

## **Rules for the Asian Region of the IOI**

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(Approved 11 June 2009)

Whereas in Asia, a number of Ombudsman institutions have been created at the national and/or provincial level to investigate complaints of maladministration of government organizations and officials;

AND WHEREAS the Ombudsmen undertake their duties according to legislative powers conferred upon them;

AND WHEREAS in 1996 the worldwide body of Ombudsmen, the International Ombudsman Institute (the Institute) determined to creating formal regional groupings.

AND WHEREAS the Institute By-Laws establish the Asian Region of the Institute (the Region).

NOW THEREFORE this document records the Rules for the operation of the Region and the election of three Directors including a Regional Vice President of the Institute, adopted by the Ombudsmen of the Region.

1. The members of the Region shall be those Ombudsmen of the Region who shall be admitted to membership of the Region by the Institute.

2. The organization and **handling** of the Region's affairs shall be the responsibility of the Directors of the Institute elected to represent the Region from time to time. The Directors shall, **by agreement, determine the procedure for running the affairs of the Region.** When unanimity is not obtained among the Directors, the decision shall be made by majority vote of the Directors. The Director elected as Regional Vice President under clause 6 shall act as Chairperson of the Directors.

3. The Regional Vice President shall act as Chairman for meetings of members of the Region dealing with the Institute matters.

4. The Directors may determine what regional initiatives should be undertaken subject to their first ascertaining the views of members of the Region **including by e-mail, facsimile, or post.**

5. The Directors shall arrange, should circumstances permit, an annual conference of members of the Region to be held on basis of fair rotation between **the** members willing and able to host such a conference. When an Institute conference is held, the Regional Conference shall be held as part of the Institute Conference. Apart

from the Regional meeting held as part of the IOI Conference, the Directors may, should the need arise, communicate for decision-making by any means, **including** e-conference, email or facsimile.

6. (a) The members shall at each Regional meeting held as part of the Institute Conference, elect the Directors, and the Regional Vice President to which the Region is entitled by virtue of the By-Laws of the Institute. The method of election shall be on the basis of one member one vote **of those eligible to vote.**

(b) Any vacancies caused by death, resignation or retirement of a Director shall be filled in at the next Regional meeting or, if no such meeting is scheduled to take place within a period of 3 months, by a postal ballot organized by the Regional Vice-President. The term of a Director elected under this paragraph shall not exceed the term of other Directors.

7. A Director shall **be deemed to have resigned** his/her office as a Director on vacating office as an Ombudsman.

8. The Directors may make such rules as are necessary to ensure the smooth functioning and operation of the Region as are not inconsistent with any preceding rules or any By-Laws of the Institute.

9. The members may by a majority, alter, amend or add to these Rules. A proposal for the amendment or addition must be notified at least 2 weeks in advance of any vote to all voting members of the region and the proposal shall be voted on either at the Regional meeting or in writing by email, facsimile, or post.

10. A voting member in good standing, who is unable to attend the Regional meeting, may participate in the vote by proxy. Proxy vote request can be made in writing and must be received by the Regional Vice President.

(Edited 3 July 2009)