

**Articles of Association
of the
Asia Pacific Branch
of the
International Union against
Sexually Transmitted Infections

(IUSTI-Asia Pacific)**

Tuesday 16th October 2012
Melbourne
Australia

ARTICLE 1 – General Provisions

- The Asia Pacific Branch of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections, hereafter referred to as IUSTI-Asia Pacific, is a voluntary body of unlimited duration, without political, religious or social ties. It is a non-profit association registered in and subject to the laws of, with particular reference to the Non-profit Associations Act , date.
- IUSTI-Asia Pacific is an autonomous branch of the global organisation called the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections, hereafter referred to as World IUSTI, which is a charity subject to the laws of England and Wales (registered on 10 March 2006 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales as charity number 1113234). IUSTI-Asia Pacific is, and will remain, financially independent of the World IUSTI.
- The remit of IUSTI-Asia Pacific extends to all countries within Asia and Pacific,,as defined by the World Health Organisation (WHO), In addition, the Regional Branch shall, at its discretion, include national organisations not affiliated to the Regional branch, and Union Members in areas or countries not covered by other Regional branches of IUSTI, (for example United Arab Emirates).
- The official language of IUSTI-Asia Pacific shall be English.

ARTICLE 2 – Objectives

- To promote high standards in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted and transmissible infections (STI), including infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), blood-borne viruses and the endemic treponematoses.
- To promote improvements in the public health through better prevention and control of STI, including HIV, other blood-borne viruses and the endemic treponematoses.
- To raise awareness of the importance of STI to the health of individuals and the public health, amongst governments, appropriate national and international organisations, and the general public.
- The objectives of IUSTI-Asia Pacific may be advanced through a range of activities, to include the following –
 - The organisation and sponsorship of Asia Pacific congresses for the exchange of information.

- Representation at relevant national, regional and international meetings.
- Encouragement of the membership to contribute to public health programmes for the control of STI.
- Co-operation with appropriate international organisations e.g. WHO offices for South East Asia and Western Pacific, and UNAIDS
- Support of national societies within Asia Pacific with similar aims and objectives, and the encouragement of the creation of such national societies where they do not already exist.
- The production and issuing of reports, bulletins and newsletters.
- The maintenance of a website. This may form part of an umbrella website maintained by World IUSTI.
- Organisation of training courses, and support for appropriate training courses within Asia Pacific organised by other societies or individuals.
- Activities designed to increase public awareness of STI and HIV, particularly amongst members of vulnerable and high-risk groups, and the promotion of appropriate preventative measures.

ARTICLE 3 – Governing Bodies and Officers

- The governing bodies of IUSTI-Asia Pacific are the General Meeting, which all members of IUSTI-Asia Pacific are entitled to attend, and the Board.
- The governing bodies decide the policy of IUSTI-Asia Pacific. IUSTI-Asia Pacific is administered by the Officers, who are elected, with the exception of the Regional Director who is appointed by the World IUSTI, and by agreement with the Regional Branch
- The Officers are –

The Regional Director
 The Chair
 Immediate Past Chair
 The Secretary
 The Constitution and Membership Secretary
 The Treasurer
 Five Vice-Chairs, East Asia, Oceania Pacific, South Asia, South East Asia, and West Asia

ARTICLE 4 – Membership

Individuals, groups, associations, societies or organisations who are members of the World IUSTI, and who work, reside or are based within Asia Pacific, *or other countries as determined by the Board*, will automatically be members of IUSTI-Asia Pacific.

ARTICLE 5 – The Board

The Board of IUSTI-Asia Pacific consists of the eleven Officers

In addition there shall be Members of the Board, as follows (ex officio)

- Representative of COTTISA
- Representative of IASSTD
- Representative of Universities of Sydney and Melbourne
- Representative of other professional organisations with which IUSTI Asia Pacific has a MOU, or proposes to have, eg ASHA and ASHM
- A Technical Advisor for NGOs in the Region
- Other persons, as deemed necessary by the Board

Election and Removal of Officers

- Officers must be current members of the IUSTI.
- The Regional Director is appointed by the World IUSTI, in association with and by agreement with the Officers of IUSTI-Asia Pacific
- The Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer will be elected by the Board, either through an electronic ballot conducted by the Secretary (or by one of the other Officers in the case of the election of a new Secretary), or by a show of hands at a meeting of the Board. A simple majority amongst those casting a vote will result in the candidate being elected. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have the deciding vote (or the Regional Director in the case that a new Chair is being elected).
- Suitable candidates for elections will be established by a nominations committee to consist of three persons: the Regional Director, the Chair (or other Officer if a new Chair is being elected) and a third member chosen from the Board by the Chair (or Regional Director if a new Chair is to be elected). The nominations committee will seek nominations of suitable individuals, and will narrow the choice down to not more than two candidates; the final choice to be decided by an election, as detailed above.

