NOTE FROM THE CHAIR — By now, most AVI people who had come to attend this year’s annual AVI gathering have left Auroville for their homes – mostly in wintery climate zones. Quite certainly all have enjoyed the sun and warmth and have returned home with refreshed spiritual energies, even if there was little room for physical rest during our two intense weeks of programmes. They were packed with meetings of the AVI Board; with a General Assembly in which the Board and the AVI Centres & Liaisons reported on their work during the last year and new Board members were elected; with a full range of presentations from Auroville working groups and projects; and finally with a two days retreat of the AVI Board, among them the three Aurovilian members, Mauna and Martin Littlewood as honorary board members and Auroville representative Vani.

For this retreat, the group came together in the beautiful atmosphere of the Unity Pavilion and Peace Hall in order to, for once, not having to work through a packed agenda but to reflect on the years of working together, to concentrate on the inner values that each and everybody is striving to bring to the work for Auroville’s further manifestation and to cast an outlook on the next future and tasks, part of which will be AVI’s participation in Auroville’s 50th anniversary celebrations. That this outlook actually turned out to be a fresh and vibrant one was partly due to the skilful, very lively and energising facilitation of Muna, a young member of AVI Germany, assisted by Angiras, now AVI UK, who brought in the perspective of somebody grown up in Auroville.

That Auroville, too, is increasingly energised by young, fresh initiatives became obvious during the many presentations we received from different areas of Auroville’s multifaceted activities. We are very grateful for the efforts everybody took to share experiences and insights with us and we are looking forward to all further collaboration.

- Friederike, currently AVI’s Chairperson

ACRES FOR AUROVILLE — The new A4A powerpoint is online: https://vimeo.com/155997109

It is to the great credit of all who have built AV so far! In that context, also an ‘Art for Land’ auction took place in Auroville’s February birthday week with some 75 artists in Auroville, and also from Ashram, offering their works for the land. For 20 art works from 10 artists, 12 art lovers offered more than Rs 2 Lakhs. Remaining works will be posted online.

AVI USA VISION — As in the previous issue of this column, as printed in Auroville’s NewsandNotes, the words ‘emergency’ and ‘emergence’ had been mixed up (and how well do they both fit...!!), we here post the corrected version of the Centre’s vision statement: “We believe that humanity’s current ecological, economic, social and spiritual crises call for a new consciousness rooted in an experience of true unity, and that Auroville is and has been a laboratory for the emergence of this new consciousness.”

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