Nominee Statement: Kashinath Bhoosnurmath

# Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

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| **Nominee Job Title** | | | | |
|  | | | President & CEO | |
| **Nominee Organisation** | | | | |
|  | | | Operation Eyesight | |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** | | | | |
|  | Operation Eyesight | | | |
| **Represented by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Shaad Oosman |
| **Seconded by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Rohit Khanna |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** | | | | |
|  | | L V Prasad Eye Institute | | |
| **Seconding Statement** | | | | |
|  | | It is with utmost pleasure that I am supporting the nomination of Kashinath Bhoosnurmath for Elected Trustee. I have known Kashinath for over 11 years. I have seen and keenly observed him in different settings such as the workshops he conducts on strategic planning, meetings with policy and decision makers and various other formal and informal events. This has provided me with an opportunity to understand and appreciate the unique skillsets that Kashinath enjoys. He particularly impresses me with his understanding of rights-based programming approach and policy advocacy.   I would credit him for bringing in fresh ideas and a system-driven approach to eye health sector, particularly related to placing people at the core and sustainable partnerships. This is evident from the community eye health model that he and his team have built, piloted in different community settings and successfully replicated in different countries in Africa and South Asia. With the involvement of WHO, MoH and IAPB in the South East Asia region, this model will be further scaled in countries in this region. With replication of this model in the countries in S-E Asia, the countries in the region could match the global aspiration of universal health coverage and people-centered eye care. The experience with the model has not been different in Africa and other South Asian countries.  I have tremendous respect for him as a friend, impactful storyteller, and influencer. He wins friends easily. A great professional in eye health, Kashinath is respected by many global leaders. He is practical, precise, and always a team player and this speaks to why he has been recognized as an Eye Health Leader by his peers.  As a member of IAPB, I have been closely watching the developments in the global eye health sector. As a Trustee on the Board of IAPB, Kashinath has been instrumental in prioritising community participation. He has been an influential voice representing the target communities on various platforms. I believe his continued presence on the Board will help IAPB and the eye health sector in promoting integrated and people-centred eye care approaches. | | |
| **Nominee Statement** | | | | |
|  | With over 30 years of progressive experience in international development, I bring extensive leadership and expertise in program development, community empowerment and policy advocacy. As part of the global eye health community for over 11 years now, I’ve gained hands-on experience in Africa and Asia. I currently serve as Operation Eyesight’s President & CEO.  The community eye health model that Operation Eyesight has developed has received extensive recognition as an innovative, proven approach to improve eye health and eliminate avoidable blindness on a sustainable basis in target countries. This tested model helps reach marginalised communities, and it is scalable and sustainable. Community empowerment is a recurring theme of my work, and this model is an example of how people can be successfully placed at the core of what we are doing in the sector.   I am currently in my first term as an Elected Trustee and have a longstanding association with IAPB. I have been a part of select think tanks and work groups with a focus on the strategic formation and advocacy of the agency. I am significantly involved in IAPB’s global strategy formulation and intensely engaged in the adoption of a people-centric approach. I have long since been an advocate for the advancing of eye care as part of universal health coverage, particularly with national governments in Africa and South Asia.  I have a good understanding of governance and coalitions, which are integral in my organisation’s work with local governments in ensuring the prioritisation of eye health. I have a proven track record of building partnerships with governments, heads of international agencies, relevant community organisations and donors. I have extensive post-graduate training, teaching and research experience, and I am a published author. I was recognised by IAPB and my peers as an Eye Health Leader in 2013.   My passion for the cause, diverse experience, and ability to listen and learn have helped me develop a strong network of partners, colleagues and friends within the industry, as well as in the larger development sector. If re-elected, I will continue to advocate to address gaps in health systems, specifically when it comes to community empowerment; and promote changes needed to implement integrated people-centred eye care in the primary health care network and ensure nobody is left behind. | | | |