Progress in the Foundation
of the **A**ssociation of **W**orld **E**lection **B**odies
[A-WEB]

NATIONAL ELECTION COMMISSION
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The Interim Office of the A-WEB

Progress in the Foundation
of the Association of World Election Bodies
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1 What is A-WEB?

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What is A-WEB?

- The Association of the World Election Bodies (A-WEB) is an international organization where election management bodies (EMBs), regional election associations and international election organizations around the world will take part.

- Through providing emerging democracies with assistance for their systematic political development and exchange of election-related knowledge, information and experiences as well as support for EMBs to strengthen their professionalism, A-WEB is to help them secure procedural democracy through elections.

- Therefore, it will become an international election organization to develop and solidify democracy across the world in the years to come.

The Necessity of the Foundation of A-WEB

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The Necessity of the Foundation of A-WEB

To develop and solidify democracy across the world, it is necessary to make global efforts through constant exchanges of informations and cooperation among election bodies of each country as well as regional associations.

Election bodies in charge of managing elections, a means of realizing the core value of democracy – "People's Sovereignty", have been seeking the way for improvement and development of democracy and electoral systems. Therefore, the most important thing is collaboration and cooperation among election bodies that manage elections on their own for development of democracy.

Furthermore, we hope to develop the study on systematic support for democracy in emerging democracies, advanced political and electoral systems and election management methodologies through cooperation with regional associations and international organizations in the framework of the A-WEB.

2 Progress for the Foundation of A-WEB

A-WEB Foundation Forum Held in October 2011 in Seoul

Attendance	53 representatives (from 23 nations & international organizations)
Outcomes	Reached the AAEA Conference Resolution to establish A-WEB ※AAEA (Association of Asian Election Authorities)

Outcomes of A-WEB Foundation Forum (Oct. 2011)

- From now on, we start to call the Association of World Election Bodies as '**A-WEB**' until we discuss it again.

- A thorough discussion made on **A-WEB's** roles, financing and so forth in practice.

- With common grounds for the need to establish **A-WEB** among all participants, we led to an agreement to set up a network including all EMBs from around the world through organizing the Working Group and studying its feasibility.

- We came to a conclusion that **A-WEB**'s vision, roles, structure and future plans will be finalized after holding meetings by the Working Group.

- Adoption of '**AAEA** Conference Resolution' – including outcomes mentioned above and all participated representatives from EMBs, regional associations and relevant international organizations signed it.

A-WEB Foundation Forum Held in October 2011 in Seoul

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AAEA Conference Resolution

AAEA Conference

Seoul, Korea

October 27, 2011

RESOLVES as follows:

1. For strengthening electoral democracy worldwide, the Electoral Management Body (EMB) of each country and election-related regional and international organizations present at the AAEA General Assembly meeting held in Seoul in 2011, agreed on the necessity for and expressed the intention to establish a Working Group to conduct a feasibility study and network with all EMBs, election-related regional and international organizations and multi-lateral agencies towards the founding of an association of world election bodies.

2. The interim name of this association is to be referred to as A-WEB (Association of the World Election Bodies) until such time that an official name is formally recognized through the efforts of the aforesaid Working Group.

3. The vision, role, organizational structure, timelines and workplan of the A-WEB are to be recommended by the Working Group after due

A-WEB Foundation Forum Held in October 2011 in Seoul

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deliberations.

It is our hope that the EMBs of each country of the world, election-related regional and international organizations, and multi-lateral agencies will work together for the establishment of the A-WEB, and will actively cooperate in the constitution and subsequent activities of the Working Group.

Country/ Organization	Name	Position	Signature
AAEA	Hon. Justice Nung-Hwan Kim	AAEA Chairman	
ACEEEO	Mr. Zsolt Szolnoki	Secretary General	
ACEO	Mr. Michael N. Flood	Electoral Commissioner of Saint Lucia	
Afghanistan	Prof. Fazal Ahmad Manawi	Chairman	
Australia	Hon. Peter C. Heerey QC	Chairperson	
Bangladesh	Mr. Muhammed S. Hussain	Election Commissioner	
Bhutan	Dasho Kunzang Wangdi	Chief Election Commissioner	
Cambodia	Dr. Sin Chum Bo	Vice President	
IFES	Ms. Beverly H. Thakur	Chief of Party, IFES-Philippines	

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IIDEA	Mr. Adhy Aman	Programme Officer, Asia & the Pacific	
India	Dr. Shahabuddin Y. Quraishi	Chief Election Commissioner	
Kazakhstan	Mr. Kuandyk Turgankulov	Chairman	
Korea	Hon. Justice Nung-Hwan Kim	Chairperson	
Malaysia	Mrs. Rokiah Hanum Ibrahim	State Election Director	
Mexico	Mr. Manuel Carrilo Poblano	Chief of Staff of Int'l Affairs	
Mongolia	Mr.Choinzon Sodnomtseren	Secretary / Member	
Nepal	Dr. Ayodhee P. Yadav	Election Commissioner	
Papua New Guinea	John Ellee	Director	
Philippines	Christian Robert S. Lim	Commissioner	
Sri Lanka	Mr. R.M.A.L Rathnayaka	Senior Deputy Commissioner	
Taiwan	Dr. Po-ya Chang	CEC Chairperson	
Thailand	Mr. Aprichart Sukhagganond	Chairman	
Venezuela	Mr. Xavier Moreno	General Secretary	

27 October 2011

Working Group Organized for the Launch of A-WEB in March 2012

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Regional Associations: Representatives from 5 regional associations

AAEA(Association of Asian Election Authorities), ACEO(Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations), ACEEEO(Association of European Election Officials), UNIORE(Union Interamericana de Organismos Electorales), ECF-SADC (Electoral Commissions Forum of Southern African Development Community)

Election-related International Organizations: 4 organizations

UNDP(United Nations Development Programme), International IDEA(International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance), IFES(International Foundation for Electoral Systems), EISA(Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa)

The 1st Working Group Meeting for A-WEB in May 2012.

