

Sri Sathya Sai Global Council

Executive Committee Meetings

Guru Purnima 2022

Venue: SSSITC Video Conference Room, SSSCT Office

Virtual: Microsoft Teams ([Click here to join the meeting](#))

Executive Committee (Overseas) - Attendees

Attendees	
Mr K Chakravarthi	SSSGC
Mr Nimish Pandya	SSSGC
Mr R J Rathnakar	SSSCT
Mr S S Naganand	SSSCT
Dr V Mohan (Online)	SSSCT
Dr Axay Kalathia	Zone 1
Mr Singanayagam Indrapalan	Zone 3
Mr Amar Karki	Zone 4
Dr Ravi Menon	Zone 5
Mr Phil Von Dietlien(online)	Zone 6
Mr Suresh Menon (online)	Zone 8
Mr Suresh Menon (online)	Zone 9
Dr Shivendra Kumar	SSSGC

Sri Sathya Sai Global Council

Executive Committee (Overseas) - Session 1

Monday 11 July, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Item	Minutes
1	<p>Address by SSSGC Chair, Mr K Chakravarthi <i>The SSSGC Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his delight in being able to meet the overseas Zone Chairs. He assured the Executive Committee Overseas of support from the SSSCT and encouraged collaboration between the zones and SSSSO India.</i></p>
2	<p>Address by SSSGC Vice-Chair, Mr Nimish Pandya <i>The SSSGC Vice-Chair extended a welcome to all Zone Chairs and mentioned that participation of all countries and zone make SSSGC special. Along with this, all wings need to work together with a focus on self-transformation. The strength of Sri Sathya Sai Centres was highlighted, and reference was made to the recent conference of Sri Sathya Sai Centre Leaders of SSSSO India.</i></p>
3	<p>Address by Managing Trustee, SSSCT, Mr R J Rathnakar <i>The Managing Trustee started by referring to the Executive Committee Overseas as a branch connected to the main trunk. He added that the focus of SSSGC should be on Sri Sathya Sai Centres; helping them grow and strengthen. He mentioned that if all wings and programs such as the Youth programme were vibrant at the centre, then the entire organisation will be strong. He reminded us that we should not lose focus on the spiritual objectives of the organisation.</i></p>

4	<p>Address by Trustees, SSSCT Trustee, SSSCT, Dr V Mohan <i>Dr Mohan started by reminding all that Swami needs to be the focus in all we do and that Swami and Prasanthi Nilayam cannot be disassociated. He added that the focus on Sri Sathya Sai Centres is where the expansion of the Sai Mission and Swami's love can be spread.</i></p> <p>Trustee, SSSCT, Mr S S Naganand <i>Mr Naganand expressed his delight in having this Satsang with leaders of the Sai Mission globally. He reminded everyone that Swami had made the organisation very practical and that Bhagwan really does not need us, it is us who need Bhagwan. He wished the Executive Committee Overseas a purposeful and productive meeting.</i></p>
5	<p>Zone Updates</p> <p>Zone 1 - Dr Axay Kalathia Link to the Zone 1 Report Zone 3 - Mr Singanayagam Indrapalan Link to the Zone 3 Report and Video Zone 4 - Mr Amar Karki Link to the Zone 4 Report Zone 5 - Dr Ravindran Menon Link to the Zone 5 Report Zone 6 - Mr Phillip Von Deitlein Link to the Zone 6 Report Zone 8 and 9 - Mr Suresh Menon Link to the Zone 8 & 9 Report and Video</p>
6	<p>Closing remarks by SSSGC Chair, Mr K Chakravarthi <i>The SSSGC thanked Zone Chairs for the update and mentioned that this is really 'the organisation'. He added that layers are not needed to progress the mission and encouraged all Zones to continue the work and empower their countries, regions and centres.</i></p>

