

**Draft changes to ISISA Charter following Strategic Review.**

*Dear ISISA Members,*

*A strategic review of the operations of ISISA was launched soon after the current Executive Committee was elected in Penghu, Taiwan, in September 2014. After extensive consultations with the membership of ISISA, the review was completed in March 2015. Thirteen amendments to the statute are now being proposed in order to put into place the outcomes of this review exercise.*

*All these 13 amendments, along with their justification, are provided in this single document.*

*A vote will be proposed at the next ISISA General Meeting in Lesvos, Greece, in May 2016 to approve these amendments.*

*Please familiarise yourself with the proposed changes, and let the Executive Committee know if you have any questions, concerns or any other comments about any of these planned alterations to the ISISA Charter.*

*Thank you, and best wishes for the New Year ☺*

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*29 December 2015*



# ISISA Charter

Original text in black

**Original text to be amended or removed in black and bold and within [ [ ] ]**

**Replacements highlighted in red.**

**Justifications for the amendments in blue.**

## **Preamble**

A group of scholars, researchers and other interested persons from around the world concerned with small islands first organised an international conference in Victoria BC, Canada, in 1986 to discuss their common interests. The first “Islands of the World” conference was followed by further meetings in Tasmania (1988) and the Bahamas (1992). At the “Islands of the World III” Bahamas meeting, it was decided to form a continuing organisation and that this body would hold its first meeting at the “Islands of the World IV” Conference in Okinawa, in June 1994. **[[Subsequent conferences have been held in Mauritius (1998), Isle of Skye (2000), Prince Edward Island (2002), Kinmen, Taiwan (2004), Maui, Hawai’i (2006), and Jeju, South Korea (2008). At the 11<sup>th</sup> ‘Islands of the World’ Conference held in 2010 in Bornholm, Denmark, it was agreed to limit the size of the Executive Committee, and introduce an Advisory Council.]]** Subsequent conferences have been held in Mauritius (1998), Isle of Skye, Scotland, UK (2000), Prince Edward Island, Canada (2002), Kinmen, Taiwan (2004), Maui, Hawai’i, USA (2006), Jeju, South Korea (2008), Bornholm, Denmark (2010), Tortola, British Virgin Islands (2012), Penghu, Taiwan (2014) and Lesvos, Greece (2016).

This 1<sup>st</sup> amendment updates the list of ISISA IoW conferences to 2016, plus removes the reference to the decisions taken in Bornholm.

## **Article I. Name**

A) The name shall be the International Small Islands Studies Association (hereinafter known simply by its acronym in English, ISISA).

## **Article II. Objectives of ISISA**

- A) To advance the study of islands.
- B) To encourage free **and critical** discussion on island **affairs, including (but not limited to) matters dealing with survival, sustainability, islandness, smallness, insularity, resource management, the environment, and the culture and nature of island life.**
- C) **To generate an interest in the study of islands, especially amongst those who hail from, work in, are associated with, or whose decisions have an impact on small islands and small island life.**

This 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment updates the objectives of ISISA by providing more details on its areas of core interest, as well as on its core constituencies.

### **Article III. Activities**

**[[ A) ISISA shall aim to link people interested in small island matters through international communications, such as newsletters, journals and periodic conferences.]]**

A) **ISISA shall aim to connect members of the general public, students, scholars, policy makers, community representatives and others interested in small island matters through international and electronic communication, such as newsletters, journals, website, social media, conferences and other periodic events.**

This 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment adds website and electronic means and social media to the means for communicating with the members and the public at large; while remaining all inclusive, the amendment also specifies particular groups interested in the work of ISISA.

B) ISISA shall be independent, non–profit and educational

C) **ISISA will abide by the fiduciary regulations of the country in which its funds are held.**

This 4<sup>th</sup> amendment affirms ISISA’s commitment to proper ethical and legal conduct with regards to its finances.

### **Article IV. Membership**

A) The ISISA Membership shall be the Governing Body of the Association. It is composed of all members in good standing.

**[[A member in “good standing” is one who has paid his/her current dues at the scheduled IOW Conference when voting will occur on ISISA issues.]]**

A member in “good standing” is one who has paid his/her current dues.

This 5<sup>th</sup> amendment clarifies that membership is no longer payable at scheduled IOW Conferences only.

**[[ B) Membership is open to individuals, entities, organisations and institutions having an interest in small island studies who accept the Charter and its underlying principles. Each member has one vote.]]**

B) Membership is open to individuals having an interest in island studies, including small island studies, and who accept the Charter and its underlying principles. Each member has one vote.

This 6<sup>th</sup> amendment clarifies that members can ONLY be individuals (avoids possible take-over and /or infiltration by unwelcome institutional interests). It also adds interest in ‘island studies’ over and above interest in ‘small island studies’.

