

By Speed Post / Email

No. F-348/AIOS

To

Dr. Ashis Kr. Bhattacharya

Hony. Secretary

Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal

IMA House, Room No. 8, 53, Creek Row,

Kolkata-700014

Dear Dr. Bhattacharya,

On acceptance of the offer of the Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal the **68th Annual Conference of the All India Ophthalmological Society** was allotted to them for organizing the same in Kolkata in the year 2010. The Guidelines of the Conference were duly accepted by the Society vide their letter dated 4-04-07.

2. The OSWB was also informed by the AIOS vide letter dated 29-08-07 that the **15th Afro- Asian Congress** will also be held in Kolkata in conjunction with 68th AIOC. The Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal was requested vide letter dated 19-02-08 to supply the following information:

1. Venue of the Conference
2. Dates of the Conference
3. Local Organizing Committee

3. After repeated reminders the OSWB sent a confirmed list of the Local Organizing Committee vide Dr. Anita Benerjee letter dated 29-10-08. In a subsequent communication dated 2-02-09 an expanded list of Organizing Committee was supplied by you.

4. The issue regarding Organization of this Conference was discussed in the Meeting of the **Managing Committee** of the AIOS on **4th February 2009** at Jaipur, wherein, it was

confirmed by Dr. Gautam Bhaduri, President, OSWB and Organizing Secretary of the Conference that the expanded list of Local Organizing Committee as supplied to the AIOS by you is acceptable to all and will be operative. It was also indicated by him that the Conference will be organized in the **Science City, Sonar Bangala and Milan Mela**. This issue was again raised in the General Body of the AIOS on 7th February 2009 at Jaipur. In this Meeting you as Secretary OSWB categorically accepted the above and also invited the Members of the AIOS to attend the said Conference.

5. Dr. Rupam Roy of RIO Kolkatta filed a petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkatta challenging the expanded list of organizing committee as supplied by you. The said expanded list of LOC was stayed by the Hon'ble Court.

6. The entire position of this organization of conference was reviewed in an emergent Meeting of the Governing Council of the AIOS convened in New Delhi on 8th March 2009. Apart from the Members of the Council Dr. P.N. Nagpal from Ahmedabad and you on behalf of the OSWB were also invited as special invitees. You informed the Governing Council that the Court has since vacated the Stay order but the case has not yet been finally withdrawn from the Court.

7. An extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Governing Council is given below for your information:

“At the outset Dr. Babu Rajendran, President AIOS expressed the view that 68th AIOC was being held in conjunction with the 15th Afro Asian Congress and that it was of paramount importance that the Conference was properly organized. Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya, Hony. Secretary, OSWB was requested to apprise the Governing Council about the present status of the Organization of the Conference.

Dr. Bhattacharya 1st regretted for not being able to adhere to the schedule as was announced by him in the General Body at Jaipur due to litigation by one of the Members of the OSWB in the High Court of West Bengal and the stay granted by the Hon'ble Court on the Expanded List of the LOC supplied by him

to the AIOS. He also informed the Governing Council that the stay had since been vacated by the Court on 28-02-09 but the case had not yet been finally withdrawn from the Court. He produced a letter from the Lawyer of the litigant wherein it was indicated that he is working on the withdrawal of the case. Dr. Bhattacharya also informed the Governing Council that the case is likely to be withdrawn on 12-03-09.

Dr. Bhattacharya informed the Governing Council that both Dr. P.K. Chatterjee, Chairman and Dr. Gautam Bhaduri, Organizing Secretary have resigned from the LOC. He could persuade Dr. Chatterjee to withdraw the resignation but Dr. Bhaduri had declined. He also informed the Governing Council that an emergency Meeting of the LOC was convened on 7-03-09 where in nearly 150 Members were present. They have resolved for the Organization of the Conference at Kolkata.

Dr. P.N. Nagpal, specifically asked Dr. Bhattacharya to confirm that there will be no such litigation or other hindrance to the conference organization or to the conference itself in future. Dr. Bhattacharya replied that he felt that there will be no such litigation in future, but he was unable to give any definite assurance in this regard.

Dr. Debasish Bhattacharya, when asked by the President for his comments, informed the Governing Council that the Member of OSWB who went to the Court had later on realized his fault. But he also could not assure the Governing Council that there may not be any such litigation in future because of differences existing in the OSWB.

The President then asked Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya to produce any document(s) that he may wish to place before the Governing Council

Dr. Ashis Bhattacharya made a very fervent appeal regarding the capability of the OSWB to handle the assignment even in this shortened time frame and produced several documents to support his claim.

- 1. One document was from a lawyer stipulating that the matter regarding the pending case would be listed before the Hon Judges on 12th March. It had a handwritten endorsement "regarding withdrawal of the case"(or words to that effect)***
- 2. He also produced documentation to show that the Science City had been booked for the stipulated dates.***
- 3. But on further review it was found that the additional places as were earmarked for the Conference had not yet been booked and it could not even be ensured that requisite no of 13 Halls were available for the Conference. (Dr.Ashis Bhattacharya did clarify that these bookings could not be done due to the stay order affecting the functioning of the LOC)"***

8. During the discussion the Council also observed that all the places **viz Science City, Sonar Bangla and Milan Mela Ground** have not yet been booked by the Organizing Committee. In the Meeting it also could not be ensured that the requisite no of Halls are available for organizing the Conference. No assurance could be given by you to the Governing Council that such litigation of the matter may not crop up again.

9. The Governing Council considered the position in depth. In view of paucity of time, the fact that the Afro Asian Congress will also be held in conjunction with 68th AIOC, the internal differences in the Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal / Local Organizing Committee and such litigation in the matter, the Governing Council of the AIOS, in exercise of the powers conferred vide Article XX (3) Of the Bye Laws of AIOS, finally decided, unanimously, as follows:

- 1. 68th AIOC in the year 2010 is forthwith shifted from Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal.**
- 2. In lieu of the above Conference the Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal has been given an option to Organize the 69th AIOC if they can, in the year**

2011 provided the acceptance to the same is conveyed by OSWB to the AIOS by **31st March 2009** at the latest failing which it will be presumed that they are not interested to host the Conference even in the year 2011.

This issues with the approval of the President AIOS

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Lalit Verma

CC:

1. All Governing Council Members
2. Dr. P.N. Nagpal