

出國報告（出國類別：會議）

赴菲律賓共和國參加2018年亞洲選舉官署協會 （AAEA）執行委員會議出國報告

服務機關：中央選舉委員會

職稱姓名：蔡委員佳泓、蔡專門委員金誥、
賴科員宗佑

赴派國家：菲律賓共和國

出國期間：107年10月7日至10月10日

報告日期：108年1月

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壹、會議緣起

「亞洲選舉官署協會」(The Association of Asian Election Authorities, 簡稱AAEA)係由美國「選舉制度國際基金會」(International Foundation of Election System, 簡稱IFES)於1998年推動成立之亞洲區域性政府間國際組織。該協會旨在促進亞洲選舉官署間選舉資訊之交流，並致力推動亞洲國家民主發展，其成員為亞洲地區的全國性選舉官署，我國以Taiwan, Republic of China名稱參與該國際組織，為該協會之創始會員國，曾於2005年、2008年連續擔任主席國6年，卸任後續擔任執行委員國至2014年，2016年AAEA會員大會於菲律賓馬尼拉舉行，本會為了爭取更多機會與各會員國進行交流合作，分享我國成功的民主選舉經驗，於該屆大會中積極尋求成為執行委員國，並獲得會員國之支持，順利當選AAEA執行委員。

AAEA執行委員會由7名執行委員以及執行秘書組成，執行委員會除主席、副主席、前任主席外，其餘4名係由代表南亞、東南亞、中亞及亞洲太平洋地區的會員選出依據AAEA會章規定，執行委員會議每年舉行。AAEA秘書處經徵得各執行委員國同意後，定於107年10月8日於菲律賓馬尼拉舉行2018年執行委員會議，並於10月9日至10月10日舉行「選舉管理機關之獨立性及維護選舉安全」選務研討會。107年8月由AAEA主席、菲律賓選舉委員會主任委員Sheriff M. Abas先生來函邀請本會出席，為履行會員義務，積極參與會務運作，並藉由參與AAEA會議，與各國選務機關進行交流，增加國際能見度，惟考量適值立法院開議期間，且107年地方公職人員選舉及全國性公民投票辦理在即，爰由本會蔡委員佳泓率團與會。

貳、出席會議人員

2018年AAEA執行委員會議，除執行委員會成員地主國菲律賓(主席國)、俄羅斯(副主席國)、印度(前主席國)、哈薩克、吉爾吉斯、印尼及我國，另出席研討會之AAEA會員計有澳大利亞、不丹、孟加拉、柬埔寨、蒙古、尼泊爾、巴基斯坦、巴布亞紐幾內亞、斯里蘭卡及馬爾地夫等，合計17國派員參加會議。我國由本會蔡委員佳泓率團，並由法政處蔡專門委員金誥及賴科員宗佑陪同出席。

參、會議行程

2018年AAEA執行委員會議及「選舉管理機關之獨立性及維護選舉安全」研討會開會期間為107年10月8日至10月10日，本會人員於107年10月7日出發，於10月10日下午研討會結束後即搭機返國，共計4日。有關行程概述如下：

一、107年10月7日（星期日）

本日搭乘中華CI-703班機啟程，傍晚抵達菲律賓共和國首都馬尼拉，菲律賓選舉委員會指派專人於機場接機，安排專車接送本會一行人前往下榻旅館馬尼拉萬豪酒店，本會人員稍作休息後，蔡委員於晚間邀集本會出國人員，就翌日執行委員會議程交換意見。

二、107年10月8日（星期一）

本日上午9時舉行AAEA執行委員會議，由AAEA執行秘書、菲律賓選舉委員會委員 Al. A. Parreno依中亞、南亞、東南亞或亞洲太平洋區一一介紹各國代表。AAEA執行秘書宣布執行委員會議達法定開會人數後，由AAEA主席、地主國菲律賓選舉委員會主任委員Sheriff M. Abas先生先致詞歡迎各執行委員國

代表，確認本次執行委員會議議程，其後依序進行秘書處工作報告、研商AAEA會員大會之召開、澳大利亞選舉委員會及斐濟選舉委員會申請加入AAEA案、修正AAEA會旗設計、2018年11月至2019年3月工作計畫、修正AAEA會章，明定AAEA常設秘書處及研商執行委員會議地點、日期及議程之程序。

本日下午印度選舉委員會簡報介紹該會於2011年成立之民主及選舉管理國際學院(India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management)，隨後由菲律賓選舉委員會簡報及展示該國於2010年全面啟用的電子投票機VCM(Vote Counting Machine)。



AAEA執行委員會議開會情形



菲律賓選舉委員會工作人員向各國代表展示
VCM

三、107年10月9日（星期二）

本日9時至15時舉行選舉管理機關之獨立性研討會，由選舉制度國際基金會(IFES)亞太區主任及維護選舉安全專家Vasu Mohan及 選舉制度國際基金會(IFES)資深顧問George Carmona擔任雙主講人，由主講人就選舉管理機關之獨立性進行學理上的探討，有別於一般演講者與聽講者的單向互動模式，講者在簡報過程中與各國選務人員密集互動討論，隨後由澳大利亞、

孟加拉、尼泊爾、菲律賓、印度及印尼各國代表依序上臺簡報，再邀請菲律賓、印尼、印度等國代表在臺上座談，15時進行維護選舉安全之挑戰及最佳實務研討會之上半場，晚間舉辦歡迎晚宴。



菲律賓選舉委員會主任委員致詞



雙主講人簡報情形



雙主講人簡報情形



綜合座談



菲律賓選舉委員會全體委員穿著菲國傳統服飾與本會人員合影

四、107年10月10日（星期三）

本日上午9時續進行維護選舉安全之挑戰及最佳實務研討會，我國按英文字母T排序，於最後一場次進行簡報，中午研

討會結束後，本會一行人即赴機場搭程中華航空CI-704班機返國，晚間20時許抵達臺灣桃園國際機場。

肆、2018年AAEA執行委員會議情形及重要決議事項

107年10月8日上午9時舉行AAEA執行委員會議，由AAEA執行秘書、菲律賓選舉委員會委員 Al. A. Parreno依中亞、南亞、東南亞或亞洲太平洋區一一介紹各國代表。AAEA執行秘書宣布執行委員會議達法定開會人數後，由AAEA主席、地主國菲律賓選舉委員會主任委員Sheriff M. Abas先生先致詞歡迎各執行委員國代表，確認本次執行委員會議議程，有關會議重要事項摘述如次：

一、確認2017年AAEA會員大會會議紀錄。

二、秘書處工作報告

(一) AAEA執行秘書及秘書處營運長任命案：

AAEA主席及菲律賓選舉委員會主任委員於2018年1月致函各AAEA執行委員會以，依據AAEA會章規定AAEA執行秘書之任命，須經AAEA執行委員會通過後任命，擬提名菲律賓選舉委員會委員Al. A. Parreno為AAEA執行秘書，菲律賓選舉委員會綜合規劃處處長Esmeralda Amora-Ladra擔任AAEA秘書處營運長，嗣經全數AAEA執行委員會函復同意，任命Al. A. Parreno為AAEA執行秘書及菲律賓選舉委員會綜合規劃處處長Esmeralda Amora-Ladra擔任AAEA秘書處營運長，敬請執行委員會追認。

