

President's farewell note to BOD and members at the AGM

2020 June

- Captain Zarir Irani, FIIMS

It has been a fantastic journey for me for the last 8 years at the Board of IIMS of which the last 2 years were as President. Time has indeed passed by so quickly and I hope to have made a difference and have done justice to the position being a good ambassador of IIMS globally.

The institute has been in existence and growing for the past 3 decades and the Middle East branch has lead by example that a branch can make a difference celebrating its 10th year on board the QE2 last year.

There has been lot of work done in these years and I would like to thank one and all at our IIMS headquarters in Portchester for supporting all the initiatives taken by me in my Role, last one being the President's huddle as a web meet with all regional directors and in country representatives, led by Mrs Robertson. There have been many local initiatives while retaining the advantages of the global activities of the Institute moving digitally forward, with a special mention of Mike Swartz who likes to lead from the front in these matters. I thank each Board Member for their support and guidance, for their unstinted support and cooperation during their term at the committee and my Presidency term.

We are at a crucial juncture due to the pandemic, where there are genuine concerns on business, logistics, and transportation is key. While businesses are opening again after various stages of lock down, our Institute is well poised to guide members and aspirants to ensure that they stay tuned to the market, explore opportunities, re-invent their competence and upgrade their skills. The new normal calls for adaptation to digital ways of working, networking and availing business. The rule book of conducting our business is being rewritten as we speak. This is where I believe more than ever before IIMS can take a leading role and become the voice of our industry, take the concerns of stakeholders to its membership and make our IIMS 'stand out' and be relevant.

I am sure IIMS will continue to innovate, adapt and improvise to stay relevant and keep adding value to the Members and the wider industry.

The series of webinars introduced since March/April 2020 by IIMS-HQ and also by the UAE branch for industry at large, particularly stake holders to engage an average of 300 and upto a max of 430 registered interest for a single webinar, is ample proof of the this innovative thinking. This has paved the way to enhance the branch profile. We are listening to the feedback from the participants and continuing to follow up on the same to bring in topics of interest to an international audience.

The challenge to retain members will continue to exist and we need to constantly adapt and innovate to meet the needs of the Members to retain as well as grow the membership, catering to their needs. I have said this before and will say this as many times, the growth has to be nurtured through local branches and in country representatives.

Collaborating with other industry organizations such as ICS, NI, HCMM, AAA, CII, SOMS, NAMS and the Lloyds market is key to our success.

I thank the Sponsors and Supporters of the branch for their continued patronage as well as their valuable suggestions which helped us shape programs which would be of value to all stakeholders and members.

Our Incoming President Geoff Waddington, who is a personal friend and, a through professional will have all my support as and when need be.

A brief handover of what I feel should be the way forward if our incoming President so desires:

- 1- President to play a larger role in internationalizing the institute. Perhaps Presidents Role and duties should be looking into jointly by President, in/out bound along with Deputies. (as we follow the rule at the IIMS UAE branch the outgoing chairman of the branch proposes amendments to the residing committee to adopt) This way we stay relevant and incoming future Presidents have an early insight on what to expect.
- 2- Quarterly Budget may include travel and meeting days put aside by President along with CEO to specifically meet and convince industry players to use IIMS membership base. I am aware there is no promise of business this membership gives to any of its subscribers, but during these testing times, it will form a welcomed gesture.
- 3- Like commercial budgets are set, membership growth targets need to be established clearly. Ideas may be discussed & actioned upon agreement by the board.
- 4- Virtual meetings with in-country reps need to continue at the rate of one in every 6 month to know if all regions are on track with the growth story. I had proposed 7 points for in-country reps to consider undertaking in their respective regions and I had not met any hesitations on the virtual huddle nor email resistance. The expectations of each regional director were kept modest to start with, but we have to constantly look at those who are holding our IIMS torches in the respective region. (Attached PPT explains the first cut of this initiative).
- 5- President's gong is a bit more respectable (and heavier) as one would expect, and shall be handed over to Geoff ceremoniously, and as a token one before that virtually at the AGM. I would suggest the names of Past presidents to be engraved at the back and once the space is exhausted, IIMS to invest in an upgrade (or seek contribution from the last name on the Gong).

I am sure that with the active participation / encouragement of each board member and the supporters from the Industry, the Institute will keep flying the IIMS flag higher. While I remain and serve on the IIMS board, I shall be continuing to serve as IIMS' regional director for Middle East and be involved in the UAE branch committee one of their members.

Stay safe, stay well.

Jai HO.

Zarir Irani, FIIMS
Your President (still)

- End -

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