

PREAMBLE

We, the students from Zambia residing and studying in educational institutions all over People's Republic of China;

- Proud of our diverse linguistic, cultural and ancestral origins yet profoundly aware of the imperative need to come together here in China and act as our brother's keeper,
- Mindful of the need to protect, preserve and promote the social, cultural, economic and political, development of Africa and our individual countries,
- Conscious of the need to encourage the dignity that comes with respect for one another
- Determined to encourage unity, loyalty and solidarity amongst fellow Zambians in China.
- Willing to foster and to encourage the collective use of our resources to develop our nation,
- Affirming our attachment and respect to the fundamental laws of China,

Do hereby establish the Association of Zambian Students in the People's Republic of China, and adopt these rules and regulations as a guide for the purpose, objectives, and structure of this association, and also as a guide for the conduct of the members in the association.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Building friendship that transcends political boundaries through understanding and common consciousness of togetherness while maintaining moral and cultural integrity."

AIMS OF THE CONSTITUTION

The purpose of this constitution is to enable present and future members of the Association of Zambian Students in China to fully understand and to abide by the governing rules and regulations of this association, so that the organization can be run and managed smoothly, efficiently, and with fairness to all.

The content of this constitution is therefore intended to enhance dignity, unity and promote discipline and respect amongst members so that together we may build a strong Zambian student community in the People's Republic of China.

ARTICLE ONE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1: Name and Nature of the organization

Thereby referred to as AZSIC, is an organization of Zambian students studying at university level in various institutions of learning across China. This is a highly recognized association by the Zambian embassy in Beijing and the Zambian ministry of higher education, loan and scholarship board. The association aims to make the lives of all Zambian students affiliated to it via membership easier in China so as to facilitate the complete physical, social, spiritual and most importantly intellectual development of the concerned students. It is the ONLY official representative of Zambian students in China. Membership is open to all Zambian students in China regardless of their sponsorship status be it private sponsorship or scholarship as well as Zambians who graduated from china and are still in china.

Section 2: Motto and Emblem

- i. The Association stands behind the motto of “TOGETHER WE STAND AS INTELLECTUAL AMBASSADORS” as we believe every **Zambian** student in China is a **Zambian** ambassador to China as they lead a life of academic excellence,

social integration and other exemplary values that **Zambians** are known for. The Association of **Zambian** Students in China’s official logo will be the following.
- ii. The Logo displays key components such as the Flag of China on the right, that of **Zambia** on the left in the form of an Eagle; displaying a clear depiction of both countries geographical location while at the same time to harness the Association motto “Standing together as Intellectual Ambassadors” the relations between **Zambia** and China and also displays on it important features such as the Eagle which are important symbols of the sovereignty of the nation of **Zambia**. The graduation cap (mortarboard) symbolizes the accumulation of higher education by the students. The Chinese calligraphy is direct translation of the Association of **Zambian** students in China. The book depicts the motto “One **Zambia**, One Nation” which is given further clarity by the inner and outer circles on the Logo which emphasize on the unity of the association.
- iii. The Logo will only be altered once in a period of ten years.

Section 3: Objectives of the association

The objectives of AZSIC are to operate as a student association that shall:

- 1) Defend the rights of its members.
- 2) Foster healthy relationships amongst **Zambian** students and students from other communities in China.
- 3) Help to integrate new **Zambian** students and give them necessary orientation about China’s laws.
- 4) Encourage and promote unity, love, loyalty, mutual respect, collective responsibility, and cooperation amongst **Zambian** students pursuing an education in educational institutions in China.
- 5) Support or assist members of the association in times of need and difficulty.
- 6) Network with other similar or sister associations around China and the world to revitalize African students' values. 7) It acts as a mother board for the city associations and ensure that they are operating in systemically, receive same information about students in china.
5. The association would act as a channel of communication between the **Zambian** students and both the Chinese and the **Zambian** government officials with regard to issues pertaining to student welfare.

ARTICLE TWO: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Qualification of membership

- 1) Membership in the Association of **Zambian** Students in China (AZSIC) is open to ALL **Zambians** (by birth or marriage) legally residing and studying in the People’s Republic of China.
- 2) Associate membership is open to all other individuals who by reason of association are affiliated to this organization.

