

# **PAX ROMANA- International Movement of Catholic Students Asia Pacific General Statutes**

## **I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1 – Definition**

The International Movement of Catholic Students Asia Pacific (IMCS AP) is constituted by the National Movements of Catholic tertiary students in Asia and Pacific who are members of IMCS – Pax Romana.

### **Article 2 – Legal Status and Secretariat**

IMCS Asia Pacific - PAX ROMANA secretariat is duly registered as Non-Profit Making Organization with the Internal Revenue Department in the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission with S.E.C. Reg. No. A 1997-1526.

### **Article 3 – Objectives**

- 3.1 To promote the student apostolate among the students in higher education stressing their responsibility in life, in the Church's mission and in the world
- 3.2 To recognize the need and importance of justice and peace, a recognition which is vital to the transformation of society, and work with all concerned persons for joint action and reflection leading to a more just ,peaceful and equitable social order at all levels: national, regional and international;
- 3.3 To further the Christian faith experience lived in one's own commitment and to try to communicate this faith to the student milieu by bearing witness to Jesus Christ;
- 3.4 To develop Pedagogy, which helps students integrate their Christian to faith in their efforts to build a more just society.
- 3.5 To empower students to recognize the multi-religious and multi-cultural realities of Asia Pacific region and to equip them with adequate formation to respect, preserve and celebrate them.

### **Article 4 – Form of Action**

With these objectives the IMCS will try:

- 4.1 To facilitate the formation of Catholic Student Movements in countries in which they do not yet exist and to see that their continued growth goes hand in hand with that of the existing movements;
- 4.2 To provide the students and chaplains of member movements with possibilities for meeting and reflecting on joint initiatives on the basis of the situation in the national, regional, and

global society;

- 4.3 To propose guidelines for actions to be carried out in solidarity by the member movements in accordance with the possibilities of each of the national movements;
- 4.4 To organize, within the framework of AsPac Secretariat, an efficient communication service for the exchange of information in all areas concerning the student apostolate spheres of competence in the institutions of higher education;
- 4.5 To represent, at the international level, the Catholic student movement in University and tertiary institutions and to cooperate with other international organizations.

## **II. MEMBERS**

The IMCS is made up of three types of organizations: full members, correspondent members and collaborators.

### **Article 5 – Full Members**

The Catholic Students Organizations in universities and institutions of higher education which fulfill the following conditions are full members of IMCS:

- 5.1 Agree with articles 3 and 4;
- 5.2 Are not affiliated to any political party;
- 5.3 Group together at the national level Catholic students or groups of Catholic Students
  - 5.3.1 In principle, only one movement per nation-state will be admitted;
  - 5.3.2 In exceptional cases, a greater number of movements per nation-state can be admitted. This concerns above all nation-states in which there are very great cultural, linguistic, ethnic, political and/or pastoral differences;
  - 5.3.3 All nation-states having more than two IMCS member movements should have, whenever possible, a coordination of these movements;
  - 5.3.4 They must be actively present within their own nation-state and in several cities. Exceptions to this rule can be made for the existing groups when there is only one single student center for higher education in their nation-state.

### **Article 6 – Correspondent Member**

- 6.1 Those Catholic Student Organizations in universities and higher education institutions, which do not fulfill the conditions, stipulated in the article 5 but which can usefully collaborate with the IMCS are corresponding members. They have a right to the IMCS' services and can be invited to the International Committee as observers.
- 6.2 In the Asia Pacific region where such rules of procedures are in force, the Asia Pacific Council

(APC) can decide on the admission of the candidates as corresponding members, in consultation with the International Team. If the Asia Pacific Council (APC) accepts the request, the International Committee ratifies the decision.

### **Article 7 – Collaborators**

- 7.1 Those student organizations regardless of religion, in universities and higher education institutions, which do not fulfill the conditions stipulated in the article 5 and 6 but can collaborate with the IMCS Asia Pacific as collaborators. They can take part in the activities of IMCS.
- 7.2 All decision-making should be made only by the existing national movements. Collaborators have only a consultative position or role in the decision making process in all levels of the coordination of IMCS.
- 7.3 The movement should be given the collaborator status in consultation with and the approval of the existing National movement.
- 7.4 To facilitate a better process with collaborators, IMCS should keep the communication channel open with the existing National Movement.

### **Article 8 – Admission Applications**

- 8.1 All applications for admission must be submitted to the International Secretariat six months before the International Committee meetings. The following documents must also be enclosed with the request for admission:
  - 8.2 The International Secretariat must send copies of the following documents to all its member movements within a reasonable period of time before the International Committee:
    - 8.2.1 A descriptive summary of the activities of the organization applying for affiliation;
    - 8.2.2 A recommendation from the International Team or the Asia Pacific Regional Team.

