

Statutes of AFITA and Charter

Charter

Though the population on the earth has not been really exploded yet, we can see clues of food crisis; that is, the lack of food in some of the developing countries is chronic and even major powers are facing the difficulties to balance the productivity and the environmental requirement. As the balance of the food supply and demand is now inevitably under the strategy of the world trading mechanism and the control of the power, it is almost meaningless to solve the crisis within a country. Only the international sharing and cooperation for sustainable food productivity on the basis of information sharing and mutual understanding could bring the solution.

We believe that the information technology can surely contribute to the solution. First, the information communication technology such as the Internet that is now dynamically changing our life style and social consciousness will provide us a best tool for the information sharing and mutual communication. Second, we should not forget the possible contribution of information science to effective and stable production by several models such as crop growth prediction and decision support. Thus, the importance of the studies on agroinformatics is undoubtedly increasing.

The Asian countries are keeping the highest growth rate in the world and the requirement on food is abruptly changing from quantity to quality. In addition, the Asian countries have their individual agricultural features that are not common in the USA or EU countries. The rice-dependency and the farming scale are the typical examples. In this conference, sharing such common features, researchers, engineers, administrators and farmers who are interested in the informatization of the Asian and world agriculture, will join together, exchange information and discuss about agroinformatics which will help us to find some key points to solve the world-wide food problems.

Statutes

Article 1 Name, Legal Status

- 1) The organization is to be called "Asian Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture" --Abbreviated AFITA
- 2) AFITA is to be an autonomous, non-political, non-governmental, non-profit making Association.
- 3) The seat of AFITA shall be determined by the General Assembly.

Article 2 Visions and Mission

- 1) AFITA is the coordinating body and catalyst of its National Member Organizations.
- 2) The purpose of Federation is to promote the Science and Technology of Agricultural Information Technology (IT) in Asia
- 3) AFITA is to promote the exchange of information and experience, the development of knowledge in the area of IT in agriculture in order to enhance the competitiveness of Asian and to promote the awareness of IT in agriculture, by
 - Organizing and sponsoring technical meetings such as congresses, conferences, symposia and workshops.
 - Newsletter and Technical publication.
 - Any other means consistent with these statutes.

Article 3 Membership

- 1) Membership within AFITA is subject to observing the Statutes and all obligations arising there from.
- 2) Full membership of AFITA is to be vested in one body in any Asian country/economy/region representing sufficiently wide national interest or activities relating to quality. To qualify for Full Member status, the national body must be, as the Federation itself, an autonomous, non-political, non governmental, non-profit making association with a membership of at least 10 members. The General Assembly is to determine the eligibility of bodies to join AFITA as Full Members.
- 3) When there are more than two independent national bodies eligible to AFITA Full Membership in a country/economy/region, these bodies are required to jointly apply for the membership as a body by either naming the joined body or listing the original names.
- 4) Companies and individuals who are the members of one of the national organizations with the AFITA full membership can be automatically the affiliate members of AFITA.
- 5) In those countries/economies/regions where there is no national Full Member, Associate Membership is to be open to any individual or institution prepared and qualified to support actively the aims of AFITA. They are called individual Associated Members or Institutional Associated members, respectively.
- 6) An international organization can be an International Institutional Member of AFITA if its activities are approved to be beneficial to AFITA by the General Assembly.
- 7) Honorary Membership may be awarded to a person with outstanding merits for

AFITA on the proposal of the President or the official Representative of a Full Member organization and upon the decision of the General Assembly.

- 8) Each application for membership of AFITA shall be addressed to the AFITA Secretary General.

Article 4 General Assembly

- 1) The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Federation composed of all the member of AFITA.
- 2) A regular meeting of the General Assembly takes place at each international congress convened by AFITA. Such congresses are normally held every two years.
- 3) The General Assembly meeting is to be held every two years.
- 4) The General Assembly meeting is chaired by the President. One of the Board members in order may chair the meeting, if the President is not available.
- 5) Extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly may be convened at the directive of the President or at the request of at least one-third of the Board Members.
- 6) The General Assembly:
 - elects and discharges Board members;
 - approves the action plans proposed by the Board
 - adopts Rules of Procedure in accordance with the Statutes;
 - establishes and dissolves the Committees, Sections and other bodies of AFITA
- 7) At a meeting of the General assembly, each Full Member shall have one and only one vote. Individual Associate Members, Institutional Associate Members and International Institutional Members do not have voting right.
- 8) Each Full Member shall register a voter at the beginning of the General Assembly. The chairman of the General Assembly is to be excluded from this registration.
- 9) All the decisions in the General Assembly are made by majority vote.
- 10) Normally, the chairman does not vote. However, if votes are equally divided, the chairman has the option of casting a placing vote.

Article 5 Board

- 1) The Board is in charge of
 - the bi-annual strategic plan and the annual operational plans.
 - the affairs of AFITA
 - all other activities necessary to ensure the proper functioning of AFITA
- 2) The Board consists of;
 - the Fellow
 - the President
 - the President Elect
 - Vice Presidents
 - the Secretary General
 - the Country/Economy/Region Representatives
- 3) The Board members are elected by the General Assembly for a two year term of office:
- 4) The President and the Vice President must be from the Full Membership country/economy/region.
- 5) Each country/economy/region of Full Membership can nominate three Country

Representatives for the incoming term. A Country who has the nominee for the Vice Presidents must reduce the number of the nominees for the Country Representatives from three to two.

- 6) Each country of Associate Membership can nominate one Board member.
- 7) The Board Meeting is to be held every two years before the General Assembly.
- 8) The Board Meeting is chaired by the President. One of the Board members in order may chair the meeting, if the President is not available.
- 9) Each International Institutional Member has a right to attend the Board meeting.
- 10) The President is elected for a maximum of one term, and the other officers for a maximum of three consecutive terms.
- 11) The Board is entitled to establish Steering Committees, Working Groups or Committees to accomplish efficiently the tasks of AFITA

Article 6 Committees

- 1) Committees and Sections or other bodies may be established by the General Assembly to deal with particular items of its program. They are established and dismissed by the General Assembly according to the needs of AFITA
- 2) Chairpersons and Secretaries of all Committees and Sections will report on activities to the General Assembly at least once per year.

Article 7 Finances

- 1) The resources of AFITA consist of the fees of the Members and grants or gifts.
- 2) The amount of the annual fees of the Members is to be determined by a decision of the General Assembly.

Article 8 Amendments

- 1) The Statutes may only be amended by a decision of the General Assembly taken by three-quarter majority of the votes in an ordinary meeting.

Article 9 Coming into Force

- 1) These Statutes became effective after adoption by the General Assembly on October 27, 2002.

