

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF CHINESE OVERSEAS**  
**Constitutions and Bylaws (revised Aug. 20, 2015)**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of the organization shall be The International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas, Incorporated (ISSCO). The Chinese name of the organization shall be *Shijie Haiwai Huaren Yanjiu Xuehui* (世界海外華人研究學會).

**ARTICLE II PURPOSES**

The purposes of the Society shall be:

- (a) To form a scholarly, nonpolitical, and nonprofit professional organization of all persons interested in and committed to the study of Chinese overseas;
- (b) To promote interest in and scholarly study of Chinese overseas in schools, universities, professional organizations, government agencies, and community organizations;
- (c) To promote cooperative activities and exchange of information within the field of the study of Chinese overseas;
- (d) To facilitate contact and exchange of information between scholars and scholarly organizations interested in such studies;
- (e) To provide means for the publication of scholarly research and other materials designed to promote such studies;
- (f) To support library and museum projects designed to enhance research in such studies;
- (g) To advance widespread recognition and constant improvement of professional standards in the study of Chinese overseas; and
- (h) To organize and support national and international forums or conferences on topics related to the study of Chinese overseas.

**ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership shall be open to all individuals and institutions committed to the purposes of the Society and shall be divided into such classes as may be defined in the Bylaws.

Section 2. Members in good standing and with voting rights, as defined in the Bylaws, may vote at the Membership Meeting and at such special Membership Meetings as may be called by the Board of Directors as prescribed in the Bylaws.

Section 3. Only members in good standing and with voting rights are eligible to hold elected or appointed offices.

Section 4. Membership dues shall be paid annually, except by those classes of members exempted by the Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Society shall be governed by a Board of Directors, the constitution and election of which shall be as provided in the Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall have authority to execute on behalf of the Society all powers and functions of the Society that are consonant with the Constitution and Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE V REGISTERED HEADQUARTERS AND AGENT**

The registered headquarters of the Society shall be located in an internationally recognized or accredited institution of higher education or of research, as designated by the Board of Directors and provided in the Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE VI LANGUAGES**

The business of the Society shall be conducted in English. Chinese, Spanish, and other languages may be used in scholarly conferences and publications sponsored by the Society, preferably with translation into English, if such service is available.

#### **ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These articles in the Constitution may be amended by the members by mail ballot, provided that a proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the votes cast.

Section 2. Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by five (5) percent of the members in good standing. The Board of Directors shall have the proposed amendment circulated to the members and it shall allow sixty (60) days for the return of ballots.

## **BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY**

### **ARTICLE I ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. The International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO) is a general membership organization consisting of individual members.

Section 2. The Society shall create, designate, or recognize and disassociate or dissolve affiliated regional groupings established with the similar purposes as the Society.

(a) Such grouping above shall adopt and maintain its own bylaws or rules of procedure consistent with the Society's Bylaws, elect or appoint its own officers, and engage in publishing and program activities appropriate to its purposes;

(b) Such grouping shall contribute regularly news and information to ISSCO bulletin or newsletter and shall submit an annual report to the Board of Directors of the Society.

### **ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in the Society is open to individuals and institutions committed to the purposes of the society. Upon payment of required membership dues and approved by the Board, such individuals or institutions become members in good standing.

Section 2. Membership in the society shall be divided into the following categories:

- (a) Regular Member -- A regular member is required to pay an annual membership fee.
- (b) Student Member -- A student who is enrolled in college or university. A student member is required to pay an annual membership fee. Student membership may be held for no more than five years.
- (c) Invited Members -- A person invited by the Board of Directors.
- (d) Life Member -- A person who pays a required life membership fee, and whose membership is approved by the Board of Directors.
- (e) Patron -- A person who makes a donation at a minimum level determined by the Board of Directors, and whose membership is approved by the Board of Directors.
- (f) Honorary Member -- An honorary membership selected by the Board of Directors.
- (g) Institutional Member -- An institution of higher education or research organization which pays an annual institutional membership fee, and whose membership is approved by the Board of Directors.
- (h) Corporate Member -- A corporation which pays an annual corporate membership fee, and whose membership is approved by the Board of Directors.

- (i) **Affiliated Organizational Member** – A community organization or NGO with similar interests and objectives as ISSCO that pays an annual affiliated organization membership fee, and whose membership is approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall set the annual membership fees for all categories of membership, and include the membership fee structure as an appendix to the By-Laws. Changes to the appendix of membership fee structure only require the approval of the Board of Directors. The one-year period used to calculate the annual membership fee shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. All members in good standing in categories (a) through (f) have voting rights in the Society at membership meetings and special membership meetings. "Good standing" is lost when fees are six months in arrears.

Section 5. All categories of members shall receive the official bulletin and such publications as may be designated by the Board of Directors for distribution to members.

Section 6. For just cause, a member may be deprived of membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors, subject to appeal to the members for reinstatement at the next membership meeting.

### **ARTICLE III GOVERNANCE**

Section 1. Governance of the Society shall be vested in the members, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The members of the Society shall constitute the final authority of the Society and shall elect from their number the officers and directors on the governing board of the society as provided in these bylaws. The term for the officers and directors shall be three (3) years.

