Strabo (63 BC – c. AD 24) the Greek Geographer, historian, and philosopher long asserted that the ocean is not merely an empty space but a potential site for social, cultural and economic transactions. Much later Fernand Braudel’s (1902–1985) work The Mediterranean aptly called the sea a "vast, complex expanse" within which the humans function. He further examined the complex contours of the ocean and the land. During the longue durée of explorations, colonization, and settlements from the 16th century, Oceania continues to assert itself as “global economy” with enabling cultural modalities of language, religion, trade practices, shared knowledge systems and transnational identities established through oceanic traversals. These traversals, in economically and culturally complex ways, not only led to disputes, confrontation and disagreements but also resulted in dialogue, and eventually mutual transformations. Within this framework, this multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary conference is looking at contemporary routes of oceanic traversals between India and Australia and its related dimensions with respect to populations, genes, ideas, trade, religions, literatures, myths etc.

Since Asia has emerged as an undeniable geopolitical force in the 21st century, which is both a challenge and opportunity for Australia, it becomes an imperative to study changing geopolitical situations, strong economic and cultural connections between Australia and Asia (India in particular). Because Australia's ancient connections with Asia have always been maritime, it is important from the viewpoint of Australia and Asia both that the possibilities of economic, security, maritime, cooperation and friendships are explored.

As far as India is concerned, it has always been a part of the larger oceanic okumene that might more fruitfully be seen as part of older, looser, and more fluid Indian Ocean cross-currents of cultural formation and circulation. With the end of empire and the rise of independent nations in the Indian Ocean region, these networks are today almost forgotten. Yet, it is of vital importance to reconsider, if not resurrect, them if we wish to arrive at a better understanding not just of the Indian Ocean as a spatial-political location, but also of Australasia. Since the littoral nations of the Indian ocean were shaped as much by an oceanic hybridity as by continental compulsions, it embodies a special type of anti-imperial cosmopolitanism. The space which gave rise to such discourses constitutes a vital link between a world before Western imperialism and the globalized world of the future which we might regard as coming into being before our very eyes after the end of Western hegemony.

In our context, it is also important to construct or at least explore a new disciplinary paradigm or institutional apparatus for Asian, or more specifically, Indic-Asian and Australian studies. In this sense, to represent Asia would be to compete for legitimation in how it is understood or studied, moreover to declare oneself as an interested party or stake-holder in such a process. It is essential to challenge imperial representations of Asia and explore alternative representations of Australasia, its inter-relationships, and connections in terms of global flows of capital, culture, science and technology.

An array of disciplinary and area studies works in politics, history, anthropology, international relations, literature, archaeology, defense studies and genetics among other disciplines continue to
play influential roles in developing an understanding of Indian Oceanic region. All this and many more concerns compel us to debate as to how, why and what of Indian Oceanic exchanges in India, Asia and Australia draw us together and define Indian oceanic region. It is high time that we attempt not only to redefine and question the phenomenon of globalisation but also look for alternative conceptual frameworks such as global south and Indian oceanic traversals. The conference proposes to invite scholars from the fields of Humanities, Social Sciences and Defense Studies to discuss and deliberate on the literary, cultural and the related domains from India, Asia, Australia and the other countries in Indian Oceanic region.

We invite proposals related, but not limited, to the following themes:
- Indian Oceanic Traversals
- Cultural exchanges between Asia and Australia: It’s Past, Present and Future
- Dimensions of Oceanic Traversals: Populations, Genes, Ideas, Trade, Religions
- Intercolonial Connections/ Postcolonial Revisions
- Regional, Economic & Socio-cultural exchanges
- Regional Cooperation & Differences in Indian Oceanic Region
- Maritime Cultural Landscapes
- Expressions of Memories
- Cultural Pluralism
- Literary Commons: Australia-Asia Connections
- Diasporas and Transnational Connections
- Shared Knowledge Systems
- Ecology, Environment & Climate Change
- Aboriginal Studies
- Patterns of Self and Other

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REGISTRATION FEE
- For Faculty members (from India): 2500 INR
- For students and Research Scholars (from India): 1500 INR
- For Foreign Delegates: 100 US$

The registration fee includes seminar kit and lunch during the days of seminar. This does not include accommodation. Limited accommodation can be arranged in campus guest house/city hotels on payments basis if intimated in advance.

Membership Fee for IASA
- Life Membership Fee: 3000 INR
- Temporary Membership: 500 INR

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
Please submit your abstracts to iasabihu2020@gmail.com by 30th Nov., 2019.
All submissions will go through double blind review process and review outcome will be notified within reasonable time. Every participant will have to make a 20 minute presentation which shall be followed by 10 minute respondent moderated discussion.