

Rules for the Asian Region of the IOI (Regional By-laws)
(amended on 24 June 2022)

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 Ombudsman undertake their duties according to legislative powers conferred upon them;

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

AND WHEREAS the IOI By-laws establish the Asian Region of the IOI (the Region);

NOW THEREFOR this document records the Rules for the operation of the Region and the election of four Directors including a Regional President of the IOI, adopted by the Ombudsman of the Region.

- (1) The members of the Region shall be those Ombudsman of the Region who shall be admitted to membership of the Region by the IOI.
- (2) The organization and handling of the Region's affairs shall be the responsibility of the Directors of the IOI 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 of vote of the Directors. The Director elected as Regional President under Article 22 (3) (b) of the IOI By-laws shall act as Chairperson of the Directors.
- (3) The Regional President shall act as Chairman for meetings of members of the Region dealing with the IOI 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) (a) 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 IOI World Conference is held, the Regional Conference shall be held as part of the IOI World Conference. Also, the regional meeting can be held on the occasion of other meetings or conferences where members of the Region can participate.

(b) Apart from the regional meeting, the Directors may, should the need arise, communicate for decision-making by any means, including e-conference, e-mail, or facsimile.

(6) (a) The members shall elect the Directors and the Regional President, to which the Region is entitled by virtue of Article 11 (1) (c) of the By-laws of the IOI prior to the IOI World Conference and General Assembly, by a date established by the IOI General Secretariat. 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 by election 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 or e-ballot organized by the Regional President. . In case the Regional President is leaving office, the ballot may be organized by one of the other Directors or – if agreed upon by all the Directors – with the support of the IOI General Secretariat. The term of a Director elected under this paragraph, shall not exceed the term of the other Directors.

(c) In circumstances where the position of a Director becomes vacant more than 1 year prior to the next IOI World Conference, such vacancy shall be filled by election according to 6(b). If a vacancy occurred within 1 year prior to the next World Conference, it shall be automatically filled by the successor appointed by the organization the retired Director belonged to, for the remaining period of time, i.e. not exceed the term of the other Asian 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 IOI.

(9) The Regional President carries out duties under Article 22 (4), (5), (6), and (7) of the IOI By-laws. The institution where the Regional President belongs to will perform the duty of the Regional Secretariat.

(10) The members may by 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 e-mail, facsimile, or post.

(11) A Voting member in good standing, who is unable to attend the regional meeting, may participate in the vote by proxy. Proxy vote requests can be made in writing and must be received by the Regional President.
