

Asian Network For Public Opinion Research (ANPOR)

Constitution (Draft 1.2)

Compiler Notes:

- (1) This document was prepared by Robert CHUNG for discussion at the Business Meeting of ANPOR to be held during the *Asia Conference on Public Opinion Research 2012* held at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok and the Boromrajonani College of Nursing Saraburi, Saraburi, in Thailand from November 27 to 29, 2012.
- (2) During the compilation process, the constitution/operation of the following organizations were studied: World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR), American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), the World Association for Social, Opinion and Market Research (ESOMAR), International Social Science Council (ISSC), and International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). The drafter has also consulted Sung Kyum CHO and would like to thank him for his input.
- (3) This constitution has adopted a “minimal restriction” principle, in the hope of promoting the growth of ANPOR. Once ANPOR becomes more established, members may want to review this constitution in order to set up more check and balance mechanisms.
- (4) Whatever constitution we would finally adopt, there is the question of how to set up ANPOR in the first place, and how the first batch of officers will come into being. There is also a suggestion that we formally set up ANPOR when we meet in Thailand at the end of November 2012. If so, we can do it in the following way:
 - i. The founding members decide the amount of membership fees (separately for 2012 and other years) and the due date for 2012, then sign pledges to pay before the due date in order to become qualified members.
 - ii. Design a system to elect the first batch of officers mentioned in the constitution, and the process can be different from that described in the constitution, because the constitution has not yet come into existence.
 - iii. Adopt the constitution, then all matters will be conducted in accordance with the constitution from that point onwards.
- (5) Another option is to follow exactly the above procedures, but all ANPOR officers will only come into office on January 1, 2013. Before that, they will be called “officer-designates” and start exercising their rights and responsibilities as if they are full officers.

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Article 1. Name.

The name of the organization is: Asian Network For Public Opinion Research, hereinafter called ANPOR.

Article 2. Purposes and Functions.

2.1 The aims and objectives of ANPOR are:

- a) to promote in each country or region in Asia the right to conduct and publish scientific research on what the people and its groups think and how this thinking is influenced by various factors,
- b) to promote the knowledge and application of scientific methods in this objective,
- c) to assist and promote the development and publication of public opinion research in Asia,
- d) to promote worldwide the publication of public opinion research on Asia,
- e) to promote international cooperation and exchange among academic and commercial researchers, journalists and political actors, as well as between the representatives of the different scientific disciplines.

2.2 Functions and activities of ANPOR include, but are not limited to, organizing and sponsoring meetings and publications, encouraging high professional standards, promoting improved research techniques, informing journalists about the appropriate forms of publishing poll results, observing the democratic process and use of polls in elections, promoting personnel training, coordinating international polls, and maintaining close relations with other research agencies. Such agencies include the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR), the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), the World Association of Research Professionals (ESOMAR), and other international and regional professional research associations, as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other United Nations agencies, and private international organizations.

Article 3. Membership.

3.1 ANPOR offers the following membership types:

- a) Individual Membership,
- b) Corporate Membership,
- c) Academic Membership,
- d) Affiliate Membership.

3.2 Individual membership shall be open to all persons in residing or working in Asian countries, who have an interest in the conduct, use, or teaching of

scientific opinion and attitude surveys, social science research, media or communications research, market research, or related activities. Only individual members in good standing shall have the right to vote and hold office.

- 3.3 Corporate membership shall be open to all legal entity or other organization regardless of their legal form, registered in Asian countries, which have an interest in the conduct, use, or teaching of scientific opinion and attitude surveys, social science research, media or communications research, market research, or related activities. Corporate members do not have the right to vote and hold office.
- 3.4 The Council may offer Academic Membership to universities or faculties or schools or units. Academic members do not have the right to vote and hold office.
- 3.5 The Council may offer Affiliate Membership to persons not residing or working in Asian countries, but have an interest in the conduct, use, or teaching of opinion research on Asia. Affiliate members do not have the right to vote and hold office.
- 3.6 Membership in the Association shall not be denied on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, nationality, or political affiliation.
- 3.7 Dues shall be fixed by the Council. They shall be payable on or after January 1, the beginning of the fiscal year, upon notification by the General Secretary and in a manner to be determined by the Council. Members whose dues are not paid by March 1 of each year shall be deemed not in good standing and ineligible to vote or to hold office.

Article 4. Council, Executive Committee, Central Secretariat.

- 4.1 ANPOR shall have a Council and an Executive Committee. The Council shall consist of four officers – President, Past President (if he or she is not also the President), Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer – and all country or regional representatives (“Representatives”). The President, Past President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer shall form the Executive Committee.
- 4.2 The Council, by majority vote of all its members, shall conduct the business and care for the general interests of ANPOR. It shall meet at least once a year in connection with the annual conference. The President shall invite the Council with a preliminary agenda at least six weeks before the meeting. In between the Council meetings the Executive Council will conduct the business and care for the general interests of ANPOR.
- 4.3 The Executive Committee will meet as often as it deems necessary. The President shall decide if the Executive Committee or the Council will deal with respective matters, and the Executive Committee may, by majority vote, decide to submit matters to the full Council. The President must send the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings to the Council members in a timely manner. The Council and the Executive Committee can make decisions between

meetings via mail, phone, fax, or email or other electronic means of communication. Decisions by Council and by Executive Committee require a majority of their respective members.

