

# Terms of Reference for the Asia-Oceania VLBI Group for Geodesy and Astrometry (AOV)

The AOV is a group of scientists in the Asia-Oceania region supporting geodetic and astrometric Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI). It is a subgroup of the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS).

The Asia-Oceania region is highly dynamic in geophysics and climate, with a large number of destructive earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons and cyclones. Many countries in the region will experience the effects of climate change much sooner or to a greater degree than other regions, due to more frequent extreme weather events and rising sea levels for example. In order to better understand the risks and reduce the effects of these phenomena, the AOV has an important role to play through measurement of tectonic plate motions, atmospheric variations and determination of the Geodetic Reference Frame for the region. The AOV seeks to:

1. foster the use of VLBI, with a particular focus on producing high quality data and science results in geodesy and astrometry from the Asia-Oceania region.
2. form and strengthen links between the different Asia-Oceania VLBI components in technology development and from observations to data analysis.
3. promote and represent Asia-Oceania geodetic and astrometric VLBI within the broader international scientific communities.
4. provide and archive information and scientific results of Asia-Oceania geodetic and astrometric VLBI.
5. organise regular working meetings to improve communication and cooperation between members of the AOV.
6. support and promote education and training in geodetic and astrometric VLBI and related technology in the region.

Membership of the AOV is naturally comprised of IVS Member Organisations and IVS associate members in the Asia-Oceania region.

The AOV also accepts applications for (non-voting) Corresponding Membership from individuals working on geodetic and/or astrometric VLBI at non-IVS Member Organisations in the Asia-Oceania region.

Membership is institution-based with each institution carrying one vote in the election of a Chair. Upon election, the Chair will appoint a Secretary of their choice. If the Chair is from Asia, the Secretary must be from Oceania and if the Chair is from Oceania, the Secretary must be from Asia. The Chair and Secretary must be from AOV Member Organisations or be Corresponding Members. These appointments are for a term of 4 years each. There is no cost for membership.

## **Roles of AOV Chair and Secretary**

The Chair will:

- Set agendas and chair AOV meetings
- Arrange face-to-face meetings and regular telecons
- In consultation with Members, set the science goals of the AOV
- Seek funding for AOV activities
- Represent the AOV within other related groups (IVS, EVGA etc)
- Organise regional observations

The Secretary will be responsible for management and coordination, including:

- Collating and maintaining information on the range of expertise and people within the AOV for purposes of collaboration.
- Management of the AOV website

*Approved 1 September 2014*