

# **Constitution of the Society of Nepalese Students in Korea (SONSIK)**

## **(2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment)**

### **Preamble**

We, the Nepalese students studying at different Academic Institutions in Korea, having felt the need to establish a unified students' Society to promote our academic, professional and other mutual interests through wider, regular and frequent exchange of views among ourselves, and believing that closer relations with various academic institutions and professional groups in Korea, Nepal and abroad would be helpful in promoting our common academic interests, DO HEREBY agree to form ourselves into a voluntary Society and adopt this Constitution.

### **Terms and Abbreviations used in this constitution**

The abbreviations and terms used in this constitution solely mean to explain the interest of students' welfare; its objectives and working limits will be within the framework of the constitution approved by the General Assembly of this society.

**Students:** Nepalese Students studying in Korean Universities.

**SONSIK:** Society of Nepalese Students in Korea.

**GA:** General Assembly

**Executive body:** The governing body of the SONSIK.

**Officers:** Members involved in the executive body of the society.

**P&P:** Policies and Procedures

**EC:** Election Committee

### **Article I: Name and Guiding Principles**

1. The Society shall be known as the Society of Nepalese Students in Korea or SONSIK in short.
2. The following guiding principles shall shape the objectives and activities of the Society.
  - (a) The Society shall act as a common forum of all Korea-based Nepalese students to facilitate exchange of views and promotion of mutual cooperation.
  - (b) The Society shall act as an umbrella body of all other regional/local association of Nepalese students at any Korean Institutions and work to strengthen mutual cooperation and activate all students.
  - (c) The Society shall work for the promotion of academic and other common interests among all the members.
  - (d) The Society shall maintain close links with other institutions to promote the cultural and academic exchanges between Nepal and Korea.
  - (e) The Society shall help to get information regarding study opportunities in Korea across interested Nepalese.

To fulfill the above objectives (2a-e), the Society shall also keep in touch with other Nepalese academicians, researchers and professional groups living in Korea as and when necessary.

(f) The Society shall refrain from any politically motivated activities.

(g) The Logo of the Society shall be as shown in Annex I.

## **Article II: Membership/Affiliations**

### **A. Kinds of Membership**

1. The Society shall have Regular, Affiliated and Honorary memberships.

2. Regular Membership shall be open to all the university level (undergraduate course, graduate course, vocational study, Korean language study, and research) Nepalese students throughout Korea. The student should have college/pre-college visa issued by Korean government. Here the University level means after completion of the Intermediate Certificate (12 years of formal education) or equivalent.

3. Affiliated Membership shall be open to those Nepalese holding any degree from Korean universities and currently living or working in Korea, or those Nepalese who have non-Korean degree but involved in the research or teaching activities in Korean academic institutions.

4. Honorary Membership may be awarded to any person whom Executive Committee feels appropriate to provide the membership on the grounds of the individual's academic achievements and meritorious services to Nepal.

5. 'Friends of SONSİK' may be awarded (i) to any Nepalese holding degree from non-Korean universities and currently living or working in Korea and (ii) to any non-Nepalese holding degree from Korean universities and currently involved in research or teaching activities in Korean/Nepali academic institutions and (iii) to any Koreans or Nepalese who can give contribution for the SONSİK and are involved in educational or social development of any such projects in Korea or in Nepal.

### **B. Duties and Responsibilities of Members**

A Regular or Affiliated Member or Friends of SONSİK shall

(a) Pay membership fee and other fees as approved by the General Assembly.

(b) Furnish the Executive Secretary the mailing address and other relevant information and promptly notify them of any change thereof.

(c) A Regular Member studying Korean Language course shall indicate the duration of such course while applying for membership and update his membership status and other details every year.

### **C. Rights and Privileges of Members**

1. A Regular Member shall

(a) Be eligible to vote for and can be candidate for any Executive Committee post and/or other posts of the Society.

(b) Be entitled to receive all official publications of the Society.

2. Affiliated Members, Honorary Members and Friends of SONSIK shall be entitled to receive all official publications of the Society. However, they cannot become candidates for any Executive Committee post of the Society and shall have no voting rights for such posts.

**D. Affiliations:**

SONSIK can provide affiliated membership to some institutions or associations that are involved in student welfare. The membership shall be given within the framework of SONSIK constitution.

**Article III: General Assembly (GA)**

The General Assembly consisting of all the Regular Members of the Society shall be the highest body to determine the broad operating principles and activities within the framework of article I of this Constitution.

Affiliate and Honorary Members are eligible to take part but shall not have the voting right in the General Assembly.

**Article IV: Executive Committee**

1. An Executive Committee shall be formed to transact business of the Society in accordance with the policy set forth by the GA.

