

Modernized Statutes 10 July 2024

Statutes

Statutes approved by Constitutive Assembly August 27th 1968 [amended by General Assemblies on August 22, 1974, August 1, 1985, August 24, 1993, August 17, 2007, July 26, 2013, July 10, 2024]

Title I. – Name and Headquarters

Article 1

There is hereby created an academic association entitled: ‘International Committee for the History of Technology’, ordinarily to be designated by the acronym ICOHTEC. The duration of this association has no set time limits.

Article 2

ICOHTEC has two headquarters: a scholarly and administrative headquarter. The scholarly headquarter is Santiago de Chile, the business headquarter is Helsinki. The headquarters can be transferred to any other place by a simple decision of the Executive Committee.

Article 3

The association is ruled by the present statutes, whose English text provides the definitive interpretation, and by the laws relative to non-profit associations in the different countries where its activities will take place.

Title II. – Aims and Means

Article 4

The aims of the organization are as follows:

- (1) To establish close working relationships among specialists of different disciplines in order to foster international cooperation for the study and development of the history of technology.
- (2) To promote the study of appropriate historical subjects, on the one hand by establishing and extending the scholarly bases of the history of technology, and on the other hand by contributing to the resolution of certain contemporary national or international problems.
- (3) To facilitate research and documentation for scholars in all countries in the history of technology by exchange of information and by the creation of the material means necessary for this objective.

Article 5

The means which ICOHTEC will utilize in order to attain its goals are the following:

- (1) establish itself in the greatest possible number of countries and recruit the greatest possible number of qualified members therein;

- (2) create working groups, permanent or temporary, charged with conducting joint studies;
- (3) assist the work of these groups with the financial means which may be available;
- (4) organize meetings, colloquia, and seminars in order to make possible the direct cooperation of its members;
- (5) establish and maintain at the disposition of its members indispensable informational documents and scientific exchanges;
- (6) publish the results of its works and give them the widest possible dissemination;
- (7) cooperate with national or international scientific organizations which pursue similar goals, or adhere to one of these international organizations.

Title III. – Members

Article 6

The association is composed of:

- (1) honorary members,
- (2) ordinary members, and
- (3) benefactor members.

With the three categories designated above, the following can be members:

- (1) individuals, in their own name; and
- (2) legal entities (institutional members such as corporations), according to the legislation prevailing in their respective countries.

In each country the members of ICOHTEC will constitute a Group when the national situation permits it.

All members have the right to vote for decisions of ICOHTEC, if attending the General Assembly (in person or via video). Individual members and legal entities (institutional members) have one vote. Legal entities appoint a member of their institution, which has the right to vote.

Article 7

The title of honorary member can be conferred by the Executive Committee on those persons who have rendered exceptional services to the association. Regular or benefactor members can acquire honorary status on the presentation of their candidacy by two existing members of the association; the Executive Committee will pass on each such candidate.

Article 8

The dues of regular members are fixed by the General Assembly. The dues for benefactor members will be equal to ten times the regular membership dues.

When a national Group exists, dues can be paid through it.

Article 9

Membership in the association can be terminated by

(1) resignation, and

(2) by cancellation of membership through non-payment of dues for three years, or for any serious reason as determined by Executive Committee. The party involved in the latter action must first be called upon to furnish an explanation, and he can appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the General Assembly.

Title IV. – Administration and functioning

Article 10

The General Assembly of the association constitutes the highest organ of ICOHTEC. It consists of all members of the association.

Article 11

The General Assembly ordinarily will meet at least once every four years. The members will be individually notified of this meeting by the president one year in advance and no later than three months before the date fixed by the Executive Committee. Outside of that, extraordinary and obligatory meetings of the General Assembly can be called:

(1) if the majority of the members of the Executive Committee request it;

(2) if at least twenty-five percent of the active members request it.

Article 12

The officers of the General Assembly are the officers of the association. The quorum of the General Assembly is fixed at 25% of the legal members present or represented. If this quorum is not reached, the General Assembly can meet in the same place within 24 hours; and could then deliberate no matter how many are present.

Article 13

The General Assembly will take note of the agenda prepared by the officers; it can adopt or modify it in complete freedom. It will hear reports on the financial situation and activities of the association; approve the accounts of the activities carried on since its preceding meeting, and the receipts of the treasurer; vote the budget for future activities prior to its next meeting. It discusses and adapts the program of scholarly activities, and in a general fashion all questions relating to its activities are put on the agenda at the initiative of any of its members.

