

RULES OF THE ASIA LEGAL INFORMATION NETWORK

Chapter 1 – Definitions of Terms

Article 1 (Definition)

For the purpose of these Rules,

The term “Asia Legal Information Network” (hereinafter referred to as “ALIN”) means a network of higher education institutions, research institutions, academic organizations, and government departments or agencies in the legal field (hereinafter referred to as “Law Institutions”), established and launched in 2005.

The term “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of ALIN; the Korea Legislation Research Institute (hereinafter referred to as “KLRI”), a government-funded research institute in Korea serves as the Secretariat of ALIN.

The term “ALIN Activities” means all activities planned and organized by the ALIN Secretariat to attain the purpose of ALIN including the ALIN General Meeting and the ALIN International Conference.

The term “Members” means both Law Institutions which have signed and adopted the Charter of ALIN and deposited the signed hard copy to the ALIN Secretariat, and to Law Institutions applied for ALIN membership by submitting applications to the Secretariat that were subsequently approved by Members of ALIN at an ALIN General Meeting.

The term “Observers” means such Law Institutions as that have been granted observer status in ALIN by the Secretariat.

The term “Partners” means non-profit organizations, research and educational institutions, governmental organizations, or international organizations (hereinafter referred to as “Organizations”) which have entered into a partnership agreement with the Secretariat.

Chapter 2 – Purpose and Functions

Article 2 (Purposes)

The purpose of ALIN is to provide a collaborative platform for the exchange of legal information by communication, cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among the Members and the Partners of ALIN with the aim of strengthening institutional capacities.

Article 3 (Functions)

To fulfill the purpose set forth in Article 2, ALIN shall:

(1) promote the exchange of legal information among Members and Partners; facilitate a network of legal experts – legal scholars, legal practitioners, and government officials – for exchanging experiences and expertise; and carry out other functions as it deems necessary.

Chapter 3 – ALIN Activities

Article 4 (ALIN General Meeting)

1. The ALIN General Meeting (hereinafter referred to as “General Meeting”) shall be held annually.
2. The KLRI, as the Secretariat, shall be a co-host of the General Meeting. Any Member may host the General Meeting jointly with the Secretariat, a decision which is subject to approval by the Members at the preceding General Meeting.
3. In case such approval may not be rendered by the Members at the preceding General Meeting, the Secretariat shall facilitate further discussion and coordination via other communication methods including but not limited to emails and phone calls, and induce an agreement among the Members. When no consensual agreement is reached despite continued discussion and voting coordinated by the Secretariat by the end of December of the preceding year of the ALIN General Meeting, the Secretariat reserves the right to appoint a co-host, provided that the Secretariat secures the appointee’s consent, regardless of disagreements of other Members.
4. The General Meeting shall comprise the representatives of Members and the Secretariat. The Secretariat may invite Partners and Observers to the General Meeting.
5. The representative of the co-hosting Law Institution shall take the role of the Chairperson of the General Meeting.
6. A Member shall be represented at the General Meeting by:
 - (1) Chancellor or Dean (or their equivalent) of higher education institutions;
 - (2) Head or President (or their equivalent) of research institutes and academic organizations;

- (3) Director-General (or its equivalent) of governmental departments or agencies; or
- (4) A person duly authorized by the aforementioned representatives.
- 7. The agenda prepared by the Secretariat shall be reviewed and discussed at the General Meeting, and if necessary, shall be adopted, approved, or decided by the Members in presence. Without prejudice to any approval or decision by the Members, Partners and Observers may engage in the process of review or discussion.
- 8. Any approval or decision at the General Meeting shall be made by consensus among the representatives of the Members in presence.

Article 5 (ALIN International Conference)

- 1. The ALIN International Conference (hereinafter referred to as “International Conference”) is a flagship academic event where Members exchange their expertise and experience.
- 2. The International Conference shall be held annually as a back-to-back event with the General Meeting.
- 3. A Member which hosts the General Meeting jointly with the Secretariat shall be a co-host of the International Conference.
- 4. A co-hosting member shall coordinate with the Secretariat in planning and organizing the International Conference.
- 5. An opportunity to participate in the International Conference shall be preferentially given to legal experts associated with Members.

Article 6 (Other Activities)

To achieve the purpose set forth in Article 2, ALIN may undertake the following activities:

- (1) academic and capacity building activities such as joint research, conferences, seminars, symposia, lectures, and training programs;
- (2) exchange of publications, legislative information, statutory resources, and other relevant materials;
- (3) exchange of legal experts – legal scholars, legal practitioners, and government officials – for lectures, talks, sharing experiences, or short- and long-term research; and
- (4) other activities as may be mutually agreed upon by Members.

Chapter 4 – Secretariat and Financing

Article 7 (Secretariat)

1. The Secretariat shall be the chief executive and administrative body of ALIN.
2. KLRI shall serve as the Secretariat; and the President of KLRI shall be the Director-General of the Secretariat.
3. Responsibilities of the Secretariat are:
 - (1) to organize the General Meeting and International Conference;
 - (2) to plan and organize other ALIN activities;
 - (3) to manage and operate general affairs of ALIN;
 - (4) to provide administrative support for ALIN;
 - (5) to maintain the ALIN website (www.e-alin.org); and
 - (6) to review and carry forward activity suggestions proposed by Members.

Article 8 (Financing)

1. ALIN activities and administrative expenses for ALIN shall be financed by the Secretariat.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a co-host of the General Meeting and International Conference shall make financial and/or in-kind contribution to the General Meeting and International Conference, unless otherwise agreed upon with the Secretariat.
3. Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a co-host of other ALIN activities may make voluntary financial and/or in-kind contribution to such activities.
4. Notwithstanding paragraph (1), Partners and Observers may make voluntary financial and/or in-kind contribution to any of the ALIN activities.
5. A total budget for the ALIN activities and administrative expenses for each budgetary year shall be drawn up in accordance with KLRI's internal budgetary policy and be subject to KLRI's available financial resources.

Chapter 5 – Members, Partners, and Observers

Article 9 (Members)

1. Membership in ALIN is open to any Law Institution which subscribes to the purpose of ALIN under Article 2.
2. A Law Institution which intends to become a Member shall express its interest, with a formal request for the membership application, to the Secretariat.
3. The Secretariat may, after a careful review of the membership application filed by a Law Institution, reject the application.
4. The admission of a new Member shall be decided upon at the General Meeting.

Article 10 (Rights and Obligations of Members)

1. Members shall enjoy their rights on equal terms and discharge their obligations in good faith.
2. Members shall be entitled to host any of the ALIN activities jointly with the Secretariat.
3. Members shall be entitled to be invited to any of the ALIN activities.
4. Members shall be entitled to propose a new ALIN activity by submitting a proposal to the Secretariat.
5. Members shall cooperate with the Secretariat's request for their active participation in and contribution to ALIN activities.
6. Members shall not engage in conduct which may prejudice the reputation of ALIN; nor shall Members falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation of other Members.

Article 11 (Withdrawal, Suspension and Termination of Membership)

1. A Member may withdraw from membership at any time by submitting a written notice of the withdrawal to the Secretariat. The withdrawal shall become effective and irrevocable three (3) months after the date of receipt of the withdrawal notice.
2. A Member which fails to meet its obligations under these Rules or fails to participate in the General Meeting in three (3) consecutive years without any justifiable reason may be suspended from membership by the Secretariat. A suspended Member may not enjoy the Member's rights under these Rules.
3. The Secretariat may request that a suspended Member's membership be terminated. The termination of membership of a suspended Member shall be decided at the General Meeting.
4. A terminated Member shall not be entitled to reapply for membership for no less than five (5) years from the date of the termination decision.

Article 12 (Partners)

1. ALIN may establish a partnership with other Organizations to facilitate ALIN activities.
2. The Secretariat may invite Partners to any of the ALIN activities. The Partners shall be responsible for their own travel expenses.
3. Partners shall be permitted to participate in ALIN activities but shall not interfere in any way with the conduct of the ALIN activities.

Article 13 (Observers)

1. The Secretariat may invite a Law Institution to the General Meeting as Observer for introduction of the Law Institution to Members. The Secretariat may bear the travel expenses of a representative of the invited Law Institution.
2. The Secretariat may, upon request, invite a Law Institution to any of the ALIN activities as Observer for its participation. The representative from the invited Law Institution shall be responsible for their own travel expenses.
3. Observers shall be permitted to participate in ALIN activities but shall not interfere in any way with the conduct of the ALIN activities.

Chapter 6 –Dissolution of ALIN

Article 14 (Dissolution)

1. In cases where the Secretariat may no longer finance ALIN activities and administrative expenses for ALIN due to changes of KLRI's internal budgetary policy or KLRI's lack of available financial resources, the Secretariat may request the dissolution of ALIN at the General Meeting.
2. The dissolution of ALIN shall be discussed and decided upon by the Members present at the General Meeting.
3. The dissolution of ALIN shall become effective and irrevocable six (6) months after the date of the dissolution decision.
4. Notwithstanding the dissolution of ALIN, any ALIN activities planned and organized prior to the dissolution decision may be held as planned and organized, provided sufficient financial and human resources are secured for the activities.

Chapter 7 – Final Provisions

Article 15 (Language)

The official language of ALIN shall be English.