Associate members are expected to abide by all the rules and regulations that govern this association.

- 3) To be considered a bona fide member of AZSIC, an individual must register with one hundred Yuan (¥100 Annully) to their city executive committees and if the city they reside in has no committee, membership can be paid to the National Executive committee.
- 4) To be considered an active member of AZSIC, a registered member must be active in all AZSIC activities and answer promptly to his/her AZSIC related financial responsibilities.
- 6) To be considered a bona fide member of AZSIC, a registered member must be faithful in their dealings with AZSIC finances and events.
- 7) The registration fee and/or annual renewal fee may be paid in installments of (10 yuan per month).
- 8) The registration fee and annual renewal fee may be subject to change.

Section 2: Rights and privileges of members

Except if mentioned otherwise, all registered members of AZSIC shall have the right to attend and participate in AZSIC annual events, meetings, and activities.

Section 3: Loss of membership

A member shall forfeit his/her membership under the following circumstances:

- 1) Inactivity for six months shall automatically lead to the membership being forfeited. However, any member who is out of China for an assignment shall not be subject to the provisions of this clause.
- 2) Loss of his or her studentship in China for reasons of non-compliance to institutional rules or other unethical miss-conduct.
- 3) Constitutional expulsion from AZSIC.

Section 4: Restoration of membership

- 1) Any member who resigns from the association or loses his/her membership temporarily through suspension which is not to exceed six (6) months, must reapply through the President and pay a registration fee and any other outstanding fees owed to the association in accordance with the by-laws, before they are re -instated into AZSIC as member.
- 2) Any member who loses his/her membership must pay a restoration fee decided by the executive body in addition to the registration and any other fees owed to AZSIC.

ARTICLE THREE: ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Section 1: AZSIC Organs

AZSIC shall be composed of four (4) main organs: the National Executive Committee NEC, the Regional executive committee (REC), The City Executive committee (CEC) and the Advisors, and one temporary organ: the electoral commission.

Section 2:

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

1. President
2. Vice president
3. HELSB/BC students representative

4. Secretary General
5. Vice Secretary General
6. Treasurer
7. Project coordinator
8. Publicity Secretary
9. Regional Presidents
10. AZSIC Ministers
11. Adviser

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

1. President
2. Vice president
3. Secretary General

CITY EXECUTIVE

1. President
2. Vice president
3. Secretary General
4. Vice Secretary General
5. Treasurer
6. Publicity Secretary
7. AZSIC Ministers
8. Adviser

Section 3: Functions of members

- 1) The general assembly shall serve as the foundation of AZSIC and form the majority opinion.

- 2) They shall fully participate in debates thrown to them by the executive committee and give a final general concession to close up such debates.
- 3) The general assembly shall maintain contact with the other arms of the association by requesting and or listening to briefings on the transactions and general running of the union from the executives. This they can do by full attending of the general assembly meetings when summoned by the executive.
- 4) They shall participate fully in any activity of the union

Section 4: The Advisory Committee (AC) - composition and functions

- 1) ALL former Presidents of AZSIC still residing in China either as students or workers shall be automatic members of the advisory committee. Other senior Zambian students who show signs of wisdom, maturity and willingness to serve the union could be called up by the executive to join the committee. (Also known as the council of elders to give it an African color). The advisory committee shall work collaboratively with the executive.
- 2) The advisory committee shall be constituted with a total of seven (7) members while maintaining the gender balance.
- 3) The advisory committee (council of elders) shall meet at least once in three months to review the progress of AZSIC. During such meetings, the advisory committee shall review the status of current project(s) or activities.
- 4) In the event of a dispute or conflict between member(s) of the executives/ member(s) and the President, the advisory committee (AC) shall serve as arbitrators. The decision of the AC shall be final and binding.
- 5) The President can invite the AC to assist him in handling inter-exco members' conflicts where he deems necessary in which case, the decision of the AC over rules his decision.
- 6) The AC oversees the executive decisions in matters of drastic disciplinary sanctions to members in general and Executive Members in particular even when such decision are clearly spelled out in the constitution.
- 7) Members of the AC shall serve for two (2) years and shall be eligible to run for a second term, provided such individuals are willing and seen fit to serve

Section 5: Vacancies in the Executive Committee

In the event of a vacancy in NEC caused by (death, resignation, suspension, expulsion, or inability of a cabinet member to serve), the President shall appoint an interim replacement within thirty (15) days.