At no time will the General Assembly take into consideration motions or resolutions emanating from one or more of its members, even if they constitute a majority, if these motions or resolutions present a religious, political, or philosophical character which does not have a direct and strict relationship with the scholarly work of the association.

Article 14

The Executive Committee will consist of the seven officers (Article 17), the immediate past president, the immediate past secretary general, and twelve other members. The seven

officers are to be elected by ballot of the membership every four years and three of the other twelve members are to be elected by ballot of the membership every year. Elected members to the Executive Committee shall not serve for more than three consecutive terms of four years each.

Article 15

The Executive Committee will meet once a year, at least to the extent where the means disposed of by ICOHTEC will permit. In case it is impossible to do so, its deliberations and decisions can be carried on by correspondence. The president must carry on such consultations at least once a year. In any event the Executive Committee must meet at least once every four years before and after the General Assembly. The quorum of the Executive Committee consists of six members present or represented.

Article 16

The Executive Committee cooperates in the preparation of and oversees the operation of the program and budgets. In the interval between the sessions of the General Assembly it makes all the decisions which circumstances require, submitting these decisions to ratification by the General Assembly.

Article 17

The officers will be as follows: a president, one vice-president, a secretary general, a treasurer, a journal editor, a newsletter editor and a webmaster. The duties of the president are described below (Article 19). The secretary general will be the chief administrative officer responsible for the regular operation of the entire organization, and making arrangements for the Executive Committee meetings and the symposia of ICOHTEC. The duties of the treasurer are described below (Article 20). Officers will report to and be responsible to the president and secretary general. The president is elected for one term of four years, while the other officers may be elected for up to three terms. In the event any officer is unable to fulfill his or her responsibilities due to incapacity, dereliction, or misconduct, their term can be terminated at any point in its duration by the Executive Committee on a motion supported by no fewer than three officers. In case of death, dismissal, or resignation of one of the officers, the Executive Committee will elect members to fill the position until an election can be called at the next Meeting of the General Assembly.

Article 18

The officers will meet once a year and consult by correspondence at least once in the interval between their annual meetings. The officers assure the execution of the decisions taken by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, to which it is responsible for its action.

Article 19

The president represents ICOHTEC in all necessary circumstances, in particular in all legal acts. She or he can delegate the exercise of her/his representative function to any other member of the Executive Committee or of the association after having received the approval of the other officers.

Article 20

The income of the association consists of:

- (1) the dues of its members
- (2) the subventions of private organizations or public organizations of a national or international character, and
- (3) the sums which are directed to it by one of these organizations in accordance with a contract for the execution of studies or of agreed work.

The treasurer will be responsible for establishing the accounts of the organization. She or he will be responsible for and will maintain a complete account of receipts and expenditures, in accordance with commonly accepted accounting practices and in keeping with the mandates and principles of ICOHTEC; he or she will present an annual financial report to the Executive Committee.

Article 21

The Executive Committee should appoint from time to time a Programme Committee, consisting of at least two Executive Committee members and two other members, to co-ordinate the programme of each symposium.' The Programme Committee, in conjunction with the local Organizing Committee will determine the theme and contributors to each symposium.

Title V. – Modification of Statutes and Dissolution

Article 22

The statutes can be modified only on the initiative of the Executive Committee, or of one-tenth of the regular members composing ICOHTEC, submitted to the officers at least two months before the General Assembly which must decide on them. In this case the quorum of the Assembly is constituted by one-third of the members of ICOHTEC present or represented. If the quorum is not reached, and the assembly is convoked anew on the action of the president less than one month after the first meeting, it can then deliberate no matter how many members are present or represented. Decisions can be taken only by a two-thirds majority of members present or represented. In lieu of a General Assembly meeting, all members may vote on statute modifications by ballot.

Article 23

The General Assembly if called to pronounce on the dissolution of the association is convoked especially for that purpose. The quorum consists of one half plus one of the legal members present or represented. If this quorum is not obtained, the assembly will be

convoked anew on the order of the president less than one month after the first meeting; it can then deliberate no matter how many members are present or represented. Dissolution can be decided by a two-thirds majority of members present or represented.

Article 24

In case of dissolution the property of the association can be turned over, after consultation with UNESCO or any non-governmental organization recognized by UNESCO, to an organization pursuing similar ends to those of ICOHTEC.