



*Swiss
Association of
Taiwan*

*Articles of
Association*

SWISS ASSOCIATION OF TAIWAN

Articles of Association

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NAME, PURPOSE AND DOMICILE OF THE ASSOCIATION

- Art. 1 The Swiss Association of Taiwan is a non- political, non-profit seeking association of Swiss nationals and friends of Switzerland residing in Taiwan.
- Art. 2 The purpose of the Association is to:
- foster friendship and contact among the local Swiss community.
 - foster friendship and contact between the Swiss community and friends of Switzerland.
 - act as a liaison body between the local Swiss community and the Swiss Authorities.
 - organize any cultural, recreational or sporting events and/or activities that are in the general interest of its members and the Swiss community in general, in particular organizing the 1st of August Swiss National Day celebrations.
 - to liaise with other national cultural associations in Taiwan with an aim to co-ordinate activities and if possible foster cross-cultural contacts.
 - organize and/or take care of any activity or support that is considered necessary or in the interest of its members.
- Art. 3 The domicile of the Association is at the office of the President or Treasurer of the Association.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

- Art. 4 The Members of the Association are Ordinary Members.
- Ordinary Members are Swiss or Non-Swiss citizens over 18 years of age residing in Taiwan, having declared the wish to become Ordinary Members and having paid the annual membership fee for Ordinary Membership. Corporate membership is possible/welcome, however their membership will reside with 2 people designated as their representatives.
- Art. 5 The number of Non-Swiss Members shall at no time exceed the number of Swiss members.
- In the event of the quota of Non-Swiss Members nearing exhaustion, the addition of Non-Swiss Members can be suspended for some time.
- Art. 6 All members of the Association residing in Taiwan who have paid their membership dues (at the latest at that time) shall have one vote each. Families/couples have 2 votes, but only those present can vote. There shall be no votes by proxy.
- Art. 7 Rights and Obligations of Members:

All members (Swiss & Non-Swiss) have equal rights and shall support as actively as possible the goals of the Association. In particular they should observe the deadlines for the membership-renewal. If they have not paid their membership dues by June 30 of the year, they will cease to be members.

FINANCE AND MEMBERS' LIABILITIES

- Art. 8 Membership dues shall be used to cover the administration expenses of the Association as well as to subscribe to possible losses incurred in organizing social, cultural, or sports activities, or support donations to charities decided upon by the Committee.
- Art. 9 All activities organized by the Association shall be planned to be cost-covering but the Committee at its discretion may decide to run events at a loss provided that the Association's funds permit such a decision.
- Art. 10 The liability of any member of the Association towards third parties shall be limited to the annual membership dues paid to the Association.
- Art. 11 Contribution for all Members within their category shall be identical. Children of members, below the age of 18, pay no contribution. The committee can name members who have a strong track record of contribution or attachment to the association as honorary members. Honorary members cannot vote.

GENERAL MEETINGS

- Art. 12 The General Meeting is the highest organ of the association. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the first quarter of every calendar year. Extraordinary General Meetings will be called by decision of the Committee or whenever ten percent of the Members request it.
- Art. 13 Both Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings are presided over by the President, or in his absence by the Vice-President or by any other Ordinary Member elected for the purpose. In case of even votes, the member presiding the meeting has the decisive vote.
- A Committee Member determined by the Committee keeps the minutes of the proceedings.
- Art. 14 The presence of one tenth of all Members entitled to vote and at least an equal number of Swiss members as there are Non-Swiss Members present is necessary for the Annual General Meeting. If a quorum is not reached at the Annual General Meeting, the member presiding this meeting convenes an Extraordinary General Meeting which is to take place not less than 21 days later. The ordinary Members then present shall form the quorum.
- All decisions and votes in General Meetings are taken by simple majority.
- Art. 15 The Annual General Meeting

- a) The Annual General meeting is convened in writing by the President or Acting President not less than twenty-one days in advance. The invitation to the meeting shall enumerate the matters to be discussed and be accompanied by the audited accounts. Any member present in Taiwan who is entitled to vote may request that a proposition be submitted to the meeting provided such member addressed the proposition to the Committee not less than seven days prior to the meeting.
- b) The Annual General Meeting
 - decides on amendments to and alterations of the Articles of the Association.
 - receives the Committee's report on the activities of the Association during the year under review.
 - examines and approves the accounts.
 - fixes the annual membership fees.
 - elects the Committee for the ensuing year.
 - elects the auditor.
 - discusses and decides on any proposition submitted to the meeting

Art. 16 The Extraordinary General Meeting

- decides on all matters of the Annual General Meeting, if such meeting failed to attain the quorum.
- decides on the dissolution of the Association. At least half of the Members must be present at this Meeting. The dissolution has to be decided if the Membership falls to five members.
- winds up the business of the Association and disposes of the assets. If there is any surplus left after paying all debts this is to be donated to a suitable charity organization in Taiwan.
- discusses and decides on all matters submitted to the meeting by a member eligible to do so.

COMMITTEE

Art. 17 The Committee consists of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and at least two other members and they shall be elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting in every year to hold office until the Annual General Meeting in the ensuing year.

The President must always be a Swiss national and there shall not be more than two non-Swiss Members in the Committee at any one time.

All members serving on the committee act in an honorary capacity.

Vacancies occurring during a term of office may be filled by the Committee co-opting a member in good standing for the rest of the term. The committee can act if three members are present, of whom two must be Swiss Members.

Art. 18 The Committee is presided over by the President or in his absence by the Vice-President, or another member. A Committee member keeps minutes of the proceedings and the membership files.

The Treasurer deals with the financial matters of the Association, collects the contributions and keeps the accounts. Unless it becomes possible for a non-registered association like ours to have their own account, the Treasurer shall keep an association-dedicated bank account in their name to keep the association's funds safeguarded.

The Committee decides by simple majority. In case of even votes, the Chairman has the decisive vote.

Art. 19 The Committee represents the Association against third parties.

All correspondence in the name of the Association shall be signed by one Committee Member, as a rule by the President.

Art. 20 The Committee is convened by the President or by a member designated by the President as often as it is considered necessary.

The committee deals with all matters which are not in the competence of the General Meeting.

Under its responsibility, the Committee can appoint Sub-committees or delegate certain tasks to its members or to any members not serving on the Committee.

Art. 21 The committee will especially

- organize such social, educational or cultural activities which are considered to interest the Swiss community.
- organize the celebration of the Swiss National Day or Swiss groups of persons travelling through Taiwan if the Swiss community may be interested in meeting them.
- contact Swiss citizens or maintain contact with the Swiss Authorities on questions of general Swiss interest.

AUDITOR

Art. 22 Any Member can be elected as Auditor by the Annual General Meeting. The Auditor will examine the books of the Association and ascertain the correctness of the accounts and the existence of the assets.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 23 The Articles of Association can be altered at any time by a General meeting. The text of the amendments must be in the hands of the resident members not less than twenty-one days prior to that General Meeting. Amendments need a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

Based on original of Taipei, November 1991

Revised version approved at the AGM of March 20, 2019.