Executive Committee (Overseas) - Session 2

Monday 11 July, 2:15 PM to 4:15 PM and 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Item	Minutes
1	<p data-bbox="437 584 1209 622">Communication protocol (Zone and Global)</p> <ol data-bbox="459 624 1489 1794" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="459 624 1445 689">1. Reference is to be made to the Operational Guidelines of SSSGC and the Charter. .<li data-bbox="459 696 1445 909">2. The Zone Chair is the point of contact for National Presidents. All Zonal communications to the countries will flow only through Zone Chair and Central Coordinators, and country communications through the National Presidents. National Presidents are not to be bypassed and good practice will be to have National Presidents involved in Zone Committees.<li data-bbox="459 916 1489 1171">3. Zone Chairs are the primary point of contact between Zones and Prasanthi Nilayam. If country presidents are writing to Prasanthi Nilayam, they are advised to copy the Zone Chair; ideally, National Presidents have discussed the topic with Zone Chair and Central Coordinator. For approved initiatives and topics, such as pilgrimages and guest speakers, once the green light is given, they can communicate directly.<li data-bbox="459 1178 1437 1279">4. Communication from Prasanthi Nilayam will always flow via Zone Chairs; and if there is a requirement to discuss with National Presidents, it will be done with Zone Chair informed.<li data-bbox="459 1285 1409 1350">5. The use of phrases such as “instruction” and “direction” is to be avoided in communication.<li data-bbox="459 1357 1489 1536">6. For speakers from Prasanthi Nilayam who are visiting countries on their own, the suggestion is to take guidance from Prasanthi Nilayam through the PNC. Speakers are advised to talk about experiences, spirituality and Swami’s life and NOT cover administrative topics unless they hold senior office bearer roles in the SSSGC.<li data-bbox="459 1543 1437 1686">7. Over time, the focus of talks and speakers needs to shift towards Swami’s omnipresence and personal transformation experiences and increase self-introspection discussions instead of relying on talks solely.<li data-bbox="459 1722 1465 1794">8. For pilgrimages, a list of key ashram contacts and checklist is to be tabled and circulated to Zone Chairs.

2	<p>Approach to community outreach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Foremost, community outreach is for sharing the love of Swami with our local communities. Outreach is about participating in a community with the intent of serving/ addressing a particular community need and not preaching. Zones can determine what is best for their countries.2. Examples of linking devotional programs, exhibits and talks with service projects were shared.3. Collaboration with other organisations has to be approached cautiously. Where possible, activities should be undertaken as SSSGC but where for legal/ practical reasons there is collaboration, ensure the risks and approach are well understood. Organisations should not be using SSSGC to gain leverage - alignment on the intention to genuinely serve should always be considered.4. Working with Government, where it is not politically aligned is encouraged as it confers recognition for skills, expertise and contribution the organisation makes to the community.5. Collaboration with SSSIO is not an option - SSSIO is not recognised by SSSGC.6. The emphasis in SSSGC is to run the community outreach activities through service as close as possible to the centre. Big Zone/ National community events need not be focused on too much. Gradually centres should become more prominent in local communities and that is how people can connect with the organisation and its members.7. Swami explained on the 7th of April 1967 that members “must have full faith in the Name that the organisation bears and in spreading that Name, in the manner suited to Its Message and Majesty”. In accordance with this guidance, traditions developed over decades at centres and Prasanthi Nilayam, such as having an altar, displaying Swami’s image, Swami’s chair and Sarva Dharma logo, offering aarthi and vibhuti, should not be compromised. Of course, country-specific practices to further enhance the “Message and Majesty” can always be added as appropriate.
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3	<p>Office Bearers Training & YA Leadership Program</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Office Bearer Training Modules will be prepared by SSS Centre for Human Values and made available to all Zones. Zones that require the training can access it and add Zone/ Country specific modules. 2. Zone and countries that intend to continue or develop their own programme based on their local requirements can continue doing so. 3. A briefing on the modules developed by SSS Centre for Human Values for Zone Chairs will be organised. 4. A repository of content from all countries will also be created with access given to Zone Chairs. 5. Content will be vetted and ready for use as needed. 6. After discussion, it was agreed that the leadership program for Young Adults will be called the “Young Adults Leadership Program for Self Transformation”. 7. The focus of the Young Adult Leadership Program for Self Transformation is their involvement and engagement at their respective centres.
4	<p>SSSE Teacher Training</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A reminder to use “Sri” in SSSE and not SSE only. 2. A repository of SSSE Teacher Training content to be created and shared with the Chair of SSSGC and zone chairs. 3. The fundamentals of the SSSE program, as prescribed by Swami need to be included in the curricula. This includes having faith in God, the teaching techniques and understanding of the Sri Sathya Sai Human Values.
5	<p>Coordination of Institute and Schools</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bro. Suresh Menon provided an update on Institutes and Schools affiliated with the SSSGC by Zone. 2. Minutes of the meeting with Zone and Institute Directors to be shared with the SSSGC Chair. 3. Zones are encouraged to use Technology Platforms to collaborate and share best practices. 4. Institute Directors are to be included in the General Assembly meetings.