- 4.4** Council may act on all routine matters on its own authority, but is at all times responsible to the membership for its actions, any of which may be revoked by a majority decision of the members in a general referendum instituted after the written appeal of any twenty members, provided that at least 25% of members participate in the referendum.
- 4.5** All Council Members shall be appointed for a period of two years. Retiring Council Members shall be eligible for re-election.
- 4.6** The President shall be responsible for fulfilling the purposes of ANPOR as its chief representative. He or she shall preside at Council, Executive Committee, and the Business Meeting, and serve as the official representative of ANPOR in its relations with other organizations and the public. He or she shall report from time to time to the membership about his or her activities and the activities of the Council and the Executive Committee during the year.
- 4.7** The Vice President shall act as the President's deputy. He or she shall take over the Presidency if the office becomes vacant.
- 4.8** The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting membership dues and other revenues of ANPOR, for administering the funds of the ANPOR, and for performing such other duties as the Council may prescribe. He or she shall prepare and distribute to all members a report of each Council and Business Meeting and shall submit an annual report to the membership covering his or her activities for the year and the financial situation of ANPOR at the end of the fiscal year.
- 4.9** The President may create, with the advice and consent of the Council, such Special Committees as he or she deems necessary to carry out the purposes and operations of ANPOR. Each Special Committee shall consist of a Chair, appointed by the President and approved by Council, and up to six members, selected by the Chair. It shall serve a limited term of no more than two years. The Chairs of the Special Committees can attend Council meetings, but have no voting rights unless they are themselves Council Members.
- 4.10** A central secretariat (the "Central Secretariat") shall be established and shall be located in such country or city as the Council may determine. The location of the Central Secretariat is therefore independent of either the country or place of incorporation of ANPOR. The Central Secretariat shall be responsible, by delegation from the Council, for the administration of the day-to-day affairs of ANPOR as the Council may prescribe.
- 4.11** The Central Secretariat shall be placed under the direction of a General Secretary assisted by such supporting staff as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Council. The President, in consultation with the Council, shall determine the duties and the responsibilities

of the General Secretary. Other officers who shall serve on the Central Secretariat shall be appointed, and may be suspended and dismissed, by the General Secretary in consultation with the Executive Committee. A member of the Council may simultaneously serve as General Secretary.

- 4.12** The President may appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, among the Members, a representative for each country or region to become a member of the Council.
- 4.13** The term of office for all Council and Committee members shall be two years. The President shall be elected in even-numbered years. Other Executive Committee members will be recommended by the President and approved by the Council. The President, upon completion of a two-year term, will automatically become Past President for a two-year term, unless he or she is re-elected as President. Terms start on January 1.

Article 5. Voting and Conduct of Business.

- 5.1** Decisions by Membership, Council, Executive Council, and Committees shall be by a majority of votes. In order to give all members equal voice in ANPOR, regardless of their geographical location or ability to attend meetings, voting on all elections and matters of basic policy may be carried out by mail, fax, email or other electronic means of communication. Questions raised by two or more Council members as matter of basic policy and supported by any twenty members in good standing must be referred to a vote by full membership. In case of a tie in the full membership vote, the Council shall cast the deciding vote on the side favored by a majority of Council members.
- 5.2** All membership referenda, including elections and other questions, shall be conducted by the General Secretary upon written request from the Electoral Committee. The Electoral Committee and the General Secretary have to conduct the election in a manner which allows for a maximum participation of members and protection of privacy, following whatever guidelines are issued by the Council.
- 5.3** For the election of Presidency a call-for-nominations must be sent out to all members no later than September 1 in a separate mailing (mail, fax, email or other electronic means of communication) presenting two or more candidates. These shall include all qualified nominees with twenty or more votes on the nomination canvass.

These nominations shall be submitted to the regular membership for vote by mail (regular mail, fax, or email) no later than October 1. The Electoral Committee and the General Secretary will take provisions to ensure that voters can be identified as members in good standing but that the anonymity of their vote is protected. Votes received no later than November 1 will be valid.

The Chair of the Electoral Committee will immediately inform the candidates (winners and losers) and the Council. The announcement has to take place

before November 15. The winner will be announced on the ANPOR homepage and via email.

- 5.4 A Business Meeting shall be held once a year to discuss business or professional matters. The place and time of such a Business Meeting should coincide with the annual conference. The purpose of the Business Meeting is to keep members updated on current affairs of the ANPOR, to present reports by officers, and to give the attending members a chance to present their opinion. No binding votes will be taken at the Business Meeting.

Article 6. Treasury.

- 6.1 The financial year of the Association shall coincide with the calendar year.
- 6.2 The Secretary-Treasurer shall submit to the Council an annual report which includes the balance of ANPOR's financial situation and an estimated budget for the coming year.
- 6.3 The expenditure of funds from ANPOR's Treasury to meet routine expenses, such as clerical costs, stationery, postage, and other budget commitments, shall be made by the Secretary-Treasurer. All other financial commitments must be considered matters of basic policy and submitted to the Council. The Council shall decide which of these matters must be subject to approval by the full membership.

Article 7. Language.

The official languages of ANPOR shall be English. The Executive Committee decides upon the working language or languages to be used at each international meeting.

Article 8. Establishment, Amendments and Termination.

- 8.1 This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon its acceptance through a referendum by a majority of members on the rolls at the time of submission. It shall supersede all previous ANPOR agreements. Recognized Council and Committee members at the time of adoption of this Constitution shall continue in office until January 1 following the first election.
- 8.2 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by actions of the Council, or petition of any twenty members. Amendments may be made by the vote of a majority of all members who participate in a referendum by mail, fax, or email and whose votes are received within four weeks of the ballot's submission, provided that at least 25% of members participate in the referendum.
- 8.3 ANPOR shall be considered dissolved upon termination of the Constitution by an absolute majority vote on a referendum or upon its failure to hold a Council or general meeting for three consecutive years. Funds remaining in the Treasury at that time will be turned over to UNESCO, unless other provision is made legally for their disposition.