

Charter of Taiwan Association of Social Workers

First amendment by the first session of the fourth General Assembly of Members on March 25, 1995
Second amendment by the second session of the fourth General Assembly of member representatives on March 9, 1996
Third amendment by the first session of the fifth General Assembly of members on April 11, 1997
Fourth amendment by the second session of the sixth General Assembly of membership representatives on March 4, 2000
Fifth amendment by the first session of the seventh General Assembly of Members on January 6, 2001
Sixth amendment by the second session of the eighth General Assembly of Member Representatives on February 21, 2004
Seventh amendment by the first session of the ninth General Assembly of Member Representatives on February 26, 2005
Eighth amendment by the second session of the tenth General Assembly of Member Representatives on March 7, 2009
Ninth amendment by the second session of the eleventh General Assembly of Members on March 10, 2012
Tenth amendment by the second session of the twelfth General Assembly of Members on March 21, 2015
Eleventh amendment by the third session of the thirteenth General Assembly of Members on March 23, 2019

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1

The Association herein is Taiwan Association of Social Workers (hereinafter referred to as the “Association” or “TASW”).

Article 2

The Association is established in accordance with the laws as a not-for-profit social organization.

The purpose of the Association is as follows: Combining the strength of the social work professionals in the country, the association is committed to the research and development of social work, and facilitates regular communication of social work regarding education, administration, and practice, and technical cooperation and experience exchange with various professional services, so as to elevate the service quality of social work domestically and promote the development of social work profession.

Article 3

The Association takes the administrative regions of the state as the region of the organization.

Article 4

The Association is established in the jurisdiction where the competent authority is located and may establish branch(es) upon application to and approval by the competent authority. The general rules for the organization of the branch(es) shall come into force upon formulated by the Board of Directors and submitted to the competent authority for approval. The setting up or any change to the address of the Association or the branch(es) thereof shall be submitted to the competent authority for review and record.

Article 5

The mandates of the Association are to:

1. Establish a comprehensive education and training plan for social workers and provide social workers with opportunities for on-the-job training and further development;
2. Formulate the certification system for social workers and assist public and private social welfare institutions in the employment of social workers;
3. Stipulate the Professional Code of Ethics for the Social Work as the regulations governing social workers;
4. Undertake matters such as data collection, research and development, compilation and publication of domestic social work professional knowledge and skills;
5. Strengthen experience exchanges with foreign social work groups and organize various investigation and observation activities;
6. Establish the professional image of social workers by means of education and various promotions and strive for the understanding and recognition of social work by the public;
7. Strengthen the connection and collaboration with relevant fields to implement social work and promote the

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localization of social work;

8. Fight for the status and well-being of social workers and protect the rights and interests thereof;
9. Establish the standards and supervision systems for professional social work services;
10. Actively participate in the planning and implementation of various social policies;
11. Other related matters in line with the purpose of the Association.

Article 6

The competent authority of the Association is the Ministry of the Interior.

The end enterprises of the Association are subject to the supervision and oversight of the respective authorities in charge of the end enterprises concerned.

Chapter II Membership

Article 7

The eligibility of membership of the Association:

1. Individual Member: Any individual at the age of twenty or above, who agrees with the purpose of the Association and with any of the qualifications as follows:
 - (1) An individual graduating from the department of social work, or from a social work-related department, who engages in social work;
 - (2) An individual graduating from the department other than social work or social work-related departments, but meet the examination rules of the “Senior Professional and Technical Examinations Regulations for Social Workers” promulgated by the Ministry of Examination, and have been engaging in social work for a minimum of two years.
2. Group Member: Any public or private social welfare entity that agrees with the Association and send a representative to partake in various activities of the Association.
3. Sponsorship Member: Any entity in agreement with the purpose of the Association and with any of the qualifications as follows:
 - (1) Any group or individual who sponsors social work or volunteers to assist in promoting the affairs of the Association;
 - (2) Anyone that sponsors the Association with an annual fund of NT\$1,000 or more;
 - (3) Anyone that sponsors with a single contribution of NT\$300,000 or more, who shall be entitled to the permanent sponsorship membership.
4. Honorary Member: Anyone with special contributions to or achievements in social work may be appointed as an Honorary Member of the Association.
5. Student Member: A student who is studying in the department, group, or institute of social work at a domestic vocational school, college, or university, or a student, who is in the department, group, or institute related to social work, majoring (or double majoring) in social work.

The regulations governing the membership qualification examination shall be formulated respectively.

Article 8

A member (member representative) is entitled to the right to vote as well as the rights to elect, be elected, and recall, with one count of vote, except the Honorary Members, Sponsorship Members, and Student Members.

Article 9

Members are obliged to comply with the Charter, resolutions, and the obligation to payment of membership fees of the Association.