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Attendance	15 representatives (from 8 electoral organizations) in Seoul
Outcomes (consensus)	Consensus for A-WEB's Vision and Mission

Outcomes of 1st Working Group Meeting (May. 2012)

- Agreed on the foundation of A-WEB
- Agreed on A-WEB's Vision and Mission

Vision

A-WEB shall be the pinnacle to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting of free, fair, peaceful, transparent, credible and participative elections worldwide through sustained cooperation at a global level.

Mission

To identify latest trends, challenges and developments in democratic electoral management and related processes and facilitate appropriate exchange of experience and expertise among members with the objective of strengthening electoral democracy worldwide.

The 2nd Working Group Meeting for A-WEB in September 2012.

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Attendance	14 representatives (from 8 organizations) in Bosnia-Herzegovina
Outcomes (consensus)	• Agreement on A-WEB's roles, membership, structure and financing • The National Election Commission, Republic of Korea will provide secretariat functions till the General Assembly meets and decides about the Secretariat.

The 3ʳᵈ Working Group Meeting for A-WEB in March 2013.

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Period	March 26~29, 2013(Jeju Island, Korea)
Attendance	A-WEB Working Group Members (11 representatives from 9 organizations) • **Regional Associations**: 7 personnel from 4 continents 　※AAEA(Association of Asian Election Authorities), ACEEEO(Association of European Election Officials), 　　UNIORE(Union Interamericana de Organismos Electorales), ECF-SADC (Electoral Commissions Forum of Southern 　　African Development Community) • **Election-related International Organizations**: 4 personnel from 4 organizations 　※UNDP(United Nations Development Programme), International IDEA(International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance), 　　IFES(International Foundation for Electoral Systems), EISA(Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa)
Outcomes (consensus)	• Discussion and Consensus for the A-WEB Charter • Consensus on deciding the country for the A-WEB Secretariat

The 3rd Working Group Meeting for A-WEB in March 2013.

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The main points of the A-WEB Charter (Mar. 2013) - 1

Type of Entity

The Association shall be a non-political, autonomous and independent association comprising election bodies around the world, which does not have the intent to interfere with the sovereignty of any country.

Composition

• The membership of A-WEB shall consist of the national election management bodies of all countries.
• Regional election associations shall be eligible for associate membership of the Association.
• A-WEB shall have as partners international election-related organizations.
• Election stakeholders who have an interest in the vision, mission and objectives of A-WEB and who are approved by the Executive Board may attend the General Assembly as observers.

Organs

The Association shall be comprised of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Secretariat.

The 3rd Working Group Meeting for A-WEB in March 2013.

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The main points of the A-WEB Charter (Mar. 2013) - 2

The General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be held once every two years. The Chairperson who is the head of the election management body to host the General Assembly shall preside over the meeting.

The Executive Board

• **Composition**
The heads, or the duly designated representatives, of not more than 10 election management bodies elected at the General Assembly, guaranteeing a well-balanced representation; the Chairperson; the Vice-Chairperson; and the Secretary General

• **Term of office**
Except for the Secretary General, the Executive Board members shall serve a two-year term of office and shall serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

• **The Executive Board Meeting**
The Executive Board shall meet once a year and may hold extraordinary meetings on request by at least one third of the Executive Board members.

The 3rd Working Group Meeting for A-WEB in March 2013.

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The main points of the A-WEB Charter (Mar. 2013) - 3

Office Bearers

• **The Chairperson** : The Chairperson will be the head of the election management body that hosts the General Assembly.

• **The Vice-Chairperson** : The head of the election management body to host the next General Assembly shall serve as the Vice-Chairperson of A-WEB.

• **The Secretary General** : The General Assembly shall approve the appointment of the Secretary General taking into account the recommendation of the Executive Board following the suggestion by the Head of the Election Management Body of the country where the Secretariat is located. The Secretary General shall be appointed to a term of office of four years and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The Secretariat

The seat of the Secretariat shall be situated in the Republic of Korea.

Operation costs of the Secretariat : The election management body in the country where the Secretariat is located will incur the costs for leasing and maintaining the office building and for facilitating the operation of the Secretariat.

3 **2013 Schedule**

October 2013: The A-WEB Inaugural Assembly & The 6th GEO Conference

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Period	October 14 ~ 17, 2013.
Place	Song-do International City, Incheon, Korea
Attendance	400 representatives and distinguished guests (from around 150 EMBs and relevant international organizations)

Main substance	• Inaugural Assembly
	   a. Report on outcomes of Working Group Meetings for establishing A-WEB
	   b. Adopt the Charter and proclaim the establishment of A-WEB (including the confirmation on the country to have the seat of the A-WEB Secretariat)
	   c. Select the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and make up the Executive Board

GEO Conference	• Seminars on challenges EMBs in the world are currently facing ※Theme : 『Sustainable Electoral Processes, Strengthened Democracy』

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