決議：本案通過，任命Al. A. Parreno為AAEA執行秘書及菲律賓選舉委員會綜合規劃處處長Esmeralda Amora-Ladra擔任AAEA

秘書處營運長。

(二) 設立AAEA秘書處及交接文件。

決議：洽悉。

(三) AAEA網站設置與維護。

決議：洽悉。

(四) 財務報告。

截至2018年11月28日為止，AAEA帳戶收入為116,388.25美元，支出53,258.34美元，結餘為63,029.91美元。

決議：財務報告應以國際通用格式編制年度財務報表，即截止日應為12月31日止，菲律賓選舉委員會應自今年起開始編制年度財務報告，其後主席國應循前開原則編製財務報告，另各年度財務報告應予稽核。

(五) AAEA秘書處已於菲律賓土地銀行開設新的AAEA帳戶。

決議：洽悉。

(六) AAEA執行秘書提案：

建請AAEA執行委員提供官方聯繫資料、電話號碼及電子郵件地址，透過視訊會議、電子郵件進行討論或溝通，通知及發送須執行委員批准之文件。

決議：請執行委員登記其官方聯繫資料及電子郵件地址，且同意透過視訊會議及電子郵件進行聯繫，惟於特定情況，作為官方代表或文件簽署者，須經委員會主席或委員會或委員會合議機關決議以書面授權。

三、討論事項：

(一) 有關舉辦2019年AAEA會員大會及執行委員會會議之事宜

1. 依AAEA會章第3.2條規定，AAEA會員大會每2年召開，第3.4.2條規定，主辦次屆會員大會選舉官署之機關首長，應為AAEA副主席。2017年會員大會，俄羅斯主動提案該國主願意主辦次屆AAEA會員大會，爰依上開規定，俄羅斯應為AAEA副主席國，另開會地點不宜位於歐洲之聖彼得堡召開，建議開會地點應於亞洲。
2. 俄羅斯中央選舉委員會說明，因預算爭取未果，爰該國將無法於2019年主辦會員大會，建請執行委員會同意AAEA會員大會延至2020年召開，或另由其他執行委員主辦。
3. 菲律賓認為，俄羅斯應仍持續爭取預算，如延後會員大會之舉行，將導致AAEA無主席國或執行委員會國、或是任期調整等疑慮，建議組成工作小組商討下屆AAEA會員大會主辦國及開會地點。
4. 印度選舉委員會表示願於2019年1月提供工作小組開會場地。

決議：由執行委員會所有成員組成成立工作小組(TWG)，由AAEA秘書處向執行委員會提交其調查結果及建議，2019年1月24日在印度新德里舉行會議，討論以下問題：

1. AAEA應否於各會員國登記註冊為法人，並提出以下附帶問題：
 - a) 是否延長COMELEC的主席任期
 - b) 修正AAEA會章有關下屆大會之日期以及研商舉辦地

點

2. 設立常設秘書處

(二) 澳洲選舉委員會及斐濟選舉局申請加入AAEA。

AAEA秘書處於2018年8月30日，向AAEA執行委員國通知，AAEA主席菲律賓選舉委員會已通過致函邀請各國選舉官署加入AAEA，並經AAEA執行委員會同意確認，致函邀請國家包括：斐濟選舉局、紐西蘭選舉委員會、新加坡選舉部、日本中央選舉管理會及澳洲選舉委員會，紐西蘭選舉委員會、新加坡選舉部均無參加意願，日本中央選舉管理會無回應，澳洲選舉委員會及斐濟選舉局則函復同意申請加入AAEA。

決議：本案通過，將提請AAEA會員大會同意澳洲選舉委員會及斐濟選舉局加入AAEA。

(三) 修改AAEA旗幟之設計

AAEA會旗14道淡黃色光芒代表AAEA先前的會員國數，目前AAEA會員國已增至20國，因此有修改會旗設計必要。

決議：本案將請印度研提會旗設計草案，送交工作小組會議討論。

(四) 修改AAEA會章之提案、常設秘書處、執行委員會議地點、日期及議程訂定程序AAEA會章有關執行委員會組成規定之修正案

決議：本案送交工作小組會議討論。



執行委員國會後合影

伍、菲律賓電子化選舉作業及電子投票機簡介

菲律賓過去在公職人員選舉使用的紙本選票，除印有選舉種類外，並未印有候選人姓名、照片或號次等資訊，亦無圈選工具的設計，投票時選舉人須將候選人的姓名寫在選票的空格上，選票上時有候選人姓名未填寫完整、字跡不清或拼字錯誤情形，如無法寫字的民眾則須選務人員協助，始能行使投票權，投開票作業上常引發許多爭議，2010年5月全國及地方選舉於國內全面實施電子化選舉作業，自動化投票系統功能，包括：投票、開票、計票、投票結果之產出、內部網絡資料的傳輸，以及計票結果的對外公開，全面實施電子投票後，有效降低選舉弊端，以往數以百計的選舉訴訟件數，僅餘個位數，投票機的使用也強化選舉的公正性。



菲律賓投票機、安全磁扣、熱感應紙及選舉票

一、 法規依據：

1995年6月7日菲律賓國會通過第8046號法案(REPUBLIC ACT No. 8046)，首次於1996年民答那峨穆斯林自治區選舉，試辦電子投票系統。1997年12月22日國會通過第8436號法案，以及2007年1月23日通過第9369號法案，賦予菲律賓全面實施電子化選舉作業之法源。

二、 自動化投票系統(AES)：

(一) 菲律賓自動化投票系統係由4大主系統所組成，選務系統(EMS)、投票機(VCM)、計票系統(CCS)及傳輸(Transmission)。選務系統(EMS)，整合投票機設定、候選人登記資料、選舉票、投票所地點及資訊安全等設定與管理。投票機(VCM)，係依每800至1,000名選舉人，於投票所配置1臺投票機。計票系統(CCS)統計個別投票機傳輸之投票結果。傳輸(Transmission)，則是資料由投票機透過網路VPN的設定，將開票結果傳輸至計票系統。

(二) 2016年全國設置9萬



2,509臺投票機。投票機係由菲律賓選舉委員會向美商 Smartmatic公司租用，在臺灣生產製造，VCM使用光學劃記符號辨識技術，配置觸控式螢幕，並具備列印及網路傳輸功能。選舉人領取紙本選票後，在選票上劃記，劃記後由選舉人自行將選舉票插入選票掃描系統，由機器掃描判讀投票結果，本會出國人員曾向菲律賓詢問機器費用，菲律賓選舉委員會未提供具體數據，僅告知機器費用相當昂貴。



選舉人劃記選票



選票掃描系統的選票投入口
及操作介面

選舉人可透過觸控式螢幕確認機器是否正確讀取自己劃記的選票，如正確無誤，按下確認鍵後，投票機即紀錄投票結果，以熱感應紙列印讀取結果之回條，同時將計票結果傳輸至中央計票系統，並於機器內置儲票箱保存收回的選票。為維護投票秘密，選舉人須另將機器印出之回條投入票匭回收，若機器故障無法計票或計票結果遭刪除，仍可依回條進行人工計票。

