CHARTER

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN TEACHER EDUCATION NETWORK (AsTEN)
THE CHARTER
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN TEACHER EDUCATION
NETWORK (AsTEN)

PREAMBLE

WE, the Participating Member Universities, Colleges, and Institutes of the Association of
Southeast Asian Teacher Education Network (hereinafter referred to as AsTEN):

RECOGNIZING the need to prepare teacher education institutions for the eventual
integration of member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in
December 2015 and to harness the collective strengths of the founding members to
provide responsive, quality, and relevant programs in the service of teacher education as
an academic discipline;

EMPHASIZING the need for us, the founding members, to promote and adhere to the
principles of mutual respect and trust, amity and active involvement in the network, and
to act on the basis of inclusive participation and shared responsibilities;

AFFIRMING the dedication to strengthen networking in teacher education through
various and innovative programs and activities, to expand and enhance human resources
and skills, and to promote and support regional development;

COMMITTING to utilizing our capabilities, expertise, and resources to jointly promote
quality teacher education in the region;

HEREBY DECIDE to constitute AsTEN by adopting and promulgating the terms stated
below and to thus render the CHARTER as the sole source of all authority and rights of
AsTEN; and,

TO THIS END, we, the participating universities, colleges, and institutes, hereby agree
to the following:

ARTICLE 1
ORGANIZATION OF AsTEN and MEMBERSHIP

Universities, colleges, and institutes represented in the organizational meeting of AsTEN
organized by the Philippine Normal University in Manila, Philippines, whose signatures
appear herein, shall constitute the founding membership of AsTEN. The founding
members of AsTEN are institutions located in countries of Southeast Asia but new
members are not restricted to this region, provided, however, that the founding members
unanimously agree on accepting these new members.

ARTICLE 2
OBJECTIVES

AsTEN aims to realize the following objectives:

1. Establish a common network of cooperation among teacher education institutions in
ASEAN and beyond that will provide a venue for discussion and exchange on
relevant issues and problems as well as work out strategic actions and policy
recommendations along current education reforms;
2. Advance teacher education research, teaching, and service capacity of member institutions by cultivating regional cooperation and liaison with other regional and international organizations espousing similar aspirations;
3. Promote information/knowledge dissemination and exchange through cross-national and international collaborative study and research among Teacher Education Institutions;
4. Develop broader understanding of the history, culture, values, and traditions of the ASEAN countries as expressed in their teacher education and basic education programs and practices;
5. Forge cooperation and solidarity among scholars, academicians, and researchers in the region and throughout the world; and,
6. Enrich the professional human resources of Teacher Education in the region including explorations of innovations and sharing of best practices in Teacher Education.

ARTICLE 3
STRUCTURE OF AsTEN

AsTEN shall be composed of a Board of Trustees (herein referred to as the Board) and a Secretariat.

3.1. Composition of the Board

The Board shall be composed of member universities, colleges, and institutes of higher learning represented by their highest executive official such as the president, provost, or other nomenclature used to refer to their top executive official. Only one educational institution of higher learning may represent a country in the Board. In case of several member universities, colleges, and institutes from one country, they will select from among themselves their representative to the Board.

3.2. Composition of the Secretariat

The Secretariat is composed of an Executive Director (ED) and all other staff as may be deemed necessary by the ED and approved by the Chair of the Board.

ARTICLE 4
FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The AsTEN Board of Trustees shall have the following functions:

1. Formulate policies for the operation of the network;
2. Set membership fees, type of membership, criteria for membership, and process for accepting new members;
3. Approve the operating budget, proposals for projects, work programs, and implementation activities;
4. Appoint the member university, college, and institute that will serve as the AsTEN Secretariat for a term of three years renewable for another term;
5. Conduct periodic review and evaluation of all budgets, projects, and activities based on the recommendations and assessment of the Executive Director designated by the Chair of the Board;
6. Review membership and formally accept new member institutions and members of the Board of Trustees;
7. Adopt its own rules of procedure and decorum as needed to effect and facilitate decision-making;
8. Set up special and technical committees and such other subordinate bodies as may be necessary for its objectives; and,
9. Perform such other functions as necessary and pertinent to the objectives of AsTEN.

ARTICLE 5
QUALIFICATIONS, TERMS, and VOTING RIGHTS OF THE BOARD

The AsTEN Board shall elect the university, college, or institute whose official representative shall serve as the Chair or Deputy Chair.

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board shall serve a term of three years, but in no case shall the elected university, college, institute serving as Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively, serve for more than two consecutive terms.

