

CONSTITUTION
SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION
(SEARCC)

PREAMBLE

Be it established on this day of 5th December 1991 by the Executive Council of the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation (hereinafter referred to as "SEARCC"), the following Articles of the Constitution of SEARCC, superceding all previous articles of the Constitution which could have hitherto been adopted or applied;

And be it established that the name "South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation" shall in no way be taken to describe any geographical delineation either expressed or implied in respect of eligibility for membership of any description hereinafter save in the understanding that such membership shall in generality be confined to the entirety of The Region as described in the definition given hereunder;

And be it further established that SEARCC as constituted shall bear no political allegiance of any nature or intent and shall pursue solely the Aims as established in Article I hereunder;

And be it known that the Founder Members of SEARCC shall be the parties who on the third day of February 1978 engrossed the SEARCC Declaration, to wit, the Hongkong Computer Society, the Ikatan Profesi Komputer dan Informatika Indonesia, the Malaysian Computer Society, the Philippine Computer Society, the Singapore Computer Society and the Computer Association of Thailand, and such members shall de facto be Full Members of SEARCC.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall be applied to the interpretation of the meaning of words in the Articles. Where applicable, words denoting the singular shall encompass the plural and words describing the masculine shall include the feminine.

Executive Council means the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation Executive Council, as established under Article III, 3.1 of this Constitution;

Host Organisation means the SEARCC member who is responsible for the holding of the next Regional Conference;

Observers means representatives of national, professional and international organizations invited to participate in the activities of SEARCC from time to time;

Regional Conference means the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation Conference and shall be described as "SEARCC XX":

- SEARCC Declaration* means the Declaration signed by the original members on 3rd February 1978.
- The Region* means the region comprising the mainland of Asia and all such territories north and south encompassed within the rims of the Western Pacific and its associated seas;
- The Secretariat* means the office of the Secretary-General of SEARCC duly appointed under Article III, 3.3 of this Constitution;

ARTICLE I

AIMS

The Aims of SEARCC are:

- 1.1 To promote cooperation among the national computer societies in The Region for the expressed or implied purpose of advancing the knowledge and application of information technology in the region;
- 1.2 To promote and collaborate with Members of SEARCC, with their consent or at their request, in joint projects and programmes of mutual benefit relating to information technology and to assist in their development;
- 1.3 To hold Regional Conferences at such intervals and locations as determined by the Executive Council and such other regular meetings as may be determined by the Executive Council from time to time;
- 1.4 To pursue opportunities and relationship with other national, international and professional organisations and agencies as may be beneficial in advancing the interest of SEARCC.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Full Members

- 2.1.1 A registered computer society or its equivalent thereof, properly constituted under the laws of the country in The Region that subscribes to the Aims of SEARCC may be admitted to Full Membership of SEARCC by a two-third majority vote of the SEARCC Full Members present and voting at a meeting of the Executive Council held during a Regional Conference;
- 2.1.2 The Executive Council may from time to time determine the form of application and the nature of information required in support of any application for Full Membership;
- 2.1.3 Full Members shall have a vote.

2.2 **Associate Members**

- 2.2.1 A registered computer society or its equivalent thereof, properly constituted under the laws of the country in The Region, that subscribes to the Aims of SEARCC may be admitted to Associate Membership of SEARCC by a two-third majority vote of SEARCC Full Members present and voting at a meeting of the Executive Council held during a Regional Conference;
- 2.2.2 Associate Members shall have no vote;
- 2.2.3 Without prejudice to the generalities of Article 2.1 and Article 2.2, the Executive Council shall be empowered to determine the grant of membership in either of the categories stated, in the event of
- a) an application from a computer society of a country for admission as Associate Member when such a society was eligible to apply for admission as a Full Member, or vice versa; and
 - b) an application from a computer society of a country for admission as an Associate Member when another computer society of that country is already a Full Member, or vice versa.

2.3 **Affiliate Members**

- 2.3.1 The Executive Council may from time to time grant Affiliate Membership under such terms and conditions as it would deem appropriate but shall in no way be more favourable than Full and Associate Members, to properly registered organisations who subscribe to the Aims of SEARCC, and admission of Affiliate Members shall be by a two-third majority vote of SEARCC Full Members present and voting at a meeting of the Executive Council held during a Regional Conference;
- 2.3.2 Eligibility for admission as Affiliate Members shall be restricted to organisations who are otherwise not eligible to be Full or Associate Members of SEARCC;
- 2.3.3 Affiliate Members shall have no vote.

2.4 **Withdrawal**

Any member of SEARCC may withdraw from Membership by formal notice addressed to the Secretariat. Such notice shall take effect after six months from the date of receipt of such notice. Such withdrawal shall be without prejudice to any obligation of the withdrawing member to SEARCC on the date the withdrawal takes effect.