(三) 選舉票約B4紙大小，可以雙面印製，每頁可容納至少300名候選人，選舉票與公投票可合併印製，選舉票防偽機制，包括浮水印、條碼代表投票所編號、投票日期、選票號碼等，每張選票僅能使用於特定的投票所，又菲律賓係



合併各種選舉於同日舉行投票，選舉種類及候選人數眾多，選票無印製候選人照片設計，候選人姓名字體較小，投票時辨識不易，民眾在劃記選票時，必須以黑筆塗黑圈選處，無圈選工具設計，過程相當耗時，因此菲律賓歷次選舉時有大排長龍現象。

(四) 晚間7時投票結束後，工作人員即關閉機器，於投票所當場開票，開票程序係由投票所工作人員使用電子安全鎖開啟計票模式，及在場監察員3人輸入安全密碼後啟動計票功能，計票機即印製8份計票結果，提供候選人推薦之監票員留存，同時將計票結果透過網路傳輸至地方計票中心、中央計票中心及備援系統，民眾可於網站查閱投票結果。

(五) 本次菲律賓選舉委員會安排各國代表體驗電子投票，在開機過程中，需由若干工作人員以磁扣啟動，再輸入3道密碼等機制，開機程序相當耗時，又本會蔡委員在體驗投票時，置入選票掃描後，卻因熱感應紙卷卡紙，無法印出回條，此時投票機自動退回原先置入掃描的選票，啟動安全機制，工作人員需關閉機器，重置熱感應紙卷，再重啟開機程序，機器也自動恢復到蔡委員未投票前的狀態，全部過程耗費不少時間。



陸、心得與建議

一、持續參與AAEA加強推動國際選務交流：

我國參加AAEA係以正式國名入會，不僅是創始會員國，且是會員國中唯一擔任過兩屆主席國的國家，本會並於2017年再度成為執行委員，我國自AAEA創會以來，本會一直積極參與AAEA會務與活動，對AAEA組織的成長、會務的推展，貢獻甚大。本會亦經由AAEA參與政府間國際活動，展現我國民主政治成就。



AAEA執行秘書、菲律賓選舉委員會委員 Al. A. Parreno向蔡委員致意

AAEA選舉官署協會成立之目的，在於會員間選舉資訊

之分享，同時也藉由召開國際研討會、舉辦觀選活動、進行選舉協助及培訓選務人員等交流合作，攜手推動自由、公平而透明的選舉，進而達成民主深化發展之目的。今後，本會仍應持續積極參與AAEA活動，加強與亞洲各國選舉官署之聯繫，藉以推展我國民主選舉與自由開放政治的國際能見度，建立國際良好形象。

對於本會之與會，菲律賓選舉委員會也給予本會蔡委員特別禮遇，並特別指派2名專責人員全程陪同本會人員，提供必要之協助，並作為本會與該會之溝通橋樑，顯見該會對於本會出席與會之重視及尊重。該會於會議期間對本會出席人員所提供的細心接待。鑑於我國與菲律賓向來有著深厚的邦誼，希望未來兩會可以在此友好基礎上，持續發展合作關係，共同促進選務經驗交流與分享，提升雙方對於管理選舉的能力。

二、運用資訊科技優化投開票所的作業流程

菲律賓在2010年全面實施電子投票，係為減少選舉弊端，強化選舉的公正性，在執行策略上經過10年期間，從修法先於小規模選舉試行，邀請學者、政黨代表及資通訊專家、選務人員等利害關係人組成工作小組，透過無數次的會議研議討論，舉辦體驗模擬投票活動，向社會大眾宣導，並在2010年選舉前，主動公開系統程式原始碼，供各界檢視，強化大眾對自動化系統的信任。電子投票是一項全新的投票技術，亦涉及資訊數位落差、電子投票設備及維修費用高昂、選務人員訓練等問題，層面極為複雜，由於資通訊科技資料處理過程中，一般人不易瞭解資訊系統如何運作，未能如實

體選票「眼見為憑」，對選務作業透明性易有「黑箱作業」的疑慮，選舉機關在「維持選舉公正與信賴」極具挑戰，因此菲律賓選舉委員會在對於投票方式是否讓民眾信任、利害關係人(stakeholders)是否具有共識及強化社會信任方面，下足功夫。

資通訊科技於選務的運用已逐漸成為趨勢，我國在選舉人名冊編造、投票通知單印製、候選人登記、投票所地點以及計票作業等實務上以往純由人工辦理之工作，已逐步配合資訊科技發展，運用資訊系統處理，大幅降低成本並縮短時間，也維持選務服務品質。但在投開票作業方面，仍以人工方式查閱選舉人名冊，選舉人於選舉人名冊上簽名或蓋章或按指印，選舉人領取紙本選票圈選投票，開票作業則在投票結束後，以人工方式當眾唱名開票，投開票所內的作業流程在資通訊運用程度不高，因應資訊科技時代的來臨，我國宜儘早研究規劃，審慎因應，政策過程中須重視利害關係人之參與，廣納各界意見，研議適合我國國情的實施方式，配合資訊科技運用於選舉行政之可行性、選舉機關對資通訊科技之專業程度，善用政策窗(policy window)之時，順應民眾需求與因應環境變化，與時俱進逐步修正相關法律規定，運用資訊科技，提升選務服務品質。

三、增加辦理國際選務交流業務能量：

本會為AAEA及A-WEB會員，並擔任兩項國際組織執行委員，與AAEA、A-WEB及其會員國的互動往來，預料將更為密切頻繁，本會無類似菲律賓等國選委會設置國際事務單位之安排，人力編制強調精簡務實，惟仍能透過同仁之通力

合作，完成辦理各項國際選務交流活動，為增加辦理國際選務交流業務能量，亟須鼓勵本會同仁自我進修，強化外語能力，積極參與AAEA或A-WEB開辦選務人員能力建構課程，開拓國際視野、結識國際友人，並激勵同仁加強外語能力的動機。

附錄
2018年AAEA執行委員會會議議程



Website of the AAEA

- The website of the AAEA can be found at:
<http://asianelectionauthorities.org/index.html>



Financial Report

- Total Deposit(Membership Fees, Net Interest Income): USD 116,388.25
- Total Withdrawals: USD 53,358.34
- Balance as of 28 August 2018: USD 63,029.91



Trainings, Capacity Building Programs for AAEA Members

- Forum on the Independence of EMBs and Election Security on October 9-10 2018 in Manila, Philippines



Agenda Items for Discussion

1. Decision on the conduct of the 2019 AAEA General Assembly and Executive Board Meeting
2. Membership Application of the Australian Election Commission and Electoral Commission of Fiji



Agenda Items for Decision/Approval:

1. Modification of the design of the AAEA Flag
2. Work Plan for November 2018 to March 2019
3. Proposals to Amend the AAEA Charter



Other Matters:

- Development of Procedures for the Formation of Agenda and the place and date of the meeting of the Executive Board (proponent: CEC of Rkaz)



附錄二 2018年AAEA執行委員會會議紀錄

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

MARRIOTT HOTEL, PASAY CITY

OCTOBER 8, 2018 (9:00 AM to 12 NN)

**EXCERPT OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE
BOARD**

PRESENT:

**CHAIRPERSON – COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC),
PHILIPPINES**

Chairman Sheriff M. Abas

*Commissioner Al A. Parreño – Executive
Secretary*

Commissioner Socorro B. Inting

Commissioner Marlon S. Casquejo

Commissioner Antonio T. Kho, Jr.