2. The Executive Committee shall consist of one President, four Vice Presidents (one each from Kangwon/kyonggi-do, chungchungnam/chungchungbuk-do, Kyongsangnam/ Kyongsangbuk-do, and Chollanam/Chollabuk/Cheju-do), one Secretary, one Treasurer and four members. The Executive Committee may also form different sub-committees to carry out specific tasks as and when necessary. The Executive Committee shall announce the mandate and the tenure of such a sub-committee at the time of its formation

4. In case, no any member present from any one of the above province assigned for the Vice President, the nomination will be carried out from the province, which contain highest number of the members, presented in that GA. In case two provinces have the same number of members present, the final nomination will be decided by the approval of GA.

3. The Executive Committee shall report to the GA.

**Article V: Officers and Elections**

1. All Officers and Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected through the election procedure as specified.

2. All Officers and the Members of the Executive Committee must be Regular Members of the Society.

3. For the candidacy of the President, the regular member must have one year already stayed in Korea in course of study and his/ her stay must be for one more year.

4. For the candidacy of other positions, article V(3) will not be applicable.

5. Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers

(a) The President shall be the Chief Executive of the Society and shall preside over all the General Assembly meetings as far as possible.

(b) In the absence of the President, the Executive Committee shall choose one of the Vice-Presidents to assume the duties of the President. If the position of the President falls vacant for

whatever reasons, the Executive Committee shall immediately nominate an acting President from among the existing Vice Presidents.

(c) The Executive Secretary shall attend all the meetings, prepare the business thereof and keep record of all proceedings including the full handling of SONSIK website. The Secretary shall be in close contact with all the members and inform them about the activities of the Society.

**(d) In absence of the Secretary, Joint Secretary will discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary.**

(e) The Treasurer shall keep all the records of the account of the Society and shall present a detailed annual report of all income and expenditures of the Society during the General Assembly. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget of the Society and submit it to the Executive Committee for approval.

#### 6. Elections of Officers and Members

(a) Officers and Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected through direct voting by Regular Members every year at the end of the tenure of the existing Executive Committee.

(b) Only the Regular Members shall be eligible to be candidates for any post of the Executive Committee.

(c) The Executive Committee shall make nomination(s) to fill vacant positions, if any, of the Society except that of the President, from among the Regular Members or from inside the Executive Committee. Duration of such nominee shall not outlast the term of the Executive Committee.

(d) In case any of the following situations arises, an election shall be held at the earliest:

(i) If the posts of the President and all the Vice Presidents become vacant at once due to resignation or any other causes;

(ii) If more than two third posts of the Executive Committee including those of the President and the Secretary become vacant at once due to resignation or any other causes;

(iii) If the Executive Committee submits resignation en masse.

(e) An Election Committee shall be formed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Executive Committee to conduct the election. The manner of voting shall be decided by the Election Committee.

(f) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each post shall be declared elected. The decision of the Election Committee shall be considered final if any dispute arises in the process of the election.

(g) The Election Committee shall conduct the oath of the elected officers collectively or individually according to the format set by the committee.

(h) Position of any Officers and/or Members of the Executive Committee shall be considered automatically vacant, if the member ceases to be the Regular Member of the Society.

### **Article VI: Committee**

#### **A. Election committee:**

Election committee will be formed by the General Assembly. The GA, depending on the workload of the election procedures, will decide the number of election committee members. The tenure of election committee will be automatically terminated after the completion of the election.

**B. Duties and responsibilities of election committee:**

1. Make necessary arrangement for the election of the executive body.
2. Follow all the basic procedure for the election and declaration of the election result.
3. Submit the final result to the GA for its approval.

**Article VII: Meetings**

**A. General Assembly (GA)**

1. Frequency:

The regular meeting of the General Assembly of the society shall be held at least once during the tenure of the Executive Committee. Upon the demand of at least one-fourth of the Society's Regular Member, the Executive Committee shall call a special General Assembly at the earliest.

2. Participation:

(a) Participation in person or through any form of electronic media shall be valid for the purpose of any meeting.

(b) All the members of the Society are eligible to take part in the General Assembly for expressing their views. However, only the views of the Regular Members shall be counted for voting purpose should such a situation arise on any issue during the General Assembly session.

3. Notice of Meeting and Agenda:

All the Members of the Society shall be informed about the meeting and the agenda by the Executive Committee through the common mail of the Society.

4. Duration:

The Executive Committee shall determine the duration of the General Assembly as deemed necessary by the agenda and the participation of the Members.