Section 3. The Board of Directors of the Society shall consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Past President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, an elected representative from each regional grouping as designated by the Board of Directors -- two (2) representatives from China (Beijing and Taipei), one (1) representative from Hong Kong, and two (2) representatives at large -- and chairs of Membership, Program and Finance committees.

Section 4. The officers of the Society shall include:

- (a) President who shall exercise the duties and responsibilities commonly associated with the office;

(b) Vice President who shall also be the President-elect, shall assume the duties of the President in the event of the absence of the President and such duties as may be assigned by the President;

(c) Secretary who shall have charge of the records and general correspondence as well as keep the membership lists;

(d) Treasurer who shall collect dues and manage the Society's book of accounts.

Section 5. The primary responsibilities of the Board are:

(a) to provide global leadership in advancing the scholarship of Chinese overseas;

(b) to conduct the business of the society;

(c) to raise funds for the organization;

(d) to initiate and support programs and projects in the study of Chinese overseas;

(e) to sponsor, plan, and coordinate international and regional conferences; and

(f) to publish the Society's official bulletin and other publications, such as journals and papers.

Section 6. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be made up of all elected officers and chairs of Membership, Program, and Finance committees. The primary functions of the Executive Committee are to oversee the routine operations of the society and its staff and to appoint the editorial board of the journal which shall be the official publication of the Society. The Executive Committee shall meet as often as needed.

Section 7. The Program Committee shall initiate, review, and approve all programs, projects, and activities of the Society. The Program Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The chair of the committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for the Society's annual budget, raising funds, and developing long-range fund-raising strategies for the Society.

Section 9. The Membership Committee shall be responsible for recruiting members and providing services and support to the membership.

Section 10. The interim Board of Directors shall meet as needed.

Section 11. The Board of Directors shall report its activities to the members through the President in the Annual Report of the President.

## **ARTICLE IV HEADQUARTERS AND STAFF**

Section 1. The Society shall establish headquarters in an institution willing and committed to play host to the Society. The headquarters shall conduct the day-to-day business and activities of the Society.

Section 2. The headquarters or its designated representative shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of the Society's bulletin.

## **ARTICLE V NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1. During the formative period, the Society shall be run by the interim Board of Directors as established by the 1992 LDSG (Luodi Shenggen) post-conference organizing committee. The interim Board shall work toward the first membership meeting no later than early 1995, at which time an election of the officers and board of directors will be held in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society. Thereafter, all interim provisions of these Bylaws shall be void and null.

Section 2. Candidates for elected officers of the Society may be nominated by the Executive Committee or by members.

Section 3. Nominations shall be made known to members before the Annual Membership Meeting.

Section 4. Any twenty (20) members in good standing may nominate an additional candidate for any office, provided the nomination is received in writing by the Secretary at least one week before the Annual Membership Meeting.

Section 5. The Secretary shall inform the prospective nominee of the probable extent of the burden of the office. A nomination becomes effective only upon filing with the Secretary a statement of willingness and ability to devote such time to the affairs of the Society as necessary to the effective execution of office.

Section 6. All election ballots may be secret to be determined by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to examine the eligibility of any voter.

## **ARTICLE VI MEETING RULES AND QUORUM**

Section 1. All meetings of the Society shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 2. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

Section 3. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for transacting business.

## **ARTICLE VII      MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Section 1. A membership meeting shall be held once every three (3) years at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. The membership meeting is open to all members and guests of the Society. Announcements of the time and place shall be sent to members at least one (1) year before the meeting.

Section 2. The membership meeting shall coincide with the Society's sponsored International Conference on the Study of Chinese Overseas.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall designate the time and place of the international conference following a review of the proposals for hosting the conference by various countries or regions. The Program Committee shall develop guidelines for submitting proposals to host the international conference. Such guidelines and any future changes shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Once a time and place is selected, the Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the hosting institution, shall appoint the chair of the Conference Committee. The Conference Committee shall arrange and organize the international conference in accordance with the approved proposal. As a rule, membership of the Program Committee shall be drawn from the host nation or region.

## **ARTICLE VIII      PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS**

Section 1. The initial periodical publication of the Society shall be known as the ISSCO Bulletin. It is the intention of the Society to work toward the publication of an international journal, tentatively known as Chinese Overseas, an occasional Bibliography of Chinese Overseas, and any other publications the Board of Directors may authorize. (These are tentative names).

(a) Journal. The journal shall be a refereed journal.

(b) Bibliography. The bibliography shall be published occasionally, if circumstances permit.

(c) Bulletin. The bulletin shall publish timely notes and news of interest to the members of the Society and of value to the profession. The bulletin shall be published twice a year at the beginning and shall work toward a quarterly publication.

Section 2. The editors of the periodical publication shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. The editor shall nominate an editorial board, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The editors of the periodical publications shall edit and manage their respective publications, prepare annual reports and budgets, and may have authority to make contracts and other necessary arrangements, subject to review or direction by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IX AMENDMENT**

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended by the Board of Directors, provided that a proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the votes cast.

Section 2. Once the Society is fully established, amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by twenty (20) members in good standing. The Board of Directors shall publish the proposed amendment in the Society's newsletter and circulate it to members with the ballot, allowing not less than sixty (60) days for the return of ballots.