ASIA-PACIFIC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY NETWORK STRATEGIC PLAN

**[ENDORSED BY THE MEMBERSHIP JULY 2011
WITH SUBSEQUENT MINOR AMENDMENTS AS SEEN FIT AND APPROVED BY
THE STEERING COMMITTEE AS INDICATED AT EACH POINT OF AMENDMENT]**

1. AIMS

1. Encourage science, technology and society (STS) research, teaching, collaboration and critical discussion on current STS themes and issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Seek wide representation from regional STS communities to increase professional and scholarly capacity (with special focus on including Indigenous members).

3. Foster collaboration between STS researchers; other scholars and researchers; and 'end users' in government, industry and the community; to ensure better information dissemination and policy and decision making.

2. DISTINCTIVENESS

The APSTSN is complementary to existing international and regional STS organisations but can be distinguished by the following features, as reflected in its aims:

1. A specific regional focus as signified by the term 'Asia-Pacific', which constitutes littoral East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and all Pacific Island/Oceania states.

2. A commitment to indigenous STS involvement and capacity building.

3. A commitment to a strong regional geographical spread of members.

4. A strong focus on generating practical insights for policy and decision-making.

3. STEERING COMMITTEE (SC) AND CONVENORSHIP

3.1 Functions

1. The aim of the Steering Committee is to facilitate the day-to-day running of the APSTSN under the leadership and direction of the Convenor assisted by the Co-Convenor.

2. The Co-Convenor will assist the Convenor in executive decision-making, and in organising or closely assisting the organisation of the major APSTSN conference as the Chair of the Steering Committee's Conference Coordinating Committee.

3. The Steering Committee can at any time form sub-committees from its members (and invited ex-officio members) to focus on specific areas, for example, the Conference Coordinating Committee.

3.2 Composition and election

3.2.1 Composition

1. SC membership is open to all members of the network who are located within the Asia-Pacific region [Amended on 22nd April 2013 to reflect insertion of 3.2.1.4 on 22 November 2011].

2. The SC shall comprise members each representing any one of the STS communities (typically lying within a national or other significant representative entity) belonging to the network, for example, an indigenous representative (or more than one depending on number of members).

3. That an STS 'community' for SC representation will comprise at least five (5) members. [Amendment 22 November 2011]

4. That while APSTSN membership is welcome from outside the Asia-Pacific region in relation to research being conducted within or interest in the region, this does not include SC representation as such representation does not align to our geographical purview. [Amendment 22 November 2011]

3.2.2 Election/selection of members

1. The APSTSN's administrator organises and administers such elections when directed to by the Convenor, such that the process when initiated is independent from current position holders.

2. The administrator will provide a nomination form for members to nominate for membership of the SC and the position of Convenor.

3. All members of the Network listed on the membership list for a particular STS community will be eligible to vote for candidates for the SC representative for that community. Members who are list more than one community on their membership form will be eligible to vote for SC representative for all of those communities. [amendment 2 December 2013]

4. The Convenor is elected separate to the Steering Committee [in being responsible for the overall facilitation of the APSTSN's operations]. All Network members are eligible to vote for Convenor candidates. [amendment 2 December 2013]

5. The Co-Convenor is selected by the Steering Committee from elected members of the Steering Committee after the second round of the two-year elections for the SC when all members are either recently new or new, thus giving everyone in the 'new' SC opportunity to be the Co-Convenor. In the 6-month interim between the two rounds of the staggered elections to the formation of the 'new' SC, the Convenor will assume the role of Co-Convenor or be free to nominate a temporary replacement from the existing SC. [amendment 22 November 2011]

3.3 Tenure

1. Tenure of SC members is for a 2-year term, for members to gain the experience necessary for their role as well as providing adequate opportunity for other APSTSN members to become involved in the SC.

2. A staggered SC tenure sees 50% of the members step down and new members appointed

at each SC election, beginning December 2011 (including the Co-Convenor). The remaining 50% are to be elected 6 months later (in June 2012, including the Convenor). That pattern will then continue on a 2-year basis for elected members].

3. If an allocated place remains vacant, the previous sitting member can be given the opportunity to serve another 2-year term or until a replacement is found.

4. The SC will be chaired by the Convenor or in his/her absence by the Co-Convenor; or in his/her absence by a nominated member of the SC

5. Sitting SC members may be nominated for Convenor and Co-Convenor in elections following termination of their terms as SC members. However, every effort will be made to ensure that the position of Convenor takes into account the equitable rotation between the STS communities represented on the SC.

3.4   Endorsement of SC matters

1. From time to time, the APSTSN as a whole will be consulted on matters considered by the SC to require consultation and endorsement by the whole network. In such cases, because of the considerable geographical diversity of the APSTSN:

    i.   Discussion will occur by email (as other modes are considered too cumbersome to set up and manage: and /or may not be accessible to all members).

    ii. One month maximum is allowed for such discussion, following by a redrafting period. A final document will then be sent to all members for endorsement. A majority (50% or more) of those who respond is considered sufficient for endorsement.

4.   FUNDING AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Funding applications

1. The APSTSN does not as a general practice apply for funding as a network, except in the rare opportunity that opportunity arises. If that occurs, the process to realise that funding opportunity will be initiated by the Convenor in consultation with the Steering Committee. If successful, administration of the funding would typically go to the institution of the first named applicant, typically the Convenor or SC endorsed nominee, who would assume responsibility for budget management, facilitating the project and organising reports, etc, with the support of the SC.

2. That any other application for research grants for APSTSN members is up to individual members and not the APSTSN on their behalf.

4.2 Financial support for members

1. The APSTSN does not have a revenue base as it charges no fees. The APSTSN is not *expected* to provide financial support for its members for networking and/or collaborative activities, or travel costs. However, it is recommended that:

      i. The APSTSN should endeavour when and where possible to provide support for indigenous members, postgraduate students, and members who are not in full employment.

     ii. Options should be considered for generating resources for travel support and event support. This may in the future include a call for annual donations or some other voluntary option.

4. 3 Transparency and accountability

1. The Convenor and the SC will be responsible for ensuring transparency and accountability of any financial dealings involving the Network by means of quarterly newsletters, as well as communiqués, business meetings and reports (including an Annual Report).

5. APSTSN CONFERENCE

1. Given the high number of competing conferences both within the region and internationally, and also the major undertaking involved in organising the conference, the SC will plan to hold a biennial (2-yearly) conference instead of an annual conference, starting with the 2011 conference in China. However, if other major STS or related-STS events in the region emerge or are absent some flexibility is allowed to run the conference in any consecutive years.

2. In the typically off year of the biennial conference, other options for major events will be considered, such as workshops, including merging with other conferences such as in 2010 with the 4S/JSSTS conference.

3. Where possible all STS communities involved in the APSTSN have the opportunity to host the biennial conference in rotation; and that given the current non-fee status of the APSTSN that the host community be supported by the non-host APSTSN communities where possible.

4. That the host of the APSTSN biennial conference abide by the APSTSN Conference Guidelines and if not involving the Co-Convenor directly in its organisation work closely with the APSTSN Conference Coordinating Committee (see section 3 above) as a liaising partner to ensure the quality and representation of the APSTSN as to its aims and form.