The Board shall meet at least twice a year, and the real or de facto presence of at least two-thirds of the Board shall be necessary to conduct business and make decisions. It may call for a special meeting if the Chair so decides, or if called by at least one-third of the Board.

Each Board member shall have the authority of one vote and the decision of the Board shall be made by a simple majority vote. In the event of a deadlock after two rounds of voting, the vote of the Chair shall be final.

ARTICLE 6
ROLE OF THE MEMBER UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND INSTITUTES

The Member Universities, Colleges, and Institutes shall implement the programs and activities of AsTEN and contribute to the pursuit of its objectives.

ARTICLE 7
THE SECRETARIAT

The University, College, and Institute designated as Chair of AsTEN shall, likewise, serve as Secretariat.

The Secretariat may designate its Executive Director and, if needed, hire staff members to perform the following functions:

1. Implement policies and execute programs approved by the Board;
2. Develop project proposals for funding;
3. Coordinate and organize conferences and seminars;
4. Encourage sharing of professional competence and promote the use of academic facilities within the region;
5. Help secure financial support for AsTEN;
6. Collect and monitor timely payment and collection of membership fees, and as necessary decide upon the entitlement of membership privileges;
7. Prepare the agenda for the Board and communication information for the members;
8. Cooperate with other organizations and agencies in matters of common interest; and
9. Implement all other assignments deemed necessary by the Chair and the Board.

ARTICLE 8
REPORTING SYSTEM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Executive Director shall render an annual report of accomplishment of the projects and activities being coordinated and/or implemented by the AsTEN to the Board. Such
report, to include accounting records if required, shall be furnished to appropriate bodies as deemed fit by the Board of Trustees, and may include the governments of the member countries or private institutions/individuals.

**ARTICLE 9**  
**BUDGET**

AsTEN shall have an annual budget which shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE 10**  
**FUND SOURCING COMMITTEE**

The Board shall create a Funding Committee which shall develop fund-generating projects for AsTEN, including, but not limited to, membership fees generation and collection.

The Executive Director may receive gifts, bequests and monies on behalf and under an express fiduciary duty of trust to AsTEN upon explicit approval of the Board.

**ARTICLE 11**  
**ACCOUNT AND AUDIT**

The funds of AsTEN shall be deposited in a reputable bank in the account of AsTEN hereinafter referred to as the AsTEN Account, and shall be managed by the Executive Director in accordance with the approved budget and plan. The AsTEN Account shall be audited by a firm of auditors selected by the Board of Trustees.

**ARTICLE 12**  
**TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

The first Board of Trustees of AsTEN shall be the Presidents of the Founding Members. They shall endeavor to secure the endorsement of their respective Ministers of Education who sit in the ASEAN Committee on Education for ASEAN accreditation of AsTEN.

For the inaugural operation of AsTEN, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) represented by its President shall serve as Chair for a term of three years subject to the provisions of Article 5. Likewise, PNU shall also serve as its Secretariat.

**ARTICLE 13**  
**AMENDMENTS**

The provisions of the CHARTER may be amended upon request of any member, which shall be submitted to the Board through the Executive Director three months before the scheduled meeting of the Board.

Any amendment to this Charter shall be made by two-thirds majority of all the members of the AsTEN, and shall come into force upon adoption by the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

The draft texts of the proposed amendments shall be communicated by the Executive Director to the member universities, colleges, and institutes at least six months in advance for consideration by the Board.
ARTICLE 14
DISPUTES OF INTERPRETATION

Any question or dispute concerning the interpretations of any provision of this Charter shall be settled by the Board, and, if necessary, in accordance with Article 5.

ARTICLE 15
ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Charter shall come into force upon signature by the founding members of AsTEN.
Dr. Sieng Sovanna  
Director, National Institute of Education  
Cambodia

Prof. Dr. Sunaryo Kartadinata  
Rector, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia  
Indonesia

Prof. Dr. Soukphong Sophala  
President, National University of Laos  
Republic of Laos

Prof. Dato' Dr. Noraini Idris  
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris  
Malaysia

Prof. Dr. Aung Min  
Rector, Yangon University of Education  
Myanmar

Prof. Dr. Vo Van Sen  
Rector, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City,  
University of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Vietnam

Dr. Ester B. Ogana  
President, Philippine Normal University  
Philippines

Assoc. Prof. Liu Woon Chia  
Dean, Office of Teacher Education  
National Institute of Education  
Singapore

Dr. Anamai Damnet  
Acting President  
Kasetsart University  
Thailand