### **Article 9 – Withdrawal, Suspension or Expulsion**

- 9.1 A member movement can withdraw from the IMCS by unilaterally notifying the International Team, which in turn will inform the International Committee.
- 9.2 An organization which does not conform to or no longer fulfills the conditions stipulated in articles 3, 4, 5, and 6 can be reprimanded, suspended or excluded by the Asia Pacific Council (APC). The decision should be ratified by the International Committee.
- 9.3 If changes take place in the nature of a member movement, the International Committee will decide on its status in the IMCS.

In an emergency case between two International Committees, the Consultation Meeting between Regional and International Teams will have to take the necessary measures on issues related to affiliation.

### **III. DECISION MAKING/GOVERNING BODIES**

#### **Article 10**

Asia Pacific Council (APC) which meets once in three years shall be the highest decision making body of IMCS Asia Pacific.

#### **THE ASIA PACIFIC COUNCIL**

#### **Article 11 - Composition**

The Asia Pacific Council (APC) shall be composed of:

- i) Two (2) students and one (1) Chaplain/Animator/Advisor/Full timer from each Movement affiliated to IMCS
- ii) Asia Pacific Team
- iii) Regional Chaplain/Chaplaincy Team
- iv) One (1) observer from each of IMCS correspondent members/collaborators

#### **Article 12 - Functions**

Functions of APC :

- 12.1 To determine the goals and priorities of the movement in accordance to the challenges coming from the milieu, society and the church.
- 12.2 To evaluate and establish work of the IMCS Asia Pacific Team and the movement's overall situation in Asia Pacific.
- 12.3 To study and vote on any proposed modifications of the statutes.
- 12.4 To adopt the decisions on admission and exclusion of membership.
- 12.5 To elect or approve the election of IMCS Asia Pacific team members.
- 12.6 To approve the accounts

### **Article 13 an 14 – Voting Rights**

13. All efforts shall be made to arrive at decisions in APC through consensus. However, if consensus can't be reached after a reasonable discussion a vote shall be taken in the form of raise of hands, and a simple majority will be the deciding factor.
14. Asia Pacific team as an entity has one vote and each affiliated Movement has one vote, which will be carried through by a student delegate during the APC

### **Article 15 – Quorum**

A quorum for the meeting of the APC is attained, when at least 5 (five) member movements are present.

## **1V. EXECUTIVE AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

### **Article 16 – IMCS Asia Pacific Team**

IMCS Asia Pacific Team is the Executive Body of the movement

### **Article 17**

Asia Pacific Team shall be consisted of 2 or 3 members for a period of 3 years, nominated by the National Movements and approved by 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority of the member movements through post and fax or e-mail with confirmation of receipt, and to be ratified by the APC.

### **Article 18 – Responsibilities**

The Asia Pacific Team's duties and responsibilities are the following :

- 18.1 To carry out the work of the Asia Pacific Secretariat in all areas concerning the movement according to the decisions taken by the Asia Pacific Council.
- 18.2 To maintain close relations with the member movements, regional and International Secretariats.
- 18.3 To prepare and organize the meetings of the Asia Pacific Council.
- 18.4 To ensure the movement's representation and participation in other organizations and movements.
- 18.5 To guarantee the exchange of information and documentation within the movement.
- 18.6 To plan and administer the financial affairs, taking into account the movement's life and growth.
- 18.7 To present a clear activity and financial reports on the movement at the Asia Pacific Council and each Sub-Regional Programs.

## **Article 19 – Regional Chaplain / Chaplaincy Team**

In response to the changing needs of the movement, there shall be a Regional Chaplain or Chaplaincy Team, who will assist and accompany the IMCS Asia Pacific and its Team to carry out their mandate in the secretariat, keep their relationships and focus of work. She/he/they shall be nominated by the National Movements, approved by the member movements as in the case of the Asia Pacific Team and appointed by the International Chaplain.

- 19.1 The Regional Chaplaincy Team shall be composed of 1 lay woman, 1 lay man and 1 priest/religious while maintaining the sub-regional balance.
- 19.2 The Regional Chaplaincy Team would meet 2-3 times per year online or physically with the Asia Pacific Team, in order to regular recollection, keep their relationship and work focus, evaluate and plan the activities of the Secretariat.
- 19.3 The term of the Chaplaincy Team will be three (3) years. Upon recommendation, the term is renewable for another 3 years.
- 19.4 The priest-chaplain is enjoined to take the APT for annual retreat to ensure a deepening of the faith-experience of the fulltime coordinators.

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## **V. FINANCES**

### **Article 20**

- 20.1 The annual membership fee is fixed by the common agreement by the regional team and the movements, and approved by the Asia Pacific Council.
- 20.2 Efforts are made for special contributions to obtain through the Asia Pacific Team's negotiations.
- 20.3 The Asia Pacific team has its accounts examined by a chartered accountant before submitting to the Asia Pacific Council.

## **VI. MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES**

### **Article 21**

Amendments to these Statutes shall be proposed by the member movements or Asia Pacific Team and the same shall be circulated among the member movements for discussion at least 2 months prior to APC. APC shall be empowered to adopt the amendments or additions with 2/3rd majority votes.