Article 10

A member (member representative) may be subject to a warning or suspension of membership upon the resolution made by the Board of Directors in the event of violation of laws or regulations, or failure to abide by the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, or subject to discharge of membership upon resolution adopted by the General Assembly of Members (Member Representatives) in the event of severe damage to the group.

Article 11

Any member subject to forfeiture of membership or discharge by the resolution of the General Assembly is deemed as an expellee.

Article 12

Any member is entitled to declare withdrawal with reasons from the Association in writing.

Chapter III Organization and Powers

Article 13

The General Assembly is the highest authority of the Association.

In the event of the number of members reaching 300 or more, member representatives may be elected in the ratio of one tenth from different regions, followed by convention of the General Assembly of Member Representatives to exercise the power of the General Assembly of Members.

The tenure of member representatives is three years with the number of representatives and the regulations governing the election thereof to be formulated by the Board of Directors and submitted to the competent authority for review and record before coming into force.

Article 14

The powers of the General Assembly are as follows:

1. Formulation and modification of the Charter of the Association;
2. Election and removal of directors and supervisors;
3. Deliberation and resolution over the amount and means of membership fees, annual membership fees, operating revenues, and membership contributions;
4. Deliberation and resolution over the annual work plan, reports, budgets, and final accounts;
5. Deliberation and resolution over the discharge of members (member representatives);
6. Deliberation and resolution over the disposition of property;
7. Deliberation and resolution over the dissolution of the Association;
8. Deliberation and resolution over any other material matters pertaining to the rights and obligations of members.

The scope of material matters in Subparagraph 8 in the preceding paragraph shall be specified by the Board of Directors.

Article 15

The Association has twenty-one seats of directors and seven seats of supervisors, elected by and from the members (member representatives) to form the Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors, respectively. Regarding the election of directors and supervisors referred to in the preceding paragraph, five alternate directors and two alternate supervisors may be elected concurrently for substitution of director or supervisor in the order of the counts of votes received in the event of absence thereof.

The incumbent Board of Directors may present a reference list of candidates for the next tenure of directors

and supervisors.

Directors and supervisors may be elected via correspondence, but not consecutively. The regulations governing the election via correspondence shall come into force upon approval by the Board of Directors and submission to the competent authority for review and record.

Article 16

The powers of the Board of Directors include:

1. Review of the qualifications of members (member representatives);
2. Election and recall of managing director and President.
3. Deliberation and resolution over the resignation of directors, managing directors, and President;
4. Employment and dismissal of staff.
5. Formulation of annual work plan, reports, budgets, and final accounts.
6. Other matters to be implemented.

Article 17

The Board of Directors has seven seats of managing directors, elected by and from the directors; the directors shall elect one from the managing directors as the President and two as the Vice Presidents.

The President generally manages and supervises the affairs of the Association internally, represents the Association externally, and serves as the chairperson in the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

In the event of failure of performing duties of the President due to certain circumstances, the President is to appoint one of the Vice Presidents to act on his or her behalf. In the event of failure or inability to appointment, the Vice Presidents shall appoint either one to act in the office of President.

In the event of vacancy of the President, Vice President, or managing director, a by-election shall be held within one month.

Article 18

The powers of the Board of Supervisors include:

1. Supervision of the works implemented by the Board of Directors;
2. Audit of the final accounts of the year;
3. Election and recall of managing supervisors;
4. Deliberation and resolution over the resignation of supervisors and managing supervisors;
5. Other matters subject to supervision.

Article 19

The Board of Supervisors has three seats of managing supervisors, elected by and from the supervisors to supervise the daily affairs of the Association; the chairperson of the Board of Supervisors shall be elected by and from the managing supervisors.

In the event of failure of performing duties of the chairperson due to certain circumstances, the chairperson is to appoint one of the managing directors to act on his or her behalf. In the event of failure or inability to appointment, the managing directors shall appoint one from themselves to act in the office of chairperson.

In the event of vacancy of the chairperson, a by-election shall be held within one month.

Article 20

All the directors and supervisors shall serve a tenure of three years without pay and may be re-elected. The President may be re-elected once.

Article 21

Any director or supervisor under circumstances as follows is subject to immediate dismissal:

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1. Forfeiture of membership (member representative qualification);
2. Resignation for any reason, followed by approval from the Board of Directors or the Board of Supervisors;
3. Subject to recall or discharge;
4. Subject to a suspension period over half of the tenure.

Article 22

The Association has one Secretary-General and five Deputy Secretary-Generals, who handle the affairs of the Association under the instructions of the President, along with several other staff, who are employed or dismissed upon nomination by the President and approval by the Board of Directors, followed by a report to the competent authority for record. The dismissal of the Secretary-General shall be firstly reported to the competent authority for review and record, nevertheless.

