

Constitution

Indian Students Association Zurich (InSAZ)

I. Name and Seat

Art. 1:

The "Indian Students Association Zurich" (abbreviated: InSAZ) is an association according to articles 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code. The Seat of the Association is in the city of Zurich. The association shall be of unlimited duration.

II. Language

Art. 2:

The official languages are English and German. In case of a conflict, discrepancy or interpretation, the English version will prevail.

III. Objectives

Art. 3:

The purposes of the association is to

- a. foster cultural exchange within its members
- b. help incoming Indian students to adjust to life in Switzerland
- c. celebrate Indian culture by organizing various events
- d. form a bridge between the Indian and other students studying in Switzerland

IV. Main Activities

Art. 4:

The association needs to organize at least three get-togethers in any form true to the association's objectives. One of the get-togethers must be a welcoming event at the beginning of the fall semester for all the new Indian students coming from outside Switzerland.

V. Membership

Art. 5:

Any student enrolled in a Swiss university can be a member irrespective of their political stance, ethnic background or religious beliefs.

Art. 6:

To obtain a membership, the potential member should be interested in either Indian culture or be of Indian origin.

Art. 7:

The executive committee has the right to accept or decline any possible member into the association. A potential member might be declined a membership if there is a threat to individuals within the organization or its image perceived by the overall public by including said contender.

Art. 8:

The members of the association comprises of currently enrolled students studying in Switzerland as well as honorary members.

Art. 9:

An honorary membership is given to a person who significantly contributed to the betterment of the association. The honorary member receives all the rights of a full member with the exception of being voted into the executive committee. Any member of the association has the right to nominate a person to receive an honorary membership in the GBM. The nomination must be handed in to the EC in a written form at least three days prior to the GBM and must include reasons for the nomination. The EC has the right to give their opinion on the honorary membership nomination. The honorary membership must be approved by the majority of the attending members of the GBM as well as two thirds of the executive committee. The honorary membership is limited to two years and then has to be re-nominated. Any honorary member has the right to decline the honorary membership at any point in time before the membership runs out.

VI. Exclusion

Art. 10:

The executive committee has the right to accept, decline or revoke the membership of any person and/or member from the association and/or its events. Potential reasons include but are not limited to:

- a. The person poses a threat to other individuals/organizations
- b. The person poses a threat to the image of the organization as perceived by the overall public
- c. The person's actions are inconsistent with the values of the organization

VII. Bodies Of The Association

Art. 11:

The association comprises of the following bodies:

- a. The president
- b. The Executive Committee (EC)
- c. The General Body

VIII. The President

Art. 12:

Any nominee for president has to be a regular member of InSAZ for a year prior to being considered for the presidential post. If no nominee fits that criteria, an exception may be made for that GBM only as to allow newer but willing members to fill the post.

IX. The Executive Committee

Art. 13:

The EC should consist of at least three members (President, Vice-president, Treasurer) and not more than ten members. The members must be enrolled at either ETH Zurich or the University of Zurich at the time of being elected into the EC.

Art. 14:

All EC members, including the president, need to be elected during each ordinary GBM. The newly elected president has the right to nominate up to three committee members him- or herself. However, the selection must be approved by the attending members.

Art. 15:

In case a member, that is not the president or treasurer, of the current EC leaves the committee, the rest of the EC can appoint a replacement without a GBM.

Art. 16:

Any member of the current EC is allowed to be re-elected. However, at least two members not part of the current EC must be voted in as well.

Art. 17:

There should be a meeting within two weeks after the GBM where the old EC officially hands over credentials as well as other important information to the new EC.

Art. 18:

For an agenda to be passed at an EC meeting general majority is needed.

Art. 19:

The EC should meet periodically over the year. The EC is empowered to take decisions only if at least two thirds of the EC members are present. Either the president or vice-president must be in attendance for the meeting to happen. In general, nobody besides EC members are allowed to attend official EC meetings. However, the president and vice-president have the authority to invite guests.

X. The General Body Meeting (GBM)

Art. 20:

The topmost body is the general body. It consists of all the members of the association.

Art. 21:

An ordinary GBM takes place once a year in the first week of spring semester.

Art. 22:

An extraordinary GBM can take place with either upon a written request by one fifth of the current members or if the president or the treasurer decides to resign.

Art. 23:

The members of the association must be invited to the GBM at-least a week before the GBM. The agenda must be communicated with the invitation. Any member is allowed to propose items as well as changes to the constitution and nominate candidate(s) for a position in the EC . However, they must be handed to the committee in written form at least three days prior to the GBM. Changes to the constitution require a two thirds majority votes of the attending members whereas other proposals require general majority.

Art. 24:

The GBM must include the following:

- a. Continuation and addendums to the constitution
- b. Presentation of the audited financial report by the treasurer
- c. The election of the new executive committee
- d. Nomination of two independent auditors
- e. Miscellaneous

Art. 25:

Firstly, the president shall be elected after which the other executive members must be elected. The election process of each EC member must include the following steps:

- a. Nomination through a member by either written request prior to the GBM or spontaneously at the GBM
- b. Presentation of the nominee's agenda
- c. Feedback and questioning by other members
- d. Voting and approval of the nominee by the general body

Art. 26:

Every member in attendance has a singular vote. Abstentions are not allowed with regards to changes to the constitution. Members are defined in *Art. 8*.

XI. Liability

Art. 27:

The liability of the association is limited to the assets of the association according to Art. 75a ZGB. For any obligation entered into by an individual member with a third party, the association cannot be made liable for the individuals actions.

XII. Dissolution

Art. 28:

In order to dissolve the association, votes of two thirds of the voting members is necessary at a GBM or if less than 3 members are voted into the EC. Should the association be dissolved, the available assets should be transferred to a non-profit organization (decided by the outgoing EC and approved by the GBM) pursuing public interest goals similar to those of InSAZ and likewise benefiting from tax exemption. Under no circumstances should the assets be returned to the founders or members. Nor should they use a part or a total of assets for their own benefit.

XIII. Validity

Art. 29:

The present constitution has been approved by the GBM of _____ (date) at _____ (place).

President

Vice-president/Treasurer