The term of office for the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary shall be four years. After completion of a term they shall be eligible for re-election provided they have not already served three continuous terms in the same position.

- With the exception of the Regional Director who is appointed by the World IUSTI, Officers will be removed from their positions if –
 - They choose to resign.
 - They cease to be members of the IUSTI.
 - They fail to attend three consecutive Board meetings.
 - Their term of office expires and they are not re-elected.
 - If they are deemed by the Board to have significantly under-performed in those duties which might reasonably be expected of them, or if they have behaved in a way which might bring IUSTI-Europe into disrepute. The decision to hold a vote on this will be triggered if the other three Officers, or six Board members, make the request in writing to the Chair (or to the Regional Director if the position of the Chair is being called into question). The decision to remove an Officer requires a two-thirds majority among Board members who cast a vote. The Officer concerned is not entitled to a vote.

Election and Removal of National Representatives

- National representatives must be current members of the IUSTI.
- National representatives may be nominated by the national specialist societies in the countries concerned, or by existing Board members. Suitability for appointment will be decided by the Chair and Regional Director. If the Chair and Regional Director believe that there is more than one suitable candidate, or if they cannot agree, then the decision will be made by a vote of the full Board, either electronically or at a Board meeting (as outlined above).
- The term of office for Board members shall be four years. After completion of a term they shall be eligible for re-election provided they have not already served three consecutive terms.

Board meetings:—shall normally be held at least bi-annually, to coincide with bi-annual Regional Conferences

- Sessions will be run by the Chair. In the absence of the Chair, sessions will be run by another Officer designated by the Chair, or, in the absence of any Officer, by another Board member designated by the Chair.
- The Secretary will inform Board members of the date and place of a meeting at least 4 weeks in advance.

- A written agenda of the business to be conducted at each Board meeting will be drawn up by the Secretary in consultation with the other Officers. All Board members will be invited by the Secretary to submit items for the agenda. The agenda and supporting papers will be circulated by the Secretary to Board members at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting.
- Written minutes of the business conducted at Board meetings will be produced shortly afterwards by the Secretary and circulated immediately to the other Officers. These draft minutes to be formally approved as an item of business at the next meeting of the Board.
- A written financial report will be prepared by the Treasurer for each Board meeting.

Powers of the Board

The Board has the following powers –

- To establish sub-committees and short-life working groups, and to delegate powers to such sub-committees and groups.
- To decide upon payment of reasonable expenses for members acting in execution of the business of IUSTI-Asia Pacific.
- To decide upon a policy on declaration of interests by members.
- To set rules of procedure for the conduct of business.

ARTICLE 6 – General Meetings : shall normally be held bi-annually, to coincide with bi-annual Regional Conferences

- The General Meeting is the highest authority within IUSTI-Asia Pacific.
- The date, time and venue of a General Meeting will be arranged by the Secretary in consultation with the Chair and other Officers.
- At least 4 weeks notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given to members by the Secretary. This will be accompanied by information regarding major items of business or policy to be discussed at that meeting.
- Any documents to be discussed at a General Meeting shall, if possible, be circulated at least 2 weeks in advance.
- All current members of IUSTI-Asia Pacific shall be entitled to attend General Meetings.

- In the case of affiliated organisations (see Article 4 above) one representative of each such organisation shall be entitled to attend General Meetings.
- Each member, or representative of an affiliated organisation, shall be entitled to one vote on each item of business on which a vote is conducted.
- At least six members of IUSTI-Asia Pacific must be present at the meeting for it to be quorate.
- General Meetings shall be chaired by the Chair, or by another Officer or Board member in their absence.
- Major items of business or policy presented at a General Meeting shall be passed or rejected by a simple majority on a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the person chairing the meeting will have the deciding vote.
- Minutes of a General Meeting will be drawn up by the Honorary Secretary shortly after the meeting and immediately circulated to the other Officers. These draft minutes will be formally approved as an item of business at the next General Meeting.
- A written financial report shall be produced and made available to all members.

ARTICLE 7 – Amendments to the Articles of Association

- An amendment to the Articles of Association requires the support of at least two thirds of the persons present and voting at a General Meeting.
- If the proposal is to amend the objectives of the association (see Article 2 above) then the consent of at least 90% of the members of IUSTI-Asia Pacific is required. This consent can be obtained in writing from members not present at the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 8 – Dissolution

- The association will be dissolved if –
 - It declares itself bankrupt.
 - If its membership falls to less than three people.
 - By resolution at a General Meeting. Such a resolution requires a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

- Once the decision to dissolve the association has been made, a resolution will be made to transfer any assets, following payment of outstanding debts and any other financial liabilities, to another organisation whose objectives are compatible with those of IUSTI-Asia Pacific. This resolution to be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting.