

STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR TIBETAN STUDIES

The International Association for Tibetan Studies (hereinafter IATS) was founded at Oxford in 1979. The following statutes were adopted during the business meeting held at Narita, Japan, August 31st 1989, with amendment adopted during the business meeting at Fagernes, Norway, August 27th, 1992, and again during the business meeting at Oxford, England, September 2003:

1. Objectives

The objectives of the IATS shall be to develop the study of Tibetan culture in all its aspects and to encourage interdisciplinary exchange. The IATS aims to realize these objectives through international co-operation between institutions, individual scholars and working groups. The IATS shall organize international conferences which shall take place every three or four years.

2. Organization

The IATS shall consist of Members, a Board of Advisors, a Secretary General and a President. A Chairperson shall be appointed to host each conference.

3. Membership

Membership shall be free of charge. Those who have attended at least one previous conference will be entitled to full membership. Full Members have the right to vote on any resolution.

4. Board of Advisors

Composition: Persons who acted earlier as Chairpersons as well as other persons of international reputation who may be recommended at the business meeting are eligible for membership on the Board of Advisors. Candidates for election must be Members of the IATS. They must be nominated by a Member other than the candidate, and seconded by another Member.

The Board of Advisors shall consist of not more than thirteen and not less than seven Members. No more than two persons from the same country may be on the Board at the same time. What country a Board member would represent will be determined by that person himself or herself, declared and conveyed to the President or member of the election committee before the election is held. Nominees can only identify themselves as representing a country for which they have reasonable grounds to claim to represent that country's academic community, or in other words, the country in which they have academic employment, or are long-term residents, or have citizenship.

Former Presidents may participate in Board meetings, but without the right to vote.

Board members may stand for re-election repeatedly.

Election of the Board:

Nominations for the board of advisors can be made throughout the course of the seminar. These nominations need to be submitted in writing, and signed by the nominator. Nominators must be members of IATS. (Members are defined as anyone who has presented a paper at an IATS seminar at least two time.) The nominator must be accompanied by a seconder, also a member, and the two together must hand the written nomination to the President of IATS, the Secretary General, or the President's appointed election committee member at any time during the week of the seminar before the business meeting. The last written nominations will be accepted the night before the business meeting, but members can also make nominations, which also need to be seconded, from the floor of the meeting as well.

On the penultimate day of the seminar there will be a business meeting in which one of the agenda items will be to hold elections. All voting members will be given a ballot listing all of the people who have been nominated for the board. The members will be instructed to vote for thirteen people from among the nominees. The votes shall then be tallied by the election committee appointed by the President. The counting shall take place in the room of the business meeting, in full view of the members. The thirteen persons with the most votes will win. However, only two persons at most from the same country can win a seat on the board; thus if more than two from the same country are by chance elected, those from the same country with less votes than the leading two will be cast off the list of winners, and the person(s) with the next largest number of votes who is/are from a different country will win instead. Any ties will be resolved by a separate election. The final result will be at most thirteen Board members, not more than two of whom are from the same country.

Duties: The Board of Advisors shall assist the President and the Chairperson in all matters concerning the activities of the IATS. The Board of Advisors shall elect the Secretary General and make recommendations to the President for a Chairperson of the next conference.

5. President

Duties: The IATS is represented by the President. It shall be the duty of the President to oversee the implementation of the Statutes. The business meeting is to be chaired by the President. The President shall appoint the Chairperson of the conference in the country recommended by the Board of Advisors to host the conference. If the President for any reason is unable to act, the Secretary General shall temporarily execute the duties of the President.

Election: The President is elected to hold office for the period covering two successive conferences. Members who have attended at least two previous conferences shall be eligible to stand as President. The President shall be elected by full members of the IATS in a secret ballot during the business meeting. The candidate who obtains more than 50 percent of the votes cast shall be declared elected. If no candidate obtains a simple majority, a second ballot will be held to decide between the two candidates who obtained most votes in the first ballot. If for any reason this is impossible (for example on account of withdrawals), the election is to be repeated. Members of the Board of Advisors have the right to nominate a candidate, as has any full Member of the IATS if seconded.

6. Secretary General

Duties: The Secretary General is appointed by and among the members of the Board of Advisors. The Secretary General shall co-ordinate the work of the Board of Advisors. The permanent office of the IATS shall be established at the institution to which the Secretary General is attached.

7. Conferences

Organization: The IATS shall organize international conferences which shall take place every three or four years. Such conferences will be known as "The International Seminar on Tibetan Studies" (hereinafter "The Seminar"). The Seminars held under the auspices of the IATS shall be arranged by a local convener who will act during the Seminar as its Chairperson. The final programme of the Seminar should be determined by close consultation between the Chairperson and the President.

Chairperson: The President shall appoint the Chairperson recommended by the Board of Advisors for the country chosen to host the Seminar. The Chairperson shall have full responsibility for the practical organization of the Seminar and the publication of its proceedings.

Participants: The Seminar shall be open to all bona fide scholars with an established interest in Tibet. All participants of the Seminar are expected to deliver a paper on the subject of their choice. The participation of younger scholars in the Seminar shall be encouraged and supported by all possible means. The invitation of observers shall be at the discretion of the President and of the Chairperson of the Seminar.

Business meeting: A business meeting shall be held at each Seminar. A quorum shall be deemed to be present at a business meeting if at least twenty full members as well as the President and/or the Secretary General are participating. The President and the Secretary General may authorize the Chairperson to represent them.

8. Amendments and dissolution

Statutory amendment: The statutes of the IATS can only be changed by a two-third majority of the full members present at a Seminar business meeting. Amendments to the statutes can be adopted by a simple majority of the full members present at a Seminar business meeting.

Dissolution: The IATS shall declare itself dissolved if two-thirds of the full members present at the business meeting of a Seminar should so vote, if the Board of Advisors unanimously declares it dissolved or if on two successive occasions it proves impossible to convene a Seminar.