

STATUTES OF THE SWISS SOCIETY OF THE KANSAI

Schweizerverein Kansai
Association des Suisses au Kansai
Assoziazione Svizzera del Kansai

- Adopted at the Foundation Assembly held in Kobe on June 8, 1979
- Amended at the 3rd Annual General Meeting held in Kobe on March 10, 1982
- Amended at the 25th Annual General Meeting held in Osaka on February 20, 2002
- Amended at the 36th Annual General Meeting held in Osaka on March 13, 2015
(Article 14, last paragraph: “A quorum is reached when 3 members of the Executive Committee are present.” (changed from 5 members).
- Amended at the 39th Annual General Meeting held in Kobe on March 3, 2018
(Deleting nationality restrictions in Article 5)

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Article 1 Name

A “Swiss Society of the Kansai” (hereafter called Society) is founded by the Swiss residents in the Consular district of Osaka.

Article 2 Aim

The Society is a non-political and non-profit organization. Its aim is to further the relationship between Swiss nationals themselves with their homeland, particularly through “The Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) (hereafter called Organization), and with Japan.

Article 3 Domicile

The Society has its domicile at the address of the “Honorary Consulate General of Switzerland (Office) in Osaka.

Article 4 Term

The social and financial year is the calendar year.

Article 5 Membership

a) Ordinary members

Any person aged at least 18 years, and being either of Swiss nationality or of whatever nationality and with a genuine interest in or attachment to Switzerland.

b) Honorary members

Any person who has rendered appreciable services to the society or the Swiss community in Kansai can be made an honorary member.

Article 6 Admission

Application for admission shall be made in writing to any member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will make sure that statutory requirements are met. A refusal of the executive Committee can be appealed by the candidate to the General Assembly.

Article 7 Termination of Membership

The membership of any member ends or is terminated in the following cases:

- a) by resignation addressed in writing to the President.
- b) by non-payment of the dues for more than two years.
- c) by exclusion pronounced by the General Assembly for serious reasons.
- d) by the member's leaving Japan definitely with or without notifying the Society.
- e) by death of the member.

Article 8 Voting Rights

Each ordinary member has one vote. Vote by proxy (representation) shall not be permitted.

Article 9 Membership Dues

The General Assembly will fix annual dues for 3 categories:

- a) individuals
- b) families
- c) students

Article 10 Ordinary General Assembly

The Ordinary General Assembly:

- a) Elects the Executive Committee and 1 auditor.
- b) Approves the general directives for the activities of the Society submitted by the Executive Committee.
- c) Fixes the annual membership dues.
- d) Makes final decision on admission or exclusion of ordinary members.
- e) Decides on appointment of honorary member(s) as proposed by the Executive Committee.
- f) Receives, debates and approves the annual report of the Executive Committee.
- g) After hearing the treasurer's and auditors' reports, approves the accounts for the past year.

- h) Discharges the outgoing Executive Committee.
- i) Approves the budget for the coming year.
- j) Debates and votes on any items on the agenda.

The Ordinary General Assembly must be held once a year within the first 3 calendar months. The Executive Committee calls the Ordinary General Assembly by invitation to all members, together with the agenda, at least 4 weeks before the date set for such assembly. Proposals for items to be included in the agenda shall be submitted to the Executive Committee (until December 31st), six weeks before the AGM, at the latest.

Article 11 Extraordinary General Assembly

An extraordinary General Assembly may be called:

- a) by written invitation of the Executive Committee, together with the proposed agenda, at least two weeks before the meeting.
- b) by request of at least 20% of all ordinary members. Such request will be submitted in writing together with the proposed agenda to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will, within 6 weeks from receipt of this request, arrange for an Extraordinary General Assembly. Invitations shall be mailed two weeks before the date of the meeting.
- c) by request of the Honorary Consul General in Osaka. Such request will be submitted in writing together with the proposed agenda to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will, within 6 weeks from receipt of this request, arrange for an Extraordinary General Assembly. Invitations shall be mailed two weeks before the date of the meeting.

Article 12 Resolutions

Resolutions are taken by simple majority of voting members present, except for Dissolution of the Society or amendments to the Statutes, requiring 2/3 majority pursuant to Article 18 and 19 respectively. In the case of equality of votes, the President or in his absence the Vice President have the deciding vote. A quorum is reached when 20% of all ordinary members are present.

Article 13 Consultations

Consultations concerning questions raised by, or proposals directed to the Society shall be conducted in writing.

Article 14 Executive Committee

The Ordinary General Assembly elects a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and up to five other ordinary members to form the Executive Committee. The President has to be of Swiss nationality. Members of the Executive Committee are elected for a term of one year, and are eligible for reelection. Proposals for nominations can be made by any ordinary member either in writing in advance to any member of the Executive Committee, or verbally at the Ordinary General Assembly.

The Executive Committee:

- a) Draws up directives for the activities of the Society for the following year, and submits them to the Ordinary General Assembly.
- b) Implements the directives for the activities of the Society as approved, and reports to the next Ordinary General Assembly.
- c) Submits proposals for honorary members to the Ordinary General Assembly.
- d) Is in charge of the administrative and financial management of the Society, and reports thereon to the Ordinary General Assembly.

The Executive Committee meets at least 4 times a year and furthermore whenever circumstances demand it. Resolutions are taken by simple majority. In case of equality of votes, the President or in his absence the Vice President have the deciding vote. A quorum is reached when 3 members of the Executive Committee are present.

Article 15 Representative

The President or in case of impediment the Vice-President acts as representative of the Society.

Article 16 Auditors

The auditor audits the accounts presented by the treasurer and reports to the Ordinary General Assembly. The accounts are available to the auditors at any time.

Article 17 Arbitration

Should any disputes require arbitration, a court of arbitration will be formed as follows: Each party selects an arbitrator from amongst the ordinary members and the arbitrators select an additional arbitrator who is also an ordinary member. Should these arbitrators not be able to settle the dispute, the Swiss Honorary Consul General in Osaka shall act as final arbitrator.

Article 18 Dissolution

The resolution of dissolution of the Society can be passed only by affirmative vote of a 2/3 majority of the ordinary members present at an Extraordinary General Assembly convened for this purpose. A quorum is reached when 2/3 of all ordinary members are present. In case the dissolution of the Society is decided, any remaining funds will be given to the Swiss Consulate in Tokyo for safe-keeping for a period of at least 5 years. The funds will be transferred to any new club having a similar aim, which may be formed within this period. If no such new club is formed until the expiration of the 5 year period, the funds can be used to help needy Swiss in the consular district. In case of dissolution of the Society, the Organization shall immediately be notified in writing.

Article 19 Change of Statutes

Any modification of the present Statutes shall require an affirmative vote of a 2/3 majority of voting members present at an Annual or Extraordinary General Assembly. Such modifications must be tabled on the agenda of the meeting, stating the present text and the proposed new text of the corresponding article(s) of the Statutes.