Article 23

The Association may set up various committees, groups, or other internal work organizations, with the general rules thereof to be formulated by the Board of Directors, which shall come into force upon submission to the competent authority for review and record, and the same applies to the changes thereto.

Article 24

The Association may appoint one Honorary President, several Honorary Directors, and several Consultants each by the Board of Directors with a tenure same with those of the directors and supervisors.

Chapter IV Meetings

Article 25

The General Assembly is convened on a regular or interim basis by the President, and the notice of meeting shall be made in writing 15 days in advance, except for emergency meetings.

The regular meeting is convened once a year, and the interim meetings are held when the Board of Directors deems necessary, or at the request by more than one-fifth of the members (member representatives), or at the request through the letter from the Board of Supervisors.

Article 26

Where a member (member representative) cannot attend the General Assembly in person, he or she may entrust another member (member representative) in writing to act as proxy thereof, and each member (member representative) can serve as proxy to one member or representative.

Article 27

The resolutions of the General Assembly shall come into force with the approval by simple majority of the attendees of the Assembly meeting, which shall be attended by more than half of the members (member representatives). However, the stipulation of and the amendment to the Charter of the Association, discharge of members (member representatives), recall of directors and supervisors, disposal of property, dissolution of the Association, and other material matters concerning the rights and obligations of members require the approval of two-third majority of the attendees.

After the registration of the Association as a legal entity, any changes to the Charter of the Association shall come into force upon approval of three-quarters of the attendees, or the approval from two-thirds of all members in writing. The dissolution of the Association may come into effect upon approval by two-thirds of all members in any given time.

Article 28

The Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors shall convene at least once every six months and call a

joint meeting or an interim meeting when necessary.

A notice of meeting shall be made in writing seven days prior to the convention of meeting referred to in the preceding paragraph, except for interim meeting, and the resolutions of the meeting shall come into force upon approval by the simple majority of the attendees of the meeting, which shall be attended by more than half of the directors and supervisors.

Article 29

The directors shall attend the meeting of the Board of Directors; the supervisors shall attend the meeting of the Board of Supervisors; attendance by proxy is forbidden for either the Board of Directors or the Board of Supervisors. The meeting of the Board of Directors and of the Board of Supervisors may be convened via videoconferencing, as the attendance of directors or supervisors via videoconferencing is deemed attendance in person; however, matters involving election, by-election, recall, or stipulation of organizational regulations may not be adopted by videoconferencing. Any director or supervisor who is absent from the meeting of the Board of Directors or the Board of Supervisors for two consecutive sessions without reasons is deemed resignation tendered. In the meeting via "videoconferencing," the meeting agenda and the contents of resolutions shall be in line with the powers of the directors or supervisors of TASW and in accordance with a collegiate system. Attendance of three directors or supervisors is required for each of the regional meeting via "videoconferencing."

Chapter V Funding and Accounting

Article 30

The sources of funding of the Association are as follows:

1. Membership fee: NT\$1,000 for individual member; NT\$2,000 for group member; and NT\$100 for student member, which is collected upon admission;
2. Annual membership fee: NT\$1,000 for individual members; NT\$3,000 for group member, and NT\$200 for student member;
3. Permanent membership fee: NT\$20,000 for individual member and NT\$60,000 for group member.
4. Operating revenues;
5. Contributions from members;
6. Entrusted incomes;
7. Association Fund and yields thereof;
8. Other incomes.

Article 31

The fiscal year of the Association is based on the calendar year, starting from 1 of January to 31 of December of each year.

Article 32

The Board of Directors of the Association is to prepare the annual work plan, income and expenditure budget statement, and employee remuneration statement two months before the beginning of the fiscal year and submits such to the General Assembly for approval (or to the joint meeting of directors and supervisors for approval when the General Assembly cannot convene as scheduled for any reason), before submission to the competent authority for review and record prior to the fiscal year. Also, within two months after the end of the fiscal year, the annual work report, income and expenditure final account, cash book, balance sheet, property catalog, and income and expenditure statement of the Association Fund shall be prepared and submitted by the

Board of Directors to the Board of Supervisors for audit, returned with an audit opinion statement back to the Board of Directors afterward, submitted to the General Assembly for approval, and finally submitted to the competent authority for review and record before the end of March (or submitted to the competent authority first should the General Assembly fail to convene as scheduled).

Article 33

Upon dissolution of the Association, the residual assets shall belong to the local self-governing body where the Association is domiciled, or the entity designated by the competent authority.

Chapter VI Supplementary Provisions

Article 34

Any matter not specified herein shall be governed by the pertaining laws and regulations.

Article 35

The Charter of the Association shall come into force upon approval by the General Assembly of Members (Member Representatives) and submission to the competent authority for review and record; the same applies to any amendment thereto.

Article 36

The Charter of the Association has been adopted by the third session of the thirteenth General Assembly of Member Representatives of the Association on March 23, 2019.