6	<p>SSSIO Interactions and interface - approach to legal issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swami's word is for everyone so legal issues need to be evaluated cautiously. 2. SSSGC cannot be stopped from using Swami's name and formal/ legal avenues are to be initiated if that is ever the case. 3. Zone Chairs are to find out what restrictions currently exist in their zones and provide the information to the SSSGC Chair. 4. SSSGC office in Prasanthi Nilayam is to be consulted if there are any legal issues or notices. 5. Planning and coordination of regular centre educational, devotional, and service activities must be done by SSSGC officers/members. ALL from the community may join in these activities. 6. Participation in special programs such as officer training, leadership programs, medical camps, pilgrimages, etc. is only open to members active in SSSGC-affiliated Sai Centres.
7	<p>Medical and Humanitarian Relief project</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zones are requested to set up bank accounts. There will not be a central bank account for SSSGC. Funds will be de-centrally managed and accounts owned by Zones. 2. Support for Sri Lanka is on hold given the developments. While over \$US300K has been pledged, there are challenges within Sri Lanka being to able to access supplies. 3. Further advice will be issued by Zone Chair, Mr Amar when there is information available.
8	<p>Media Update & Engagement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reminder for Zones to continue updating content on the SSSGC website. The process has been simplified extensively. Zone Chairs to discuss with Zone and Country Media Coordinators. 2. Zones to share information and content produced by SSSMC, especially the Prasanthi Connect App to members. 3. A quarterly update for SSSGC to be considered. A team to prepare content is to be established.

9	<p>Centre Presidents Conference</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After seeing the success of the Samithi Conference organised by SSSSO India and hearing the outcomes of the conference from the AIP, it was decided that a Centre Leaders Conference will be held in Prasanthi Nilayam next Guru Purnima. (4,5 & 6 July). 2. Zone Chairs, Central Coordinators, National Presidents, National and Region Office Bearers and Centre Presidents will be invited to attend. 3. Zone Chairs are to send their input by 20th July. 4. A committee is to be established to commence preparation. 5. The Convention Centre will be a good venue since it will be open by then. 6. It was also discussed that the role of Zone Chairs, Central Coordinators and National Presidents should be more towards coordinating and facilitating the strengthening of centres.
10	<p>Centenary Celebrations Planning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The SSSCT is meeting in August to commence preparations. 2. SSSGC will be advised of the outcome and involved in the preparations. 3. Zone Chairs are requested to start planning activities in their countries and share details in the next meeting. 4. SSSCT also welcomes ideas from the Zones.
11	<p>Trustees visit overseas countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Managing Trustee, Dr Mohan and Mr Naganand will visit Zones between 2023 and 2024. 2. A schedule to be prepared for the Managing Trustee, Dr Mohan and Mr Naganand and dates can then be mutually agreed upon. 3. Dates to be provided in advance so activities can be efficiently planned. 4. Festival dates are to be avoided.
12	<p>Role - SSS Centre of Human Values Globally</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reference Agenda Item 3. 2. A Collegium is to be established to help take SSSHV globally as well as to help the work of the SSSCHV. The Collegium will be a group of people with an interest in researching Swami's Life and the SSSHV. They will develop content based on Swami's teaching for application and will also ensure Swami's teachings remain in their true form and are not misinterpreted. 3. Directors of SSS Institutes can be considered for the collegium. 4. SSSGC members from Academia with an interest in research in SSSHV are invited to join SSSCHV for 6 weeks to 3 months fellowship/ sabbatical.

13	<p>Christmas Programme</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Murali Kruthiventy, former National President of NZ will be appointed to lead the Christmas Committee. 2. Zones to provide representatives to form the Christmas Committee. 3. A 3-year rolling calendar to be developed with countries interested in performing and doing decorations. 4. The Choir Coordinator is to be confirmed by Guru Purnima.
14	<p>Other matters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Naming Convention <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Naming convention of the organisation was discussed. It was agreed that where needed, “overseas” could be dropped. b. “Overseas will still be used when referencing overseas countries from India. c. Countries don’t have to change the names of existing SSSGC affiliated organisation unless required to. d. Acceptable names can include Global Council if they are established. e. Names of organisations affiliated to SSSGC: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation [Country] ii. Sri Sathya Sai Global Council [Country] iii. Sri Sathya Sai Overseas Organisation [Country] 2. Assets Transfer <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mr Suresh Menon raised the challenge Zone 9 is facing when transferring assets to SSSGC. The discussion will be held separately with Mr Naganand to understand and work towards a resolution. 3. Chinese New Year <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Planning committee for CNY 2023 to be finalised b. Up to 600 devotees are expected from overseas countries. c. CNY is on 29 Jan 2023. 4. Charter <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Zone Chairs are requested to periodically go over the charter and encourage other office bearers to do the same.

15	<p>Next meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. General Assembly for Zone Chairs, Central Coordinators, and National Presidents to be held on 24 July. National Office Bearers and Directors of SSS Institutes will also be invited. SSSSO India officers will be included.2. Future meetings will be held after festivals to allow more time for discussions.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Meeting in November: 24 and 25 November 2022b. Meeting in July: 7 July, 2023 (Guru Purnima is 3 July 2023 and 4,5 & 7 will be Centre Conference)3. For all meetings, an online option will be available.4. Zone Chairs are able to attend 50% of meetings over a 2-year period, acknowledging their need to travel countries in their zones as well.
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