Section 10: National Executive Committee Sitting

- 1) The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a week and in emergency situations as convened by the President. This meeting shall be to formulate strategies in order to find ways to: execute AZSIC policies, evaluate progress of the committee's responsibilities, discuss important policy matters, and/or prepare for the next event.
- 2) The presence of one third of NEC members including the President/ or his Vice shall constitute a quorum for valid deliberation of the NEC. Except otherwise stated, all decisions of the EC meetings shall be carried by a simple majority of members present. 3) All NEC meetings shall be scheduled (with an agenda sent out to its members) at 2 days prior to the meeting, to allow members sufficient time to adjust their programs and prepare for the meeting. Except in emergency situation where mutual understanding and cooperation is greatly demanded through polite communication from the President.
- 6) NEC members must participate in at 3 of 4 meetings scheduled every month.

Section 11: Composition of the Committee

1) The President:

Paragraph 1: definition

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of AZSIC. He or she shall:

- i) Preside over all AZSIC meetings and the executive committee.
- ii) Protect and enforce the constitution of this union.
- iii) Act as liaison officer between all arms of AZSIC.
- iv) Act as liaison officer between AZSIC members and the embassies
- vi) Prepare and present full annual report that are to be presented to the organization on accomplishments, setbacks and prospects for the coming year. vii) Make no private promises to individuals or organizations, which will be a burden to AZSIC. viii) Convene emergency executive meetings as situations and circumstances dictate. xi) Honor and represent AZSIC on all public events and invitations.
- x) She or he shall be signatory to all documents that are issued from the union i.e. letters etc.
- xii) Should take custody of copies of all documents relating to the organization's account (ATM Passbook) without the knowledge of the password

Paragraph 2: Power of the President

The President has the power to:

- 1) Appoint all ministers, and other positions of NEC, Except the minister of Finance who is elected into office by means of election
- 2) Remove any appointed leader upon the issue of several warnings of misconduct and irresponsibility.
- 3) Form any committee which will be either temporary or permanent to facilitate the accomplishment of the AZSIC goals whenever needed.
- 4) summon all chairmen of City Executives when he deems fit in order to improve the welfare of Zambian students in china and improve relations between AZSIC other associations
- 5) Support other CITY associations including provision of financial support and attending their events whenever he or she feels fit. The provision of financial support shall involve agreement with the executive committee.
- 6) Assign or reassign duties to executives who may have been appointed non-compulsory posts upon agreement and/or communication with the executives to whom the duty is given in this constitution.

2) The Vice President

- i) The Vice President of AZSIC shall assist the President in executing AZSIC policies or programs.
- ii) In the event of a temporary absence of the President, and/or his/her death, suspension, removal from office, or inability to serve, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.
- iii) The Vice President may perform such or other duties from time to time if they be assigned him/her by the President.
- iv) He or she shall represent the President in his/her absence, assuming all the duties and responsibilities of the office. v) He or she shall be responsible for overseeing all duties which will be assigned to him by the President vi) The Vice President shall be in charge to all matters of ministry of education and act upon directly vii) The Vice President shall oversee all matters concerning health and welfare committee viii) Coordinate the activities of the organization.

ix) Advise the President on key issues and participate in the formulation of annual reports.

3) The Minister of Finance/ Financial Secretary:

Without violence to any provision in this act, the Financial Secretary shall:

- i) Collect AZSIC funds and/or debts as authorized by the Constitution.
- ii) Maintain proper financial records for AZSIC. iii) Assist the NEC in generating funds for AZSIC.
- iv) Assist the national executive committee in decision making.
- v) Oversee financial matters in AZSIC.
- vi) Provide quarterly financial reports to the union and an annual financial reports at general assembly.
- viii) Work mutually with the President in preparation of financial reports.

