for scientific deliberations. The Inaugural Dinner on 14.03.24 evening was called 'Eastern Delights' and the sumptuous menu was specially created from the delicacies of east India. The Souvenir carried articles from the EIZOC states written by their stalwarts. We had an opportunity to recognize and felicitate the efforts of EIZOC during the Valedictory Ceremony on 17.03.24, where we also presented mementoes to each and every LOC member who was present in the Hall.

All these would not have been possible without the tremendous help, assistance, cooperation, guidance and participation from many-many members of the LOC. Seniors and juniors alike have come forward to lend support to us. The office staff needs to be specially mentioned because they worked with us equally if not more without ever looking at the watch. We applaud and acknowledge each one of you who dedicated your precious time, efforts and resources to make this AIOC 2024 the best. You have raised the bar for others to emulate. Many institutions of our colleagues supported us by helping with their resources, all vendors and authorities cooperated in giving us a great conference. A special thank you to three of our colleagues from Malda who were gracious in donating the delicious Mango-chutney bottle as a gift for every delegate, that was included in the kit. I will not belittle the efforts of some of our colleagues who were present there day and night, by just thanking them. Let me take a bow to all of you who stood by us through thick and thin. Your passion made the conference. The core LOC of 5 members needs a special mention because of the staunchest faith we had in each of us. Never did we speak in a different tone in front of others even though we brainstormed and differed amongst ourselves, all with one focus in mind – Delegate First. And the AIOS executives too have been very supportive with timely counsel and encouragement for the betterment of the conference.

In organizing AIOC 2024 Kolkata, I have had to be associated for a good part of more than 4 years, as you all know that we were to organize AIOC 2021 in Kolkata but it did not happen then due to COVID. And understandably, during all these months there were many highs and lows both at the organizational and personal levels. All through this, OSWB and its Executive Committee never lost faith in us. I kept myself motivated with the inspiration from my fellow colleagues and support from my family members. I will fail myself if I do not mention at least one person – your colleague, our leader and my friend – who supported me like a rock and carried the burden whenever I faltered. You deserve much more than a gratitude-filled thank you Dr Ratish Chandra Paul.

Dear members of OSWB, it is deserving to rejoice in this moment of glory for OSWB. Remember it is also on all of us to keep the flag of OSWB always flying high. Let us stay together and keep striving to make OSWB the best.

With warm regards,



Dr Subhasish Nag  
Organizing Secretary, AIOC 2024.