

Nominee Statement: Rohit C Khanna

Position: IAPB South East Asia Regional Chair

Nominee Job Title

Network Director

Nominee Organisation

L V Prasad Eye Institute

Nominating IAPB member organisation

Aravind Eye Care System

Nominated by

Dr R D Ravindran

Nominating Statement

I have known Dr. Rohit Khanna for almost 20 years now. He is a rare combination of being a clinician with a strong public health perspective. He has good academic grounding in both these disciplines from the best of institutions in the world - L V Prasad Eye Institute, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Johns Hopkins University. He also stands out as an ardent practitioner of both disciplines. My interaction with Rohit has been entirely in the domain of community eye health.

He is part of the senior leadership team at LV Prasad Eye Institute's (LVPEI). He is currently LVPEI's Network Director for Rural Eye Health and heads the International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (ICARE), the Community Eye Health arm of LV Prasad Eye Institute. In addition to stewarding the eye care delivery through close to 300 Vision Centres and a network of secondary eye hospitals, he is also active in research. He has led multiple population-based epidemiologic studies and has to his credit over 200 peer-reviewed publications.

As, IAPB's current Regional Chair, he has worked extensively in the South East Asia Region. This has exposed him to all countries in the region and has interacted with the eye care leaders in those countries. He is thus well placed to further IAPB's agenda in this region.

L V Prasad Eye Institute is designated as a WHO Collaborating centre. As its head and in his individual capacity, he has been actively involved with WHO. He was a member of the WHO Technical Advisory Group for the 'Package of Eye Care Interventions', participated in the World Report on Vision and in the WHO SPECS initiative.

His expertise, experience in the Southeast Asia Region and his passion for community eye health, makes Dr. Rohit Khanna a very desirable candidate for the position of Regional Chair. I have great pleasure in nominating him to this role.

Seconded IAPB member organisation

Indian Vision Institute

Seconding by

Mr Vinod Daniel

Seconding Statement

I am delighted to second the nomination of Dr Rohit Khanna for the position of Regional Chair for South-East Asia (SEA), IAPB. Dr. Khanna's extensive experience, unwavering commitment to eye health, and proven leadership make him an exemplary candidate for this role.

He has dedicated over two decades to LVPEI, where he serves as Network Director for Rural Eye Health. His oversight of nearly 300 Vision Centres and secondary eye hospitals ensures comprehensive eye care delivery across diverse communities. His academic credentials, including a Master's in Community Eye Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, provide him with a robust foundation in clinical practice and public health policy.

As the current IAPB Regional Chair for SEA, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership by spearheading initiatives that have significantly advanced eye health across the region. He has successfully developed a Regional Action Plan endorsed by health ministries throughout SEA and launched IPEC-2030 Insight, aligning national plans with this initiative.

His collaboration with the WHO further underscores his qualifications. He is a member of various WHO committees and has participated in significant WHO meetings, including contributions to the World Report on Vision. His leadership has also led to India being declared trachoma-free by WHO, showcasing his impact on public health.



His vision for the future includes aligning member priorities with IAPB's strategic goals, securing national support for implementing the IPEC-2030 Insight strategy, and focusing on resource mobilization. He is dedicated to exploring new membership opportunities within SEA and enhancing advocacy efforts.

In addition to his administrative roles, he has made immense contributions to research and academia. He has led multiple population-based epidemiologic studies, resulting in over 200 peer-reviewed publications, and has been awarded prestigious research grants for studies on various aspects of eye health.

With his clear vision for fostering regional collaboration and enhancing resource mobilization, Dr Khanna is well-positioned to continue making a meaningful impact on eye health in South-East Asia. It is with great confidence that I support his nomination for this esteemed position.

Nominee Statement

I completed my Residency in ophthalmology from India and a Fellowship at L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI). I also have a Masters in Community Eye Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; and in Public Health from The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I have worked for over two decades with LVPEI. I have led multiple studies, including the cohort of Andhra Pradesh Eye Disease Study (APEDS) which had changed several public health policies in India. I am part of the Vision Loss Expert Group (VLEG) as well as Asian Eye and Epidemiology Consortium (AEEC), and on the Editorial Boards of several journals too. I have published over 200 peer-reviewed publications, and have been awarded several prestigious research grants (including from the Wellcome Trust).

In these two decades, I have made significant contributions to global eye health initiatives and had the privilege of collaborating with IAPB, WHO, and other organizations in various capacities. This journey has shaped my understanding of the critical challenges and opportunities we face in building sustainable and equitable eye care systems.

During my tenure as the Regional Chair of IAPB SEA, we have achieved many milestones, such as the endorsement of the Regional Action Plan by Health Ministries, the successful national launches of IPEC–2030 INSIGHT



strategies, and significant progress in areas like ECSAT, eCSC, and eREC data collection. India's declaration as being trachoma-free is one such accomplishment that reflects the collective efforts of stakeholders across the region.

Looking ahead, I am committed to driving awareness, advocacy, and partnerships as well as continue to deliver impactful capacity-building initiatives.

As Regional Chair, I am committed to continue advancing the IAPB's agenda through the following strategic priorities:

1. Aligning members' priorities with the IAPB Secretariat's objectives to create a unified approach to eye health initiatives.
2. Securing national support for the implementation of the IPEC–2030 INSIGHT strategy, ensuring that each country in the region has robust national plans in place.
3. Strengthening resource mobilization efforts and generating evidence-based data to guide planning and advocacy.
4. Exploring new membership opportunities to enhance collaboration and expand IAPB's network within the region.