4) The General Secretary

The General Secretary shall:

- i) Record and take charge of all minutes of ASZSIC and NEC meetings and activities. ii) Read such minutes in subsequent meetings and effect all amendments that could arise iii) Send /report the minutes to members through to the NEC group vii) Maintain a record of attendance for all members attending AZSIC and NEC activities.
- viii) Take care of all correspondence and/or exchange of information (in collaboration with the President) between the NEC and the general assembly as well as correspondence between AZSIC and other associations or institutions. ix) Records the decisions taken and their subsequent implementation.
- x) Take charge of association documents which may only be used with specific authority of the executive committee i.e. seal, letter headed papers etc. 5) Assistant General Secretary

- i) The Assistant General Secretary shall assist the General Secretary in accomplishing his/her duties.
- ii) He/she shall work with the General Secretary to produce the minutes and resolutions of AZSIC activities within a period of two weeks, following each event. iii) In the absence of the General Secretary, he/she shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the office.

7) Minister of Education (ME)

Shall be responsible for:

- i) Preparing guidelines concerning education directories.
- ii) Providing academic support in research papers, examination direction and counselling programs iii) Working with City leaders to organize workshops, seminars and academic tours
- iv) Participation in all responsibilities assigned to him by the committee as member of executive committee.
- v) Creating a link between students and officials of academic institutions

8) Publicity Secretary (PS)

Public Relations shall:

- a) Publicize AZSIC/NEC activities (births, sickness, hospitalization, deaths, fundraising parties, marriages, weddings etc.)
- b) Design flyers and banners for major occasions (e.g. annual INDEPENDENCE).
- c) Promote the interest of NEC and the union.

- d) Formulate a link with City leaders in publicity, registration and information exchange
- e) Assist in registering new members on the AZSIC website.
- f) Assist the President/Vice President to respond to inquiries about NEC and the union.
- g) Publish bi-annual news bulletins about AZSIC or information on members' major achievements, and he or she shall promote the interest of the NEC and the union.
- h) Assist the General Secretary in publishing meeting and event agendas.
- i) Conduct interviews of Zambian dignitaries who may be on visits in China.
- j) Assist in the publication of reports and other meeting reports, manage discussions on the AZSIC website and other fora.
- k) Modify the communication means in the Association such as the website, e-mails, and WeChat while maintaining regulations.

9) The Minister of Health and Welfare

The Minister of Health and Welfare shall:

- i) Be aware of health status of AZSIC members and therefore work mutually with CITY LEADERS to facilitate material and financial support to a patient. ii) Collect the information of active members in case of health problems.
- iii) Be responsible for visiting a patient when admitted, and encouraging others to visit.
- iv) Initiate requests of financial support for member who is admitted. v) Prepare guidelines concerning health and climate change. vi) Prepare reports quarterly of all health cases.

10) The Social and Entertainment Ministers

They shall:

- i) Organize all AZSIC cultural events and direct the social activities (entertainment agenda) of AZSIC. ii) Promote, maintain and respect the culture of Zambia and plan the annual social events, EC meetings and AZSIC fund raisers..

11) Minister of Sports

Initiates and organizes AZSIC sports activities. Keeps a record of all the inventory of AZSIC items. i.e. banners, all sporting materials, backdrops etc.

12) Project coordinator

Shall be responsible for planning , procurement and executing projects of the association.

ARTICLE FOUR: DISCIPLINE

Section 1: Any AZSIC member whose conduct becomes incompatible with or detrimental to the spirit, goals, purpose, objectives, policies, and/or rules and regulations of the union shall be subject to disciplinary action deemed necessary or appropriate by the association.

Section 2: Depending on the severity of the misconduct, one of the following sanctions shall be applied by the the executive committee:

- 1) Written warning to individual(s) concerned from the President.
- 2) Suspension of said individual from AZSIC activities by the the executive committee for up to one (1) year. (Suspensions must be approved by two-thirds of the the executive committee and the advisory committee)
- 3) Expulsion of member from the association. (This action shall require the approval of two-thirds of the the executive committee and the advisory committee before it is taken)
- 4) The above disciplinary actions shall be taken by the EC, only if such misconduct clearly interferes with, or violates AZSIC policies, otherwise, minor issues and conflict shall be solved by means of a verbal warning.

ARTICLE SIX: ELIGIBILITY INTO OFFICE

Section 1. President

Has leadership, communication, interpersonal & organizational skills. Must be mature, strong in character, has good rapport with his/her school authorities, active member, and keen on detail and should be readily available in times of need. Must have already resided in China for at least 2 years.