5. Quorum:

Participation of least fifty percent of the Regular Members in the General Assembly shall be considered a valid quorum. If this quorum is not fulfilled within the stipulated duration, the Executive Committee may extend the duration as deemed necessary. After the extension of the duration, the General Assembly shall be considered valid irrespective of the percentage of participation.

6. Decision:

Decision on any issue, except for those mentioned otherwise in this Constitution, shall be made on the basis of a simple majority vote cast by the Regular Members.

**B. Executive Committee**

(a) The Executive Committee shall meet at the request of either the President or the Executive Secretary or on petition of two other Members of the Executive Committee.

(b) The frequency and the operating procedures of the meeting shall be decided by the Executive Committee.

(c) The Executive Committee shall be transparent and approachable to any member of the Society at any time.

#### **Article VII: SONSIK Fund**

##### 1. Financial Sources:

The necessary financial funds for the running of the Society shall come from

- (a) Membership fees from the Regular and Affiliated Members of the Society; and
- (b) Fund raising programs organized by the Society if and when deemed necessary.

##### 2. Management:

The fund shall be handled by the Executive Committee for the functioning of the Society, carrying out its programs, publication of the Society's bulletin and other regular activities of the Society. Utilization of fund for any purpose other than the above shall be approved in advance by the General Assembly. Records of all the incomes and expenditures shall be kept by the Treasurer and an annual Financial Report shall be presented in the Annual General Assembly meeting.

##### 3. Auditor:

The Executive Committee shall nominate any Regular Member/s of the Society, who is/are currently not holding any Executive and/or official position, as the Auditor/s to audit the accounts of the Society before presenting the Annual Financial Report to the General Assembly.

#### **Article VIII: SONSIK Bulletin and Editorial Board**

An official bulletin of the Society, SONSIK SAMACHAR, shall be published regularly as per the guidelines provided by the Term of References (TOR) of the Bulletin approved by the Executive Committee and shall be made available to all the Members of the Society. The Executive Committee shall nominate the Editor in Chief and other members of the Editorial Board of the Bulletin. The Executive Committee shall also nominate one of its office bearers to co-ordinate the Editorial Board and the Executive Committee. The tenure of the Editorial Board shall be of one year.

#### **Article IX: Impeachment and Dismissals**

1. Any Member of the Executive Committee may be suspended or removed from the post by a two-third majority vote of all Regular Members of the Society. Such suspension or removal may be made on any of the following grounds:

- (a) Inefficiency
- (b) Abuse of the Office
- (c) Disloyalty towards the Society
- (d) Gross misconduct
- (e) Immorality
- (f) Other grounds deemed actionable by the General Assembly.

2. SONSIK Executive may suspend or remove the membership of SONSIK members in case he/she acts against the spirit of SONSIK and behaves objectionably with SONSIK members. However, every opportunity shall be afforded to such Member to clarify and defense against the accusations.

#### **Article X: Advisory Committee**

GA can form an advisory committee on the recommendation of executive committee. Executive Committee may recommend an Advisory Committee if and when felt necessary. Such a Committee shall act as an advisory body to the Society and shall consist of a Chairperson and other members as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may recommend for nomination any person who is directly or indirectly related to the Society or Nepal, who is a well-wisher of the Society and whose inclusion would be beneficial to the Society, as the Chairperson or Member of the Advisory Committee. The President of the Society shall act as the Member Secretary and the immediate past President of the Society shall be the ex officio member of the Advisory Committee. The tenure of the Advisory Committee shall be decided by the GA.

#### **Article XI: Policies and Procedure (P & P)**

The Executive Committee shall make policies and procedure (P & P) to smoothly discharge the functions. Special decisions under the framework of Article 1.2 (a, b, c, d and e) may be made at any regularly called meetings of the Executive Committee to deal with any unforeseen conditions of emergencies. However, such decisions shall be ratified by a simple majority vote in a General Assembly meeting within a period of three months.

#### **Article XII: Formation of SONSİK Alumni Association in Nepal**

SONSIK Alumni returned to Nepal can be organized together to form a Society, which will work independently and cooperate with SINSİK for mutual benefit.

#### **Article XIII: Amendment of the Constitution**

This Constitution of SONSİK or any Articles/clauses/sub-clauses herein may be amended by at least a two thirds majority vote of the GA meeting.

#### **Article XIV: Affectivity of the Constitution**

This constitution shall be effective as soon as it is approved by the GA meeting.

**From SONSİK 7<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee:** This 2<sup>nd</sup> amended constitution was passed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of SONSİK held from 21 to 22 August 2010, and came in effect from 22 August 2010, as notified by the executive committee's notice, posting no. [SONSIK Constitution], 22/8/ 2010].