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON – CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION,
FEDERATION OF RUSSIA**

Mr. Sergev Agadzhanov

(Deputy Director

*Department of International Cooperation and
Information)*

MEMBERS:

1) Election Commission of India (ECI)

Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat

Mr. Umesh Sinha (Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner

(Secretary Level, Government of India)

Mr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar

(Deputy Election Commissioner)

2) Election Commission of Pakistan

Ms. Shaheen Ghazal

(Deputy Director)

3) Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Ms. Zauresh Baimoldina

(Member of the CEC of RK)

Saule Kozubayeva

(Assistant to the Chairman)

4) Central Election Commission of Taiwan

Commissioner Chia- Hung Tsai

Mr. Jin-Gaw Tsai

(Assistant Director General)

Mr. Tzung-Yu Lai

(Section Assistant)

5) General Election Commission of Republic of Indonesia

Chairman Arief Budiman

Comm Ilham Saputra

COMELEC Chairperson called the meeting to order and delivered his Opening Remarks. All the items in the agenda were approved by the Executive Board Members without any objection.

1) REPORT OF THE EXECUTVE SECRETARY: COMMISSIONER AL A. PARREÑO

i) APPOINTMENT OF AAEA SECRETARIAT – THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER.

On March 20, 2017, the Executive Board Meeting and General Assembly of the AAEA was held in Manila. COMELEC of the Philippines was

recognized as Chairperson of the AAEA, pursuant to Art. 3.10 of the AAEA Charter.

The Commission on Elections of the Philippines, in turn, as the current Chair of the AAEA, promulgated Resolution No. 17-7026 designating Commissioner Al A. Parreño as the Executive Secretary of the AAEA and Director Esmeralda Amora-Ladra as Chief Operating Officer.

The appointments were communicated to all Members of the Executive Board who approved the same.

RESOLUTION:

There being no objection to the appointments of Commissioner Al A. Parreño and Director Esmeralda Amora-Ladra as the Executive Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, respectively, the same are hereby APPROVED and RATIFIED.

ii) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AAEA SECRETARIAT AND TURN-OVER/TAKEOVER OF DOCUMENTS.

The establishment of the Secretariat by the Commission on Elections of the Philippines and turn over from the Election Commission of India has been ongoing for the past year and we thank the Election Commission of India for throughout the year, we are undergoing transfer of documents until the present. This is ongoing, the transfer is ongoing at present.

iii) SET-UP / MAINTENANCE OF AAEA WEBSITE

The website has been set up which can be found at the http address:

<http://asianelectionauthorities.org/index.html>

We are working on it and we can improve it based on the comments from the Board. So, we can discuss that as well later as part of the agenda also.

iv) FINANCIAL REPORT

Based on the submission of the Electoral Commission of India, the total deposits consisting of membership fees, net interest income of the

organization is now at **\$116,388.25**; total withdrawals is **\$53,358.34**; and the balance as of August 28, 2018 is **\$63,029.91**. If there are comments as well, we can examine the financial documents in the appendix.

Discussion:

- **Russia** commented that the Report is more than an Annual Report. The statement is for several years. He moved that the same be prepared per annum in an internationally-acceptable format and shall be audited.
- **Indonesia** joined the motion that the Financial Statement be audited.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** agreed that the Financial Statement be for the year ending December 31, subject to change.
- **Chair Abas** said that the present leadership will start preparing it to be followed by the subsequent Chairpersons.

RESOLUTION:

After due deliberation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to have an Annual Financial Statement Report prepared in an internationally- acceptable format for the fiscal year ending December 31, subject to any motion for change. COMELEC will start to prepare for this year and then eventually, the subsequent Chairpersons. This report must be audited.

v) OPENING OF NEW AAEA ACCOUNT IN THE PHILIPPINES

An AAEA account is now open at Land Bank of the Philippines, Intramuros Branch. As instructed, the Secretariat will prepare a Financial Statement.

vi) OTHERS (TRAININGS, CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS and OTHERS)

For the record, it was announced that a Forum on Independence of Election Management Bodies and Election Security will be conducted starting the next day, October 9, 2018 and the Executive Secretary requested the representatives of the EMBs to present their experiences on the topic they are assigned to. The Facilitators will be from IFES (International Foundation for Elections Systems)

PROPOSAL FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL THROUGH THE INTERNET OR OFFSITE.

The Executive Secretary proposed that the Board register their official contact information, telephone numbers and email addresses and allow discussions or process of communication by video conferencing and emails because notices and documents will be sent for approval.

Discussion:

- **Russia** fully supported the proposal stating that we are living in the 21st century and however enjoyable the face-to-face meeting is, it is a little bit difficult for various reasons, including fiscal reasons and organizing is quite taxing. He added that it is only at least once a year or may be more than once a year so, when we have issues to discuss with any of the Members or the Chair, a video conferencing can always be organized, even with a short notice. He said that a lot of things can be decided by acclamation, meaning, in writing so, when the Chair sends proposal, they have to reply. Like this year, the appointment of the Executive Secretary and the preparation of this assembly. There were proposals in writing and all answered in writing saying, “we accept” and then the decision was made and then the next meeting, we just formally ratified. So, he thinks the proposal is a wonderful idea.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** reiterated the request for official emails to establish notice and communication and directed Atty. Ladra to facilitate it by sending their names as registered and then for them to make the necessary changes, if necessary.

- **Kazakhstan** explained that insofar as it is concerned, there is a relevant department in her EMB that is purely authorized by the Chief who deals with these conferences, seminars, conversations. So, the exchange of communications, names, email addresses, and issues shall be with the concerned branch to deal with concerned person. . .
- **Russia** put on the table for discussion on whether it is enough to get an email from him or shall he be forwarding a signed email from his Chief. He thinks in a normal situation, it may be enough if he sends an email but if it's a more serious issue, it may be, for the record, to have a formal letter signed by his Chief. He further said that what the distinguished member of Kazakhstan is proposing is that our internal bureaucracy of each of our commission is one thing, and our external problem is another thing but always to coordinate and get permission from the Chief of the Commission but once it is legalized by the Board or the General Assembly, it could be different.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** asked if the establishment of authority through a resolution designating a certain person as the one authorized to transact with AAEA will work.
- **India** commented that he does not think that the main correspondence can be undertaken by the Secretariat by authorizing somebody from the Commission but when it comes to substantive decision, it has to be the Member, the Chief or the Chairperson of the Commission writing.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** asked if it will work if it will depend on the country how it will authorize its representative.

- **Pakistan** explained that actually, in ECP, it is the Chief Election Commissioner who authorizes the representative of EMB. She proposed that next meeting, all of them, may be, the authority could be changed. So as far as Pakistan is concerned, its decision is definitely subject to the concerned authority. So, the authority should be designated by the concerned EC.
- **Chair Abas** suggested that the host can also indicate whether or not this particular matter or decision-making should be approved by the Chief or the signature of the Chief of the Election Commission is necessary; and on some other matters, those who have been authorized, so that we will not complicate things. He added that maybe there should be some sort of flexibility because he thinks it will be very hard to get an answer if the Chief will have to authorize always.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** asked if in terms of the wordings in the resolution, it is the agreed consensus that the key decision-maker is the Chief unless otherwise delegated to a representative or to an office.
- **Indonesia** said he thinks it could be everyone who get amended from his or her General Election Commission but in his country, even if he is the Chairman, he could not sign any document. If in the General Assembly, there are seven (7) Commissioners, if at least 4 or 5 commissioners do not agree, so he could not sign the document. So, he concluded that anybody can sign the document but at least he or she must get amended from the authorities.
- **India** explained that in fact, the EMB can ask the Commission to authorize one official from the Commission. The authority should come from the Chief of the Commission.

- **Executive Secretary Parreño** said that he thinks the authority will depend on the composition of the Electoral Commission if it's through the Commissioner or collegial body but the authority will come from the Commission. If it is through a CEO then, that authority will come from the CEO.
- **Russia** agreed and explained that in the different Commission, the internal rules are different. For the Russian Federation, he added, the Commission, in dealing with the national counterparts, the Commission is represented so she does not have to get the agreement even by the majority members. So, he said, they should not be making the rulings strictly on that and leave it to the national bureaucracy but normally, the Russian Elections Federation Commissioner approves it.
- **Indonesia** explained that in his country also, a Chairperson can be representing his Elections Commission but he also has to be amended by the Election Commission. He exemplified himself that he could attend a meeting here today because he got amended during their internal meeting so he can sign the document. He said that the condition is, whoever will represent from each country, they must get the credentials.
- **Pakistan** supported the proposal that the concerned Election Commission nominates the authority, based on their policy, who could sign and in the proposal, he thinks the Election Commissioners may represent. ..
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** concluded that a resolution will be prepared trying to capture all the suggestions but right now, the

wordings will be “as authorized by either the Head or the Commission depending on the nature of the body”.

- **Chair Abas** explained that actually, COMELEC has the same set up with the Election Commission of Indonesia and so, he thinks that the suggestion of the Election Commission of India is very great, that either it will be the Chair or the Commission.
- **India** added, “as the case maybe”.
- **Chair Abas** directed the Secretariat to please take note of the discussion then try to propose a resolution regarding that matter.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** concluded that with that, the authority is already established.

RESOLUTION:

After due deliberation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it is hereby RESOLVES*, to let the Board Members register their official contact information and email addresses and allow communication through video conferencing and email, subject to their communication in writing as to the official who is authorized by the Chief or Head of the Commission or by the Commission as a collegial body, as the case may be, to communicate or sign the communication.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- (i) **DECISION ON THE CONDUCT OF THE 2019 AAEA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Chair Abas stated that per Association Charter, Art.3.2, “The General Assembly shall meet at least once every two years.” We held the Assembly on March 20, 2017 so the next will be in 2019. Pursuant to Art 3.4.2, “The Head of the national election authorities to host the next general assembly shall serve as the Vice Chairperson.” In last year’s meeting, a point was raised on the proposal of Russia to hold the General Assembly in 2019 in St. Petersburg but considering that St. Petersburg is in Europe, the former Chairperson, the ECI of India, expressed that the General Assembly should be held in Asia. Our former COMELEC Chairman and then AAEA Chairperson Bautista, agreed to the suggestion. He then asked to hear from the representative of the Russian Federal Commission as regards the hosting of the 2019 General Assembly.

DISCUSSION:

- **Russia** explained that the Chief, the Presidency accepted to hold the General Assembly and the Executive Board before and that requires substantive budget allocation which is not in the budget of the Central Election Commission of Russia. So, they requested for budget from their Ministry of Finance (MOF) which denied their request as they failed to provide, despite the great help from COMELEC and ECI, all the documents as regards the legal existence of the organization. The MOF referred them to the international standards for the creation of non-governmental organization. He explained that one of the points requires that any such organization should be officially registered under the legislation of one of its member-state’s jurisdiction. They could not find any proof anywhere from anybody that such a registration ever took place. So, based on that, they could not get any agreement from the Ministry of Finance to finance this undertaking until they bring the registration documents and prove its existence as a legal entity. So, he explained that their problem is that despite the fact that they wholeheartedly want to do that, they are not getting any permission from the relevant state authority to do that. For the same reason, the MOF also denied their request for membership fee as it noted that they were not able to receive an Invoice from ECI when they paid the membership fee. According to

MOF, the receipt was just an email. He added that they have similar problem with their membership in the European Association. So, he asked what or how it should be done? What format? The format should be based on international standard and acceptable to all our national authorities. He related this to the issue of the establishment of a permanent secretariat of the organization. He intimated that at the moment, he cannot commit to anything related to the holding of the General Assembly for next year. He, however, proposed that the Board may decide to extend the current situation to another year with the understanding that within this year, all these legal issues maybe regularized and then, the postponement for a year will realize the turn over but, that is something of course for a common discussion.

- **Chair Abas** asked, one by one, all the other members of the Executive Board for comment.
- **India** expressed similar doubt about this whole entity. He explained that it is just a group of people meeting every year and doing some deliberations and making some decisions but there is no legal existence of the group as an entity. He added that they have fears in their Commission about this but in case it has to obtain as a legal entity, then India, having this India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) which can be an office not only for Asian but even for global election bodies. Anytime, he said, they can offer this opportunity of holding as permanent secretariat which can continue to serve the purpose of establishing the responsibilities as a legal entity while the current secretariat can always move with the Chair.
- **Pakistan** commented that she thinks that the issue of legal conditions has to be decided if such kind of meeting should be conducted officially by the government or by our own selves, by the Commission itself explaining that the Commission is independent to

conduct such meetings by their own selves, by the Commissions' own selves.

- **Russia** explained that he raised the issue in their legal system. The Finance Ministry which represents the government refuses to yield to this decision because the Central Elections Commission in Russia is a fully independent body which does not report to the government, does not report to the President, does not report to the Parliament so, there cannot be an inter-governmental organization; government meaning the council of ministries, but this type of association does not represent the government.
- **Pakistan** said that it does not also represent the government so, she thinks that as far as Pakistan is concerned, if somebody goes to the Ministry of Finance to conduct such meetings or associations with international community, the internal association can manage this program by its own part. She then asked, “so if we cannot decide, what should we do?”
- **Indonesia**, as his comment, expressed that it has same case with Russia though a little bit different. They are allowed to attend and host meetings and international conferences like when he attended the A-WEB meeting in Romania but when it comes to payment of membership, there will be a problem because the government does not allow to work with organization.
- **Taiwan** commented that he thinks it is a very unique situation. He thinks of a special activity to be jointly held by Russia and another country to fulfill the regulation and to continue to serve its community under its chairmanship. Though he cannot promise anything for now because he was not aware of the situation before he came here but, right now, he said, he thinks Russia should be able to

fulfill the responsibility of the chairmanship. So in this case, his idea is to trust Russia to think about other alternative to keep the assembly without too much pressure or difficulty.

- **Kazakhstan** explained her understanding that the Russian Federation raised two questions: First is for one year joining the community and, the second question is the legislative format at least to have a judicial address of our organization. According to the first offer, she surmised that there is a reason to support Russian Federation and the Philippines agreed. As to the second question, she said that there were some offers made in their previous correspondence. There are some questions as to the procedure of existence of the association. She explained that when there is a permanent secretariat to proceed further work, we will have the location of a permanent secretary as the judicial address and many questions which could be raised like annual fees and so on could be regulated immediately.
- **Chair Abas** expressed his agreement to the comment of the Election Commission of Russia and the need to settle first the legality of the existence of the organization because it makes some legal and financial impediments. He added that as the current Chair of the organization, he will do the suggestion of the Election Commission of Russia. He will see to it that it will be registered in the country. However, he should also get the legal perspective so that, if COMELEC will register this within its legal framework, at least it will also be recognized in other countries. He emphasized the need to get the legal requirements of each country so that we could exchange notes and the consensus is to do it simultaneously. He asked if all agreed that we have first to work on the legality of the existence because the Russian Federation questions some legality of the existence of the association. He then asked for comment from the body.

- **India** said he only wants to make a little change in policy which involves legal impediment. He continued that when India was making its own institute, India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), the Commission was led by several Chiefs and that was the collective result that's why India offered the issue of permanent secretariat. They are prepared to give a space in its own building. According to him, they have Capacity Building on Moral Democracy and the Commission has its own building. AAEA is basically meant for meeting of minds rather than legal voting like he saw that it is too extreme, and the purpose was to respect one's decision and share practical solutions from one another, love one another and also understanding the EMBs. So, assuming that all constitutional bodies are independent and autonomous bodies and not to be influenced by any other external factors, he asked how should these bodies be strengthened. . . .
- **Russia** suggested to first refer to the major issue of the creation of the permanent secretariat. He suggested that there is more reason to extend the current set up to allow them more time to research and come up with more practical solutions. He suggested to establish a Working Group from among the Members of the Board maybe 2, 3 up to 4 people which will look into the situation next year. They will have to be paid salaries. They will have to have administrative expenses, etc, etc. but at the same time, he explained that what he saw in the proposals by the distinguished presidency and what he heard from the Indian colleagues is that there are other ways of doing it. Like in this paper, it is proposed that one of the EMBs takes over the functions of the permanent secretariat, that's one approach; and the other approach, is that it is housed with the National Institute. He added that the financial implications of either decision shall be studied. He also believes the possibility of getting more ideas in the process. So, his two-fold proposals are: First, for the Board to decide to extend the present situation as this is an emergency situation, unexpected even to them. That they did not expect to have this impediment on the financial side so they cannot make a decision

under the circumstances and, second, is to create a Working Group and allow the Working Group for a certain period of time, say 3 - 4 months so that they will come up with a practical proposal or set of proposals which we will share and then we'll be able to move for a more practical decision.

- **India** explained that the financial implication of the permanent secretariat is a very minor issue. He thinks that the major issue is the scenario globally as to the role of Asia and what is the composition of democracy in Asia. That is really the king of the horizon and we have to orient ourselves, AAEA, with that in mind as that is the major issue. He continued that the second thing is, if we get 4 to 5 months to deliberate on this issue then, the General Assembly gets delayed because we have to pull it in 2019 and that is fast approaching so that Art. 3.2 has to be amended because the last assembly was held in March 2017 and 2 years will be completing in March 2019.

- The deliberations continued on the following issues:
 - 1) Creation of a Technical Working Group to investigate on the registration of AAEA, if any;
 - 2) The legal existence of AAEA or the need to register AAEA in any of the jurisdiction of its member-EMB;
 - 3) Whether or not to extend the Chairpersonship of COMELEC; and
 - 4) The date and venue (Philippines or any other country) of the next Executive Board Meeting and the General Assembly which is set, under the Revised Charter of AAEA, in March 2019.

RESOLUTION:

After due deliberation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to create a Technical Working Group (TWG), led by the current Chairperson, to be composed of all Members of the Executive Board. The TWG shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Executive Board, through the Secretariat, which will meet in New Delhi, India on January 24, 2018, on the following issues:

- 1) The need to register AAEA, as a legal entity, in the jurisdiction of any of its member-EMBs, if there is none yet, with the following collateral issues:
 - a) Whether or not to extend the Chairpersonship of COMELEC; and
 - b) The date and venue (*Philippines or any other country*) of the next General Assembly which is set, under the Revised Charter of AAEA, in March 2019;

- 2) The establishment of a Permanent Secretariat

**(ii) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (IF ANY) / INVITATION
SENT TO POTENTIAL MEMBERS (IF ANY)**

Chair Abas reminded the Board that they approved to invite the following EMBs to become Members of the Association:

1. Australian Election Commission;
2. Electoral Commission of Fiji;
3. Electoral Commission New Zealand;
4. Singapore Elections Department;
5. Central Election Administration Committee, Japan; and
6. Election Commission of Malaysia.

He informed the body that the Australian Election Commission and the Electoral Commission of Fiji have accepted our invitation to become a member of the AAEA and have submitted their membership forms which are included in the kits. As a matter of fact, the Australian Election Commission had sent its 1st Assistant Commissioner to attend the Forum.

He added the following information:

- That for the Electoral Commission of Fiji, it apologized that it cannot send its delegate to the Forum because it is also preparing for its upcoming elections in their country.
- As for Singapore Elections Department, it declined the invitation.
- The Secretariat is still awaiting for the reply of the Electoral Commission of New Zealand and the Central Election Administration Committee of Japan.
- In conclusion, he asked if, considering that majority of the Executive Board Members approved the invitation for membership sent to the above-mentioned EMBs, there is any motion for the Executive Board to recommend the membership of the Australian Election Commission and the Election Commission of Fiji to the General Assembly, subject to the provisions of Chapter II of the Revised AAEA Charter on the subscription with the reservation of the EMBs to the subscription to the AAEA Charter and payment of the Annual Membership fees and other dues as agreed upon by the AAEA members.
- **India** moved to accept the membership of the Electoral Commission of Fiji and the Australian Electoral Commission to the AAEA.
- **Russia** seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION:

On motion of the Election Commission of India and duly seconded by the Russian Federation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to recommend to the General Assembly, the Australian Election Commission and the Electoral Commission of Fiji, both of which accepted the invitation to become Members of the Association of Asian Election Authorities.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR DECISION/APPROVAL:

i) MODIFICATION OF THE DESIGN OF THE AAEA FLAG.

- **Chair Abas** described the present flag design that it has electric blue for a background which represents a fair and honest elections and a sun in the middle with fourteen rays of canary yellow to represent the fourteen members of the Association. He explained that considering the increased numbers of members has to twenty, it is the proper time to increase the number of rays of the sun. Thereafter, he asked for any proposal from the Board Members.

DISCUSSION:

- Russia showed his pre-designed flag and explained that it should be very wide. Basically, he said, the background is blue, the canary yellow is the wording and the abbreviation is in red. He continued that the number of rays maybe changed according to the number of the members and the symbol is the rising sun...
- **India** suggested to put one tagline beneath the sun, maybe the symbol of AAEA.
- **Chair Abas** laid down the two proposals on the table. First, the proposal of the Election Commission of Russia, second, is the proposal of the Commission Election of India. First is we maintain the current design; and second, is this design (referring to the design of the Russian delegate).. He asked if the Board Members are prepared to divide the house and proceeded to ask their votes. . .
- **Kazakhstan** said she prefers the second one. The first variant symbolizes the previous number of countries and the Association has

expanded, even the number of rays is the number of countries. The color is the same as the old one.

- **India** suggested to add some more rays.
- **Indonesia** chose no. 1 must be more of the sun rays that must be improved so it means we have place for everyone.
- **Chair Abas** explained to the body that since it is included in the agenda, and majority has voted to maintain the current flag, he proposed that the same will still be included in the agenda of the TWG to improve on the design of the flag. He further assured that the suggestion of the good Chairman of EC Indonesia will be considered.

RESOLUTION:

After due deliberation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to refer the improvement of the design of the AAEA flag to the TWG with consideration to the suggestion of the Chairman of the Election Commission of Indonesia.

ii) WORKPLAN FOR NOVEMBER 2018 TO MARCH 2019.

- **Chair Abas** referred to CEO-designate Ladra to expound on the details of the proposed workplan and remind the body that again, this is just a proposal. They can insert, modify, amend but this is just a working progress. So, this is the proposed Workplan for November 2018 to March 2019.

DISCUSSION:

- **CEO-designate Ladra** explained that the term of the Chairpersonship of COMELEC is only up to March 2019 so the proposed Workplan is only up to that period only. She explained that the proposed Work Plan in 2017-2019 was actually the one that COMELEC had started like the invitation to potential members, the website and the financial concerns which, together with India, a Financial Statement was prepared For the Work Plan for November 2018, the ones left in the Calendar of Activities is the Indonesian proposed Conference on Technology and Pakistan which has to be determined yet, but their proposed date is March 2019. She also mentioned India which a representative will discuss on additional capacity building and learning opportunities and the schedule of IIIDEM in ECIndia. She asked if any of the EBMs would like to propose additional inputs for whatever activities and when is it going to be held.
- **India** explained that they have 2 major components in the India International Institute of Democracy in Election Management (IIIDEM). They have 3 major centers which are coming up. One is for the national training of the entire electoral machineries within the country. Another is the school for international capacity building and that they are making a comprehensive program on the common aspects of election management. He added that they are also considering masteral studies on election management which would be a comprehensive proposed 9-month course in which they would be requesting the Election Management Bodies to sponsor at least 1 or 2 persons and their travel costs will be borne by the concerned EMBs for their stay and other necessary expenses will be borne by India and partner country so that will be a comprehensive training of the election managers around the world. He further explained that the proposal is 9 months with 6 months to be in India, 1½ months in foreign countries, and for 1½ months, the election managers will be in their own countries while writing their projects so, this will be an understanding of various aspects of election management around the world...

- **Russia** asked India to send more details on what he presented.
- **India** promised he will give concrete details when Russia will come in January. He continued explaining that the other set of courses that they are starting are 1-3 months on technology, voter's education training and capacity building. and 2 key areas on the electoral management, electoral laws and electoral reforms. These are shorter courses but focused courses. According to him, those would be basically encompassing all the important issues which concerns election management focusing on particular key areas. Third is the Elame School in which they would be imparting all the education through e-mailing form and that is Elame in the modern day. He said that they will not be sitting together but actually they can do things, they come together, work on the Elame platform and from the institution itself, all the Elame materials may be made available to the countries and they can train their masters training there and further training maybe done in their own countries. So IIIDEM will be very actively associating. He stressed that India is giving more importance to all the member bodies of the AAEA and their participation. So, from IIDEM, they will be working with the EMBs and will try to hold conferences on important issues that would be smaller like 1 or 2 days deliberations. Some of the expenses will be again borne by India itself, hosted by IIIDEM. He continued to explain that IIIDEM is a part of the Election Commission of India. It is not an independent body but is under the Election Commission of India itself. So, they would have short courses maybe on a quarterly basis and countries who are interested are most welcome. And next year, they will have their national elections that would be the Parliament Elections of India in which they will invite the member-countries and partner-countries to come and witness their elections. According to him, they do not have a system of international observers in their law but they will most welcome their partner countries to come, visit and see their elections so they are extending their invitation to the EMB members.

- **Indonesia**, after being asked, intimated that the theme of the proposed conference will be on transparency and integrity using technology. As to the time, they will be very busy up to the inauguration of the presidential elections in October, even the voting day in April, but the inauguration will be on October 20 so it will be held after Oct 20.
- **Pakistan**, in reply to the query if its proposed activity in March 2019 will push through answered that it may discuss voter education and that it has general disability monitoring program, gender equality working group and that it can also share on IT and electoral reform laws although she intimated that she will still try to get the approval of her Chief Election Commissioner. She promised that she will be sending an invitation to the event between the period November 2018 to March 2019.
- **Chair Abas** requested Pakistan to be certain that an invitation be sent between the period November 2018 to March 2019. Thereafter, he announced that **COMELEC** will be also inviting the members to be international observers and insert it as an activity of the AAEA, to its first historic Bangsamoro Plebiscite. He further explained that the Bangsamoro Plebiscite is for the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law so that is a prelude to a peace process in the South between a muslim rebel group and the government. This is a big project and a historic one, so COMELEC will invite the members of AAEA to be its partners as international observers. He mentioned Indonesia as one of the members of the International Monitoring Team, monitoring the peace process in the South so this is a very good plebiscite. He then asked Dir. Ladra to send the invitations.

- **Executive Secretary Parreño** reiterated that COMELEC will be inviting AAEA members to participate in the Bangsamoro Plebiscite as international observers. He informed the body that COMELEC has a mechanism for the accreditation of international members but given that the Chairman has already invited them, it means that if they just acknowledge that they want to come, based on the rules, we will be evaluating and then accommodating them. He added that as a caveat, it will be at your expense because we do not have the budget for the transportation. So that would be another event for our Work Plan.
- **Taiwan**, when asked by the Chair, said that they will invite other countries to observe their local elections on Nov. 2. So, if the members can come, ECTaiwan will arrange the activities maybe Nov 22 so, the members can visit their election institution for a conference so they will understand their operation of election affairs on election day. They will be able to observe how people cast their votes in the voting booth. Taiwan also has several national referendum schedule for local elections which is the first referendum that it will hold. According to him, their referendum law was amended last year so they may have up to 10 referenda jointly hold with their local elections. He added that they are looking forward in the change of the voting behavior of the people of Taiwan. He said the activity can be added in the Work Plan.
- **Kazakhstan**, upon query by the Chair, explained that this year, they have law reforms in election legislation which was adopted. There will be a Conference in Nov 1 and 2 dedicated to 20 years of the Election Commission of Kazakhstan because their elections law was renewed. There will be a lot of activities in 2019. One of the changes is that they will have a local election according to proportion office, lower chamber of the parliament. She said she would like to invite all members of the association and there will be a separate invitation from the Central Election Commission, an invitation for other nations.
- **Chair Abas** asked if Kazakhstan wants it to be included in the AAEA activities so it shall send an invitation.

- **Russia** remarked that the invitation was already sent and that it is a little bit late already. When asked by the Chair of Russia's proposed activity, he answered that it has no proposal at this stage.

RESOLUTION:

After consultation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to calendar all the schedule of activities as part of the Work Plan, post it in the Website and send an official invitation to each EMB; after which, the other EMBs will specify the schedule and identify a particular topic or activity that they will propose to be included in the Work Plan for the period November 2018-March 2019.

(iii) Proposals to Amend AAEA Charter

a) Membership (Chapter II, Art 2.3)

- **Chair Abas** informed the body of the 2 proposals: First, on the issue to amend the Charter particularly the provision on membership-Chapter II, Art. 2.3; and Appointment of a Permanent Secretariat Art.3.9. However, as the issue of permanent secretariat was already discussed and settled, the only issue that will be dealt with will only be on amending Chapter II Art. 2.3.

For the 1st proposal Art. 2.3 is hereby amended as follows: "For the purposes of membership IN this Association, ASIA SHALL INCLUDE THE ENTIRE Asian and Australasian regions."

DISCUSSION:

- **Russia** questioned the rationale for this proposal and asked for clarification. He said that we are establishing something that to his geography does not exist as that is the first time he heard of Australasia and that ASIA is all ASIA.

- **Executive Secretary Parreño** clarified that Fiji is in the Pacific Islands and we just included Fiji as a member. He stated that if it is clear that it can be anyone from ASIA and Australasia then, the revision will not be necessary. That is to declare that anyone from Asia and anybody from the Pacific Islands can join like Fiji and Australia. He explained that it was just to clarify because there are questions before on who can join.
- **Russia** agreed it is clear enough. . .
- **India** explained that adding only one word “ENTIRE” does not serve additional purpose and that the same objective is fulfilled. He proposed that the original article be retained.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** stated that with that clarification that anybody from Asia and Australia and Asia Pacific can join, he will withdraw the motion and stick with the original as written.
- **Chair Abas** asked for any other comment. There being none, NO revision is adopted and the original provision is retained.

RESOLUTION:

After due deliberation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to **NOTE the withdrawal** of the motion to amend Art. 2.3 of the Revised Charter by the Executive Secretary with the understanding that anybody from Asia, Australia and Asia Pacific can join as Member of the Association. No revision is adopted and the original provision is retained.

a) Appointment of a Permanent Secretariat (Chapter III, Art. 3.9)

- **Chair Abas** referred it to Secretariat as the issue is included on the question of Permanent Secretariat.

DISCUSSION:

- **Executive Secretary Parreño** explained that Art 3.9 is for verification. The International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) is the Secretariat of the Association and based on documents, this will be one of the functions of the Working Committee. He said we need to look for that document wherein it already relinquished its position as Secretariat. Assuming that we do not have that document, by virtue of Art 3.9, it will remain as the Secretariat of this organization. He added that as another solution, we can revise this so that that power as Secretariat will no longer be with IFES.
- **Russia** thinks regardless of the decision of the proposed revised version, they have to decide to exclude IFES completely as it is already outdated and it does not serve any purpose keeping it. He said it has to be replaced with something and he would agree with the proposal that it should be part of the recommendation of the Working Group.
- **Kazakhstan** agreed and added that if the secretariat is permanent part of the association, with full function in accordance to the Charter, to the General Assembly and executive authority, Art. 3.9 can be excluded, instead of reworded.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** agreed that it will make it easier for them...
- **Chair Abas** referred the issue to the TWG as one of its agenda so that it can be adopted later formally and officially. So, we take note of the comment from the Election Commission of Kazakhstan.

RESOLUTION:

The Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to NOTE the comment of the Election Commission of Kazakhstan and refer the issue to the Technical Working Group as one of its agenda.

OTHER MATTERS:

(i) Development of Procedures for the Formation of Agenda and the place and date of the meeting of the Executive Board (proponent: CEC of Republic of Kazakhstan)

- **CEC Kazakhstan** explained that according to Art. 3.6, they would like to determine the rules of procedure for the Secretariat to determine the process in adopting the documents and given full consideration by the Executive Committee Members. She added that the formatting of the agenda of the Executive Board shall be shown and that they want the secretariat to remain permanent in the organization. There are some problems in the process of preparation even the format.

DISCUSSION:

- **Chair Abas** asked if as a matter of proposal, this will be a form of an amendment to the powers of the executive secretary.
- **Russia**, in reply, said not necessarily because the Charter says that the Executive Board establishes its own rules of procedure. He proposed that once we decide to form a permanent secretariat, the Executive Secretary deliberates the rules of procedure which he or she will present to the Executive Board for approval and the rules of procedure for the General Assembly will be likewise approved by the Executive Board and presented to the General Assembly for approval.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** reminded the body that in Art. 3.12, the powers of the Secretariat are enumerated. He then asked if any of the suggestions fall outside of the enumerations. He further clarified from Russia if what they are talking about is the Executive Secretary or the Secretariat.
- **Russia** clarified that it is the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

- **Executive Secretary Parreño** proposed to include it in the agenda of the TWG and the functions, as proposed, would then be included in the amendments that will be proposed to the Executive Board and then to the General Assembly.
- **Kazakhstan** stated that the Secretariat would be obliged to prepare the procedure and meeting of the General Assembly and is somehow responsible in preparing the agenda...
- **Russia** reminded the body that in Art. 3.6, the Executive Board shall approve the internal rules and regulations of the Secretariat and explained that we do not have any rules and regulations because we do not have a permanent secretary. but once we have the permanent secretary or parallel to its creation, we have to adopt the regulations and rules. He further explained the difference between regulations and rules according to the practice of the United Nations where regulation is a broad set of general rules which is adopted by the General Assembly and rules are based on the regulations and adopted by the Secretariat or, in our case, maybe Executive Board which is more detailed. He added that he agree fully with the proposal of the EC of Kazakhstan that there should be some very practical set of rules saying how the agenda is deliberated, how long before the meeting it is disseminated. All these are very practical things that should be very clearly set up. It will be a long way to deliberate the documents and there should be a very basic set of rules.
- **Executive Secretary Parreño** clarified that the same is in the powers of the Secretariat which are stated as defined in Art. 3.12. He suggested that since this is exclusive, one of the proposed amendments could be to have a catch-all provision as no. 11: “as delegated by the Executive Board” and then to relate that to Art. 3.6 and then the TWG can propose all these and present it on the next meeting. Basically, we are proposing to carry the proposal.

RESOLUTION:

After due deliberation, the Board **RESOLVED**, *as it hereby RESOLVES*, to refer the matter to the TWG which shall propose and present to the Executive Board, the inclusion in the powers of the Secretariat, as Art. 3.12 (11) of a catch-all provision “as delegated by the Executive Board” and relate that to Art. 3.6 of the AAEA Charter.

The meeting ended after the EC of India presented the information and updates on the various activities insofar as Capacity Building and Trainings on Election Management and other election-related topics/courses of IIIDEM which was established in June 2017 is conducting under the direct control and supervision of ECI. Its vision is to set the highest standard of training and capacity building in the field of democracy and election management. Its mission is to capacitate the EMBs and the stakeholders of India and partner countries of international organization.

- **Chair Abas** congratulated the Election Commission of India for a very nice presentation and adjourned the meeting.