



CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN PRESS COUNCILS NETWORK (SEAPC-Net)

PREAMBLE

We, the Press Councils in Southeast Asia namely: the Indonesia Press Council, the Myanmar Press Council, the National Press Council of Thailand and the Timor-Leste Press Council agree to form a network of Press Councils in Southeast Asia, to be known as **“Southeast Asian Press Councils Network” (SEAPC-Net)** with the aims of enhancing cooperation between the Press Council members or similar organizations in Southeast Asia and to promote press freedom through self-regulation and respect of Media Code of Ethics in the region.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The Network shall be officially known as the **“Southeast Asian Press Councils Network” (SEAPC-Net)**.

ARTICLE II- FOUNDING MEMBERS

The founding members of the Network consists of the Indonesia Press Council, the Myanmar Press Council, the National Press Council of Thailand and the Timor-Leste Press Council.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Section 1. The Network shall have the following objectives:

- a) Promote press freedom through self-regulation and respect of Media Code of Ethics in the region.
- b) Enhance cooperation between the Press Councils or similar organizations in Southeast Asia.

Section 2. The Network shall initiate and/or undertake the following activities:

- a) Improve professional standard of journalists in the region trough seminar, training, internship programs between member countries.
- b) Encourage the initiative of other countries in the region to set up the press council or similar self-regulatory body.

ARTICLE IV- MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Section 1. The membership shall consist of regular members, and associate members. Only the regular members have the authority to accept new members through a consensus.

Section 2. Regular members shall enjoy the right of permanent seats in the Membership Committee, membership of the Board of Directors, and the right to attend the General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings.

Section 3. Regular membership, comprising of groups, shall be open to self-regulatory organizations of media journalists in Southeast Asia region. Regular members shall enjoy the right of full membership of the network, including seats on the Board of Directors and the right to accept new members.

Section 4. Associate membership shall be open to other media organizations and institutions whose work or functions are allied to the media profession within member countries. Associate members shall be entitled to the rights enjoyed by regular members with the exception of deliberations in the meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the Confederation. Associate members are also not entitled to voting rights.

Section 5. Applications for membership shall be made through the Membership Committee of the Network which is entrusted with laying down membership qualifications.

ARTICLE V- ORGANS

Section 1. The Network shall have the following organs:

- a. General Assembly
- b. Board of Directors
- c. Secretariat

Section 2. There shall be an Advisory Council to be composed of former Chairpersons of the Network and persons appointed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI- GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1. The General Assembly shall consist of accredited delegates of member organizations.

Section 2. It shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Determine the policies and activities of the Network.
- (b) Adopt and amend the constitution of the Network.
- (c) Appoint the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary General of the Network and endorse the nomination of members of the Board of Directors.
- (d) Determine and act on matters referred to it by the Board of Directors, committees, or any Network members.
- (e) Approve the Network membership contribution fees proposed by Board of Directors.
- (f) Approve the budget proposed by Board of Directors

- (g) Undertake any other responsibilities that it deems appropriate or necessary to promote, protect and preserve the interests of the Network.

Section 3. The General Assembly of the Network shall be held once every two (2) years, the site of which is rotated on the alphabetical order of member countries or decided otherwise by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE VII -BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Directors shall be composed of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary General, Auditor and one director from each member organization.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall perform the following duties:

- (a) Implement the programs and projects adopted and approved by the General Assembly.
- (b) Prepare the agenda of the General Assembly.
- (c) Refer to the General Assembly for appropriate action any study or recommendation which it initiates, or undertaken by any other organs or members of the Network.
- (d) Undertake functions or duties that may be delegated to it by the General

Assembly, or those it deems appropriate and necessary to protect and preserve the interest of the Network.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year. It may, however, call special sessions at the recommendation or request of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary General or at least half of the members of the Board of Directors acting jointly, whenever the need for such special session arises.

Section 4. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, call for consideration and/or approval from Network members through any means of communication for proposals or resolutions which it considers urgent and necessary. Each Network member shall be given thirty (30) days to respond to the communication. In the event that Network members are asked to approve or disapprove of a proposal or resolution, failure to respond within the given time will be considered to be a consent.

ARTICLE VIII-THE CHAIR

Section 1. The Chairperson shall be appointed from a regular member of the country where the General Assembly is held.

Section 2. The Chairperson shall have a term of office of two (2) years, to commence at the close of the General Assembly at which he or she is appointed until the end of the next succeeding General Assembly.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Chairperson to preside over the General Assembly or any other sessions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

Section 4. The Chairperson shall have the highest authority in the Network. He or she may, however, delegate the functions and duties of the Chairperson as he or she may deem fit to the Vice-Chairperson, any members of the Board of Directors, or the Secretary General.

