MISSION STATEMENT: BELLIE SIVAKUMAR

The Asia Oceania region has been facing serious challenges in sustainable development and management of our natural resources and environment, due to population explosion, urbanization, and climate change, among other factors. The Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) was founded in 2004 to essentially address these challenges, especially from the perspective of geosciences. The dedication and contributions of the past and present AOGS leadership, and indeed all AOGS members and functionaries, have played a vital role in addressing the challenges and meeting the scientific, technical, and educational needs of the region. Over the past 20 years, AOGS has witnessed an enormous growth in membership, expansion to other regions (including Europe and America), and broader coverage of scientific fields, and also creation of a journal (*Geoscience Letters*).

Despite these advances, several **key challenges for AOGS** still remain. Among the challenges are:
1. Membership Services: There is an urgent need to enhance the society's capacity to further strengthen the membership and support its members. Refining the existing programs that offer networking opportunities and career development resources is needed, especially to support students and early career researchers.
2. Enhancing Collaboration: There is a continuing need to enhance existing opportunities and create new ones for collaboration among AOGS members across various sections and also with other relevant societies in the Asia Oceania region and beyond. To this end, joint events that promote interdisciplinary meetings and facilitate knowledge exchange are important.
3. Improving Communication: Although advances have been made in effectively communicating the development and activities of AOGS, there is still a great need to enhance the communication strategies. Better ways to improve the dissemination of AOGS news and events, including through improving the AOGS website and through social media and other platforms, are needed.
4. Diversity and Inclusion: It is very pleasing to see the significant progress that has been made in diversity and inclusion for the growth of AOGS. However, there is still a long way to go. Developing proper policies and programs to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion is urgently needed.
5. Education and Outreach: One of the key issues faced by AOGS (and other geoscience societies) is to enhance the broader public's understanding of geosciences and their importance for humanity at large. To this end, appropriate initiatives to support education and outreach, through science communication workshops, training programs, and public lectures are necessary.

Over the past 25 years, I have gained significant experience in research, teaching, and professional activities in the field of geosciences, with my education and research background in civil engineering and hydrological sciences and with interdisciplinary activities. I have conducted research on some of the most important and challenging topics that have implications for science and society, including climate change, water crisis and conflicts, environmental sustainability, and large-scale water resources projects. I have authored/co-authored three books, over 260 peer-reviewed journal articles, 24 book chapters, and over 240 conference papers/abstracts. I have been an Editor-in-Chief/Associate Editor/Editorial Board Member of over 15 highly-reputed international journals, Guest Editor of 12 journal special issues (six as sole/lead editor), and reviewer for over 45 international journals and funding agencies. I have been and continue to be a member of several professional societies in the field of geosciences and beyond, including AOGS, AGU, EGU, ASCE, IAHS, and MSSANZ. I have served in many technical committees of professional societies and international conferences, including in AOGS, AGU, EGU, IAHS, and MSSANZ conferences.

I have **served AOGS in several leadership and other capacities**. I was the **President of the Hydrological Sciences (HS) section of AOGS** during 2016–2018 (and Vice-President: 2015–2016 and 2018– 2019), after my tenure as a Secretary of the HS section (2012–2014). I have also served in the **Publication Committee, Awards Committee, and Nomination Committee of AOGS** at various times. I have also been a **Convener/Co-convener of numerous technical sessions in AOGS annual meetings** over the past 15 years. For my research excellence and contributions to geosciences, I was honored with the **AOGS Fellows Award** in 2023.

With my dedication to teaching, research, and services to the geosciences field, and participation and leadership in various AOGS activities and committees, I believe I possess all the qualities necessary to become the Secretary General of AOGS. I will do everything possible to address the key challenges of AOGS for the benefit of the geoscience community, and the broader public, in the Asia Oceania region, and beyond.