Section 2. Vice President

Speaks fluent Chinese, active member, has leadership skills, approachable. S/he has to be proposed by the Presidential candidate and run campaigns together with them.

Section 3. Minister of Finance

Has good report writing skills, is organized, keen on detail, and is an active member. Must not be indebted to GUAST.

Section 4. General Secretary & Assistant Secretary

Has good report writing skills, is organized, keen on detail, and is an active member.

Section 5. Minister of Sports & Assistant minister for sports

Active participant in sporting activities, have strong strength of character to stand by his/her decisions.

Section 7. Minister of Health and Welfare

Presentable, persuasive, committed, has been involved in previous cultural activities of the union, upholds culture and the welfare of people, has been a member for a year, has resided in China for a year,

Section 8. Public relations minister

Must be active and willing to work in a team and when called upon.

Section 9. Social and Cultural Ministers

Very social and dynamic in relationships

Section 10. Any holder of a AZSIC executive leadership office shall be allowed to have such a position for a maximum of only two consecutive terms.

ARTICLE 7: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES & RIGHTS

Section 1. All members have the right to vote and be voted for once nominated (NB: depending on the qualification of votership on article 5)

Section 2. Each bona fide member may benefit from the moral or material support of the union as the situation might dictates/ may warrant.

Section 3. No member shall engage the union in any matter or activity without the knowledge and approval of the the executive board.

Section 4. An executive member shall not represent his/her country or his/her own interest.

Section 5. Resignation of a member should be done in writing and presented to the the executive committee. A copy is also to be forwarded to the advisory committee. However should an the executive member wish to resign from the committee, He/ She can be allowed to be a non- executive member.

Section 6. Any member who fails to attend meetings or participate in the activities of the organization will be fully bound by everything that is discussed and passed in the meeting.

Section 7. All members, the executive board, the advisory committee, ambassadors and members of all offices should abide the code of Ethics, regulation and by-laws which will change from time to time depending on the leadership

The Minister of Public Relations will follow up with a constantly absent member to find out the reason for absenteeism.

Section 8. Disciplinary measures in form of warning, suspension or expulsion shall be taken against any member who goes contrary to the regulations of the union. Such measures will be taken by the the executive committee with collaboration with the advisory committee.

Section 9. A vote of no confidence on an executive committee member (from another executives or general assembly) can be passed through a request letter sent to the advisory committee who will in turn table it to the general assembly for action. He/she may be replaced by a member from the house or by any other the executive member.

Section 10. Any members of the advisory committee who do not attend general assembly meetings, executive and or AC meetings for up to two (2) consecutive times without genuine reasons or unanimously seen as uncommitted to his or her rule, shall be passed a vote of no confidence in a general assembly to be conducted by the leader of the AC or the President if it involves the AC leader himself

Section 11. When filling the application forms for Presidential posts, the candidates for Presidential posts should declare their corresponding Vice Presidents to the electoral commission, and each aspiring President will run a coordinated campaign together with his Vice President. All aspiring Presidents are to run independent campaigns together with theirs Vice-Presidents.

Section 12. Election for President and Vice President shall be based on the team basis, and the winning team will be elected as the President and his Vice President as stated in section 10 of article 6.

ARTICLE 8: RESOURCES OF THE ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The union shall generate its major funds from members' annual dues, gifts, pledges and the unions' social activities which solicit for money.

Section 2. The union is open to partnership in order to enhance the financial base of the association. This can only be done after due consultation with the general assembly.

Section 3. Corporate bodies and willing members are allowed to sponsor AZSIC activities as approved by the executive committee.

ARTICLE 9: BENEFITS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Bonafide members may be assisted with a soft loan from the union during emergency financial crises. This will be done if the money is available and the amount of the loan will not exceed 500 RMB.

Section 2. Loans borrowed from the union and all other indebtedness to GUAST MUST be reimbursed within 2 months of borrowing.

Section 3. Active members will be assisted in material or financial support in the case of a health problem, if a bona-fide member is hospitalized GUAST shall provide a token of 100 yuan which will not be reimbursed.

Section 4. Active members shall be provided with academic assistance with issues concerning research paper publications, important guidelines concerning education CHINA and attending learning tours.

Section 5. