



## **CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFEDERATION OF ASEAN JOURNALISTS**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, journalists representing national media organizations of countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), desiring to advance the cause of a healthy, free and responsible press so that it can serve as a dynamic instrument for progress, prosperity, social justice and peace in the region- consonant with the principles of the ASEAN DECLARATION – agree to the formation of a confederation of journalists representing ASEAN member countries and hereby promulgate this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

**Section 1.** The confederation shall be officially known as the CONFEDERATION OF ASEAN JOURNALISTS.

### **ARTICLE II – FOUNDING MEMBERS**

**Section 1.** The founding members of the Confederation consist of INDONESIAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION (Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia), NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS MALAYSIA, (Kesatuan Kebangsaan Wartawan Malaysia), NATIONAL PRESS CLUB OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE SINGAPORE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS, and THE THAI JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

## **ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1.** The Confederation shall have the following objectives:

- (a) The promotion of a healthy, free and responsible press, the advancement of the cause of journalism, and the forging of closer relations among journalists in the ASEAN countries and with other countries,
- (b) The promotion of better understanding among people of the region in order to attain prosperity, social justice and peace.
- (c) The articulation of the aspirations, sentiments, affairs and interests of countries of this region in order that they would be better understood and appreciated by other peoples of the world.

**Section 2.** The Confederation shall initiate and/or undertake the following activities:

- (a) Safeguard the common professional interests of journalists in their legitimate pursuit of their profession, pursuant to generally accepted journalistic codes of ethical conduct, and in harmony with national policies, rules and regulations of countries within the sphere of the Confederation.
- (b) Improve the professional standards of journalists in the region through professional training, research and development programs, seminars, exchanges of views, sharing of information and professional knowledge, exchanges of visits, and other activities that contribute to the advancement of the media profession.

**Section 3.** The Confederation shall likewise encourage the involvement of journalists in the promotion of development activities of the profession within their respective countries, in particular, and in the region, in general.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

**Section 1.** The membership shall consist of regular members, and associate members. Only the regular members have the authority to accept new members through a consensus.

**Section 2.** Regular members shall enjoy the right of permanent seats in the Membership Committee, membership of the Board of Directors, and the right to attend the General Assembly and Board of Directors meetings.

**Section 3.** Regular membership, comprising of groups or individuals, shall be open to organizations of journalists and/or individual working journalists in the ASEAN region. Regular members shall enjoy the right of full membership of the Confederation, including seats on the Board of Directors and the right to accept new members.

**Section 4.** Associate membership shall be open to other media organizations and institutions as well as individuals whose work or functions are allied to the media profession within member countries. Associate members shall be entitled to the rights enjoyed by regular members with the exception of deliberations in the meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the Confederation. Associate members are also not entitled to voting rights.

**Section 5.** Applications for membership shall be made through the Membership Committee of the Confederation which is entrusted with laying down membership qualifications.

## **ARTICLE V – ORGANS**

**Section 1.** The Confederation shall have the following organs:

- (a) General Assembly
- (b) Board of Directors
- (c) Secretariat

**Section 2.** There shall be an Advisory Council to be composed of past Presidents of the Confederation and persons appointed by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VI – GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Section 1.** The General Assembly shall consist of accredited delegates of member organizations.

**Section 2.** It shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Determine the policies and activities of the Confederation.
- (b) Adopt and amend the code of ethics for members of the Confederation
- (c) Appoint the President, Vice President and Secretary General of the Confederation and endorse the nomination of members of the Board of Directors.
- (d) Determine and act on matters referred to it by the Board of Directors, committees, or any Confederation members.
- (e) Approve the budget.
- (f) Fix the Confederation membership fees.
- (g) Undertake any other responsibilities that it deems appropriate or necessary to promote, protect and preserve the interests of the Confederation.

**Section 3.** The General Assembly of the Confederation shall be held once every two (2) years, the site of which is rotated on the alphabetical order of member countries or decided otherwise by the General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1.** The Directors shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary General, and two directors from each member organization and the Secretariat.

**Section 2.** The Board of Directors shall perform the following duties:

- (a) Implement the programs and projects adopted and approved by the General Assembly.
- (b) Prepare the agenda of the General Assembly.
- (c) Refer to the General Assembly for appropriate action any study or recommendation which it initiates, or undertaken by any other organs or members of the Confederation.
- (d) Undertake functions or duties that may be delegated to it by the General Assembly, or those it deems appropriate and necessary to protect and preserve the interest of the Confederation.

**Section 3.** The Board of Directors shall meet in ordinary session at least once a year. It may, however, call special sessions at the recommendation or request of the President, Vice President, Secretary General or at least four of the members of the Board of Directors acting jointly, whenever the need for such special session arises.

**Section 4.** The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, call for consideration and/or approval from Confederation members through any means of communication for proposals or resolutions which it considers urgent and necessary. Each Confederation member shall be given thirty (30) days to respond to the communication. In the event that Confederation members are asked to approve or disapprove of a proposal or resolution, failure to respond within the given time will be considered to be a consent.

## **ARTICLE VIII-OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The Confederation shall have the following officers:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Directors
- (d) Secretary General
- (e) Auditor

## **ARTICLE IX-THE PRESIDENT**

**Section 1.** The President shall be appointed from a regular member of the country where the General Assembly is held.

**Section 2.** The President shall have a term of office of two (2) years, to commence at the close of the General Assembly at which he or she is appointed until the end of the next succeeding General Assembly.

**Section 3.** It shall be the duty of the President to preside over the General Assembly or any other sessions of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

**Section 4.** The President shall have the highest authority in the Confederation. He or she may, however, delegate the functions and duties of the President as he or she may deem fit to the Vice-President, any members of the Board of Directors, or the Secretary General.

**Section 5.** In the event that a change of presidency takes place in the Confederation member organization to which the current Confederation President belongs, its new President shall automatically assume the presidency of the Confederation unless the Confederation member organization in question decides to nominate a different person for the Confederation presidency provided that he or she must be a journalist and a member of that particular organization.

## **ARTICLE X - THE VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Section 1.** The Vice President shall be appointed from the Confederation member that will host the next General Assembly of the Confederation, and shall have a term of office in concurrence with that of the President.

**Section 2.** It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assume the responsibilities and perform function of the President in the latter's absence or because of his or her inability to carry out the duties.

## **ARTICLE XI – THE DIRECTORS**

**Section 1.** Each Confederation member shall be represented by two (2) Directors in the Board of Directors. Their nominations, however, have to be confirmed by the General Assembly.

**Section 2.** A Director shall have a term of office of two (2) years to commence at the close of the General Assembly at which his or her nomination is confirmed until the end of the next General Assembly thereafter.

**Section 3.** Any of the member organizations shall have the power to recall any Director it has nominated and replace him or her with another person in an acting capacity for the remaining term.

**Section 4.** It shall be the duty of the Directors to attend the meeting of the Board of Directors, and to help in the implementation of decisions of either the Board of Directors or the General Assembly.

## **ARTICLE XII – THE SECRETARIAT**

**Section 1.** A Permanent Secretariat shall be established in Jakarta, Indonesia, as the depository of documents relating to the Confederation and its members.

**Section 2.** The Secretariat of the Confederation shall be located on a rotation basis in the country of the member organization that assumes the Presidency of the Confederation.

**Section 3.** The Secretary General of the Confederation shall be appointed from the member organization holding the Presidency with a term of office of two (2) years, commencing at the close of the General Assembly at which he or she is appointed. The appointment of the Secretary General shall be confirmed at the General Assembly.

**Section 4.** The Secretary General shall attend all sessions of the General Assembly, Board of Directors and committees. The Secretary General also has the responsibility to keep the record and minutes of the proceedings.

**Section 5.** The Secretary General shall be responsible to the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

**Section 6.** The Secretariat shall perform such duties as may be necessary to insure the efficient operation of the Confederation.

**Section 7.** The Confederation member holding the Presidency of the Confederation is entitled to appoint a new Secretary General in the event that the current Secretary General resigns or is out of office before his or her term expires. The new Secretary General shall serve the remaining term.

**Section 8.** The Secretary General may have assistants to assist him or her and the President in carrying out their duties and functions.

## **ARTICLE XIII – THE AUDITORS**

**Section 1.** An auditor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** It shall be the duty of the Auditor to audit the account of the Confederation.

## **ARTICLE XIV – BUDGET**

**Section 1.** The budget and allocation of costs to be borne by the regular members of the Confederation shall be approved by the General Assembly.

**Section 2.** Unless agreed otherwise by the General Assembly, the allocation of costs shall be borne on an equal basis.

## **ARTICLE XV – MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** As a principle, the procedures and rules to be observed during the General Assembly shall be determined by the host member organization.

**Section 2.** Unless recommended otherwise by the host member organization, the following procedures shall be applicable:

(a) Expenses for travel by representatives of Confederation members from their country to the sites of meetings and the General Assembly of the Confederation shall be borne by their own organizations.

(b) Expenses for accommodations, meals, transports and other activities related to the meetings and the General Assembly within the host country shall be borne by the host member.

## **ARTICLE XVI – QUORUM**

**Section 1.** The presence of representatives of at least three-fifths (3/5) of the regular members shall constitute a quorum for the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

**Section 2.** In any other meetings, a simple majority of related representatives shall constitute a quorum.



**Section 3.** Member organizations shall be given an advance notice of no less than 30 days to prepare for any meeting.

#### **ARTICLE XVII – HONOUR LIST**

**Section 1.** There shall be an “honour list” to be composed of individuals or organizations that have rendered exceptional service toward the realization of the objectives of the Confederation as set forth in Article III of the Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE XVIII – CAJ OBSERVERS**

The status of observers may be extended to journalists’ organizations in the wider South East Asian region, including the Pacific and Oceania Countries.

#### **ARTICLE XIX – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended only at a session of the General Assembly.

**This amended Constitution of the Confederation of ASEAN Journalists was submitted to and adopted at the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Bangkok, January 24-28, 2018.**

#### **SIGNATORIES:**

#### **CONFEDERATION OF ASEAN JOURNALISTS (CAJ)**

**FOR VIETNAM (VJA)**

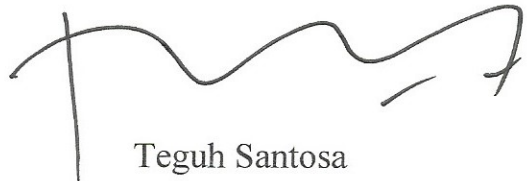
**VJA President**



Thuan Huu

**FOR INDONESIA (PWI)**

**The chair of Foreign Affairs PWI/  
CAJ Director**



Teguh Santosa

**FOR MALAYSIA (NUJM)**  
**NUJM Vice President / CAJ Director**



Chin Sung Chew

**FOR LAOS (LJA)**  
**LJA President / CAJ Director**



Savankhone Razmounry

**FOR PHILIPPINES (NPC)**  
**NPC President / CAJ Director**



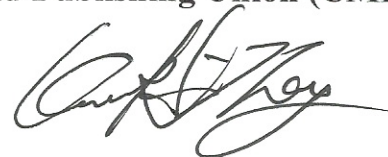
Paul Gutierrez

**FOR THAILAND (CTJ)**  
**CTJ President / CAJ Vice President**



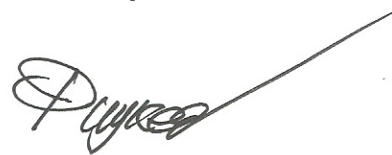
Thepchai Sae Yong

**FOR SINGAPORE**  
**General Secretary of Creative**  
**Media and Publishing Union (CMPU)**



Mindy Kwok Sin Thang

**FOR CAMBODIA**  
**CCJ Secretary General**



Kea Puy