2.5 **Cessation of Membership**

- 2.5.1 In the event that it has become necessary in the interest of SEARCC to review the continuing membership of any member, the Executive Council shall determine a process of evaluation, which in the sole judgment of the Executive Council to be appropriate in the circumstance, to consider cessation of membership;

Provided that such process as the Executive Council may determine shall include opportunity for exculpation; and Provided further that no cessation of membership shall be valid except upon the majority vote of two-thirds of the membership of

SEARCC present and voting at an Executive Council meeting held during a Regional Conference.

2.6 **Determination by the Executive Council**

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Article, the Executive Council shall be empowered to determine the placement of an organisation either as an Associate or Affiliate Member and shall be empowered to apply in whole or part the conditions which govern the admission of Associate and Affiliate to any application.

ARTICLE III

ORGANISATION and FUNCTIONS

3.1 SEARCC shall institute an Executive Council (hereinafter referred to as "the Executive Council"), a Secretariat and such number of Committees as provided under these Articles or as the Executive Council may constitute from time to time.

3.2 **The Executive Council**

3.2.1 The Executive Council shall determine the policies of SEARCC in accordance with the provisions of these Articles.

3.2.2 The business of the Executive Council may be conducted by circulation to all members of the Executive Council. The decision of the Executive Council shall be binding only with the agreement of a simple majority of the total number of members of the Executive Council, except where otherwise specified elsewhere in these Articles.

3.2.3 The Executive Council shall conduct its business during its regular meetings at the Regional Conference or such meetings at the date and place as a majority of the members of the Executive Council may determine. The presence of a simple majority of the total membership of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum. Decisions arising from such meeting will require a simple majority of the members present to be binding except where otherwise specified. The Meeting Agenda shall be issued by the Secretary-General to Presidents of member societies and post-marked at least 3 weeks before the date of meeting.

3.2.4 Each Full Member of the Executive Council shall be entitled to one vote at Executive Council meetings.

3.2.5 In the event of a tie in the voting, the President of the Executive Council shall have the casting vote.

3.2.6 The Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure without prejudice to the provisions in these Articles.

3.3 **The Secretariat**

There shall be established a Secretariat with the following functions:

a) To plan and implement programmes adopted by the Executive Council;

- b) To prepare the agenda for Council meetings including the coordination and preparation of reports for the Executive Council meeting; and
- c) To carry out such assignments as may be directed by the Executive Council from time to time.

3.4 **Conference Site Selection**

The Executive Council shall determine sites of Regional Conferences in **advance through a Conference Bid process**, provided that the Executive Council shall have absolute discretion to amend the sequence of selected sites in the event that any such site becomes unavailable for the hosting of a Regional Conference.

3.5 **Conference Papers Committee**

The Executive Council shall appoint a Conference Papers Committee for the purpose of planning and coordinating the programmes, publications and speakers for the Conference. The Committee may be directed by the Executive Council from time to time to carry out any responsibility related thereto including the final vetting of papers for publication in the Conference proceedings.

3.6 **Conference Host Committee**

The Executive Council may ratify the nomination of members to the Conference Host Committee on the recommendation of the member of SEARCC in whose country the Regional Conference will next be held. The function of this Committee is to plan and implement all necessary measures to ensure the proper conduct of the Regional Conference in that country and to coordinate with other relevant committees of the Executive Council towards the fulfillment of this objective.

3.7 **Activities**

The Executive Council shall be empowered to establish such regional groups, committees and others of similar nature, either for specific or general objectives, for a determined period or indefinitely, for the purpose of advancing the Aims of SEARCC.

ARTICLE IV

COMPOSITION of EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS

4.1 **The Executive Council**

The Executive Council shall be comprised of Full Members of SEARCC on the basis of one accredited representative from each Full Member provided that the Executive Council may allow for an increase in the number of representatives for each Full Member on an equality basis and without prejudice to Article 3.2.4.

4.2 **The Secretariat**

4.2.1 There shall be established an office of the Secretary-General (hereinafter referred to as "The Secretariat") at the country of the Secretary-General who shall be appointed by the Executive Council.

4.2.2 The Secretariat shall report directly to the President.

4.3 **The Conference Papers Committee**

4.3.1 The Conference Papers Committee shall comprise the following:

- a) The Vice-President of the Executive Council or his nominee (Chairman);
- b) Accredited representatives from each member of SEARCC of such number of members as the Executive Council thinks fit.

4.3.2 A Conference Papers Committee shall be appointed for every Regional Conference.

4.4 **The Conference Host Committee**

4.4.1 The Conference Host Committee shall comprise such number of persons as the Host Organisation shall consider necessary for carrying the responsibilities of the Committee into effect.

4.4.2 The Conference Host Committee nominations shall be informed to the Executive Council.

4.5 **The President of SEARCC**

4.5.1 The Presidency of the Executive Council shall be rotated at such period not extending beyond the interval between two consecutive Regional Conferences. The term of office of the new President shall take effect from the day following the last day of a Regional Conference.

4.5.2 The Executive Council shall appoint as President the accredited representative of the Full Member of SEARCC who was the immediate past host of a Regional Conference provided that the Full Member whose representative was so appointed shall be empowered to change its representative in the Presidency during the term of office.