**[[ C) Dues shall be set by the Executive Committee and are US\$20 payable at every ISISA Conference, typically in about two years’ time.]]**

C) Membership fees shall be set by the Executive Committee and will be reviewed on a regular basis. Effective from January 1, 2017, membership dues are US\$20 or equivalent, payable on an annual basis.

D) Individuals not in a position to pay the fee but who wish to become members of ISISA should approach the ISISA Treasurer with a written request, citing their reasons, and which will be considered by the ISISA Executive Committee. The Committee’s decision will be final.

This 7<sup>th</sup> amendment clarifies that membership is payable every year. It proposes a membership fee of \$20/year (or equivalent) to make up for the added running expenses of the Association, plus improve the ability to offer still more student scholarships. (As far as I know, the membership fee has never been changed. \$20 remains affordable for most; and the option for a fee waiver is now introduced.)

E) Life Membership in ISISA is available to current or prospective members for a once-only fee of US\$200 payable at any time, and following the approval of the application by the ISISA Executive Committee.

**[[ F) Members and other interested individuals and entities may make donations to support the work of ISISA, and shall be appropriately recognised in the Association’s publications and meetings.]]**

F) Individuals, entities, organisations and institutions may make donations, or offer sponsorship, to support the work of ISISA, and shall be appropriately recognised in the Association’s publications and meetings. Any donation or sponsorship of \$200 or higher requires the approval of the ISISA Executive Committee.

This 8<sup>th</sup> amendment is meant to protect ISISA from corporate or other interests that may not conform to the objects of the Association. Any sum higher than a life membership is thus subject to the approval of the Executive Committee – just as the life membership application itself is already covered.

G) The Rights of members in good standing shall be to attend the meetings of the Association, to vote, to hold office, to receive such publications and enjoy such privileges as shall be determined.

H) A General Meeting of ISISA should be held during its periodic conferences for the election of officers, to present and discuss the budget and the conduct of the Association’s business.

**[[ I) Termination of membership takes place when a member has not paid a subscription for more than two ISISA conferences, or by resignation in writing by that member, duly sent to the ISISA Secretary.]]**

I) Termination of membership takes place when: (a) a member’s subscription has lapsed by six (6) months, and once that member has been duly notified of this lapse by the ISISA Secretary; or (b) by resignation in writing by that member, duly sent to the ISISA Secretary.

This 9<sup>th</sup> amendment follows the shift to an annual membership fee.

## **Article V. Executive Committee**

A) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the daily operation of ISISA, may co-opt other members, and is subordinate to the Membership at the General Meeting.

B) The President and Executive Committee members shall be elected at the ISISA General Meeting and shall serve for four years.

C) The President (or, in his **or her** absence, the Vice President or nominee, in that order) shall preside at all meetings of the Association.

**[[ D) The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than six and not more than nine members. These include the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Communications Officer, along with up to four, other, elected ordinary members.]]**

**D) The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than six and not more than nine members. These include the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and Treasurer, along with up to five, other, elected ordinary members.**

This 10<sup>th</sup> amendment follows the projected move to ISISA's own website and a diversity of communication solutions that cannot be handled by one person. The proposal is thus to eliminate the position of Communications Officer – although the incumbent can continue a full term.

E) Each Executive Committee will also include at least two supernumerary (or co-opted) members: one representing the immediately preceding 'Islands of the World' Conference; and one representing the immediately following 'Islands of the World' Conference.

**[[Article VI. Advisory Council]] DELETED**

This 11<sup>th</sup> amendment involves the complete removal of this Article, following agreement to disband the Advisory Council. The agreement to disband was unanimously confirmed by the members of the current AC themselves.

## **Article VI. Conferences and Meetings**

**[[ A) Conferences shall be held periodically at times and places to be determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Membership.]]**

**A) Conferences shall usually be held biennially, at times and places to be determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Membership.**

This 12<sup>th</sup> amendment takes cognizance of the membership's wish to stick mainly to a biennial conference schedule.

B) A General Meeting shall be held as part of each ISISA Conference.

C) The Executive Committee shall confer at least twice each year, at such time and in such manner as they shall determine.

## Article VII. Duration

A) The duration of ISISA is Perpetual.

## Article VIII. Amendments

A) This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all ISISA members in good standing present at the General Meeting.

**[[ B) Amendments may be proposed by the President, Executive Committee, the Advisory Council, or through the petition of 20% or more of the members in good standing. ISISA will vote upon all such proposed amendments at its next regularly scheduled General Meeting.]]**

**B) Amendments may be proposed by the President, Executive Committee, or through the petition of 20% or more of the members in good standing. ISISA will vote upon all such proposed amendments at its next regularly scheduled General Meeting convened for this purpose. Any such meetings can be scheduled electronically.**

This 13<sup>th</sup> and final amendment removes the Advisory Council from the article, and specifies that a ‘meeting’ may be held virtually, using suitable information technology.

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