Section 5. In the event that a change of Chairpersonship (ex officio) takes place in the Network member organization to which the current Network Chairperson belongs, its new Chairperson shall automatically assume the Chairpersonship of the Network unless the Network member organization in question decides to nominate a different person for the Network chairpersonship provided that he or she must be a director of that particular organization.

ARTICLE IX- THE VICE-CHAIR

Section 1. The Vice Chairperson (ex officio) shall be appointed from the Network member that will host the next General Assembly of the Network, and shall have a term of office in concurrence with that of the Chairperson.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice Chairperson to assume the responsibilities and perform function of the Chairperson in the latter's absence or because of his or her inability to carry out the duties.

ARTICLE X - THE DIRECTORS

Section 1. Each Network member shall be represented by one (1) Director in the Board of Directors. Their nominations, however, have to be confirmed by the General Assembly.

Section 2. A Director shall have a term of office of two (2) years to commence at the close of the General Assembly at which his or her nomination is confirmed until the end of the next General Assembly thereafter.

Section 3. Any of the member organizations shall have the power to recall any Director it has nominated and replace him or her with another person in an acting capacity for the remaining term.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Directors to attend the meeting of the Board of Directors, and to help in the implementation of decisions of either the Board of Directors or the General Assembly.

ARTICLE XI- THE SECRETARIAT

Section 1. The Secretariat of the Network shall be located on a rotation basis in the country of the member organization that assumes the Chairpersonship of the Network.

Section 2. The Secretary General of the Network shall be appointed from the member organization holding the Chairpersonship with a term of office of two (2) years, commencing at the close of the General Assembly at which he or she is appointed. The appointment of the Secretary General shall be confirmed at the General Assembly.

Section 3. The Secretary General shall attend all sessions of the General Assembly, Board of Directors and committees. The Secretary General also has the responsibility to keep the record and minutes of the proceedings.

Section 4. The Secretary General shall be responsible to the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

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Section 5. The Secretariat shall perform such duties as may be necessary to insure the efficient operation of the Network.

Section 6. The Network member holding the Chairpersonship of the Network is entitled to appoint a new Secretary General in the event that the current Secretary General resigns or is out of office before his or her term expires. The new Secretary General shall serve the remaining term.

Section 7. The Secretary General may have assistants to assist him or her and the Chairperson in carrying out their duties and functions.

ARTICLE XII- THE AUDITOR

Section 1. An auditor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Auditor to audit the financial of the Network.

ARTICLE XIII- BUDGET

Section 1. The budget and allocation of costs to be borne by the regular members of the Network shall be approved by the General Assembly.

Section 2. Unless agreed otherwise by the General Assembly, the allocation of costs shall be borne on an equal basis.

ARTICLE XIV- MEETINGS

Section 1. As a principle, the procedures and rules to be observed during the General Assembly shall be determined by the host member organization.

Section 2. Unless recommended otherwise by the host member organization, the following procedures shall be applicable:

- (a) Expenses for travel by representatives of Network members from their country to the sites of meetings and the General Assembly of the Network shall be borne by their own organizations.
- (b) Expenses for accommodations, meals, transports and other activities related to the meetings and the General Assembly within the host country shall be borne by the host member.

ARTICLE XV- QUORUM

Section 1. The presence of representatives of at least three-fourth (3/4) of the regular members shall constitute a quorum for the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

Section 2. In any other meetings, a simple majority of related representatives shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Member organizations shall be given an advance notice of no less than 30 days to prepare for any meeting.

ARTICLE XVI - OBSERVERS

The status of observers may be extended to Media Self-regulatory organizations in the wider Asia region, including the Pacific and Oceania Countries.

ARTICLE XVII- AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended only at a session of the General Assembly.

This Constitution of the Southeast Asian Press Councils Network (SEAPC-Net) was submitted to and adopted at the 1st General Assembly in Bali, Indonesia on December 4, 2019.

SIGNATORIES:

Southeast Asian Press Councils Network (SEAPC-Net)

Indonesia Press Council



Mohammad NUH
Chairman

Myanmar Press Council


U Ohn Kyaing 4/12
Chairman

National Press Council of Thailand



Chavarong Limpattamapanee
Chairman

Timor-Leste Press Council


Virgilio da Silva Guterres
Chairman

Result from 1st General Assembly of SEAPC-Net

Bali, 4th December 2019

1. Chairperson: Mohammad NUH (Indonesia PC)
2. Vice Chairperson: U Ohn Kyaing (Myanmar PC)
3. Secretary General: Asep Setiawan (Indonesia PC)
4. Board of Directors:
 - a. Agus Sudibyo (Indonesia);
 - b. Kyaw Swa Min (Myanmar);
 - c. Chavarong Limpattamapanee (Thailand).
 - d. Virgilio da Silva Guterres (Timor-Leste)