4.6 **The Vice-President**

4.6.1 The Vice-President of the Executive Council shall be rotated at such period not extending beyond the interval between two consecutive Regional Conferences. The term of office of the new Vice-President shall take effect from the day following the last day of the Regional Conference.

4.6.2 The Executive Council shall appoint as Vice-President the accredited representative of the Full Member of SEARCC hosting the Regional Conference

next following provided that the Full Member whose representative was so appointed shall be empowered to change its representative in the Vice-Presidency during the term of office.

4.7 **The Secretary-General**

4.7.1 The Executive Council shall appoint a Secretary-General at a meeting held during the Regional Conference from among SEARCC member countries for a term of 3 years provided that the Executive Council shall be empowered to extend the term of the Secretary-General for additional terms as it deems fit. The Secretary-General shall not be a representative of his national society on the Executive Council.

4.7.2 **The Assistant Secretary-General**

The Executive Council shall appoint up to two Assistant Secretary-Generals from among SEARCC member countries for a term of 2 years at an Executive Council meeting held during a Regional Conference provided that the Executive Council shall have discretion in extending the appointment by further such terms. The Assistant Secretary-General shall assist the Secretary-General in his responsibilities and shall not be a representative of his national society on the Executive Council.

4.8 **Advisors**

4.8.1 The Executive Council may appoint a panel of Advisors as may be considered necessary.

4.8.2 The Advisors shall be appointed at the meeting of the Executive Council held during a Regional Conference.

4.8.3 The Advisors shall be appointed for a term of 3 years and the Executive Council may re-appoint any Advisor for further terms as it deems fit.

4.8.4 The Advisors shall have no vote.

4.9 **Distinguished Fellows**

4.9.1 There shall be established an award of Distinguished Fellow of SEARCC as the highest award granted by SEARCC to individuals who have made exceptional contribution to SEARCC and to individuals from The Region who have made exceptional contribution to the advancement of information technology.

4.9.2 The Executive Council shall be empowered to promulgate rules from time to time governing the award of the Distinguished Fellow.

4.9.3 The Executive Council may at its absolute discretion constitute panels of reviewers as it deems necessary to be comprised of such persons as appropriate to review proposals for the grant of the Distinguished Fellow award.

ARTICLE V

BUDGET & SUBSCRIPTION

- 5.1 The budget of SEARCC shall be as determined by the Executive Council annually in advance.
- 5.2 For the purpose of establishing or varying the rate of membership subscription to SEARCC, the consensus of two-thirds of the membership of SEARCC must be obtained.
- 5.3 The Executive Council shall determine the method of contribution of funds to SEARCC and the disbursement thereof.
- 5.4 The cost of administration of the Secretariat shall be borne out of funds to be provided by members of SEARCC.
- 5.5 The accounts of SEARCC shall be audited by a firm of auditors duly authorised by law to carry out the audit.
- 5.6 The Secretariat shall prepare financial rules from time to time for the administration of funds under its charge, and such rules shall be approved by the Executive Council and promulgated as a schedule appended to the Constitution.

ARTICLE VI

RELATIONSHIP with other INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION & AGENCIES

- 6.1 SEARCC may cooperate with any other regional or international organisation and agency whose interests and activities are in conformity with the aims of SEARCC.
- 6.2 SEARCC may establish effective working relationships with any other international organisation or agency for the purpose of furthering the aims of SEARCC.
- 6.3 SEARCC may affiliate to any other international organisation or agency which contributes to similar aims as that of SEARCC.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

- 7.1 Proposals to amend these Articles must be submitted to the President of the Executive Council no less than six months prior to the next meeting of the Executive Council at a Regional Conference.
- 7.2 The President shall submit to members of the Executive Council the proposed draft amendment in full at least three months before the scheduled date of the meeting of the Executive Council at the next SEARCC Conference.

- 7.3 The proposed amendments shall become effective upon receiving the approval of two-thirds majority of the total membership of the Executive Council meeting during a Regional Conference.

ARTICLE VIII

INTERPRETATION

- 8.1 Any question or dispute concerning the interpretation of these Articles shall be decided by the Executive Council whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE IX

SAFEGUARDS

- 9.1 These Articles shall operate without prejudice to the laws of the countries represented in SEARCC.
- 9.2 Members of SEARCC shall not intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any of the members of SEARCC.

ARTICLE X

DISSOLUTION

- 10.1 SEARCC as an organization may only be dissolved upon a resolution at an Executive Council meeting, by a two-thirds majority vote out of the total "Full members" of SEARCC. Such Full Members who are unable to be present at the said Executive Council Meeting are eligible to vote by any other means acceptable to the Executive Council agreed by a simple majority three months prior to the said Executive Council meeting.
- 10.2 Such resolution to dissolve SEARCC, and the reasons for doing so, shall be submitted to the President in writing by the proposing Full member, and seconded by another Full member, not less than six months prior to the said meeting of the Executive Council.
- 10.3 If the Executive Council resolves to dissolve SEARCC, then any funds remaining after all liabilities have been met, shall be disbursed according to a formula to be approved by the said Executive Council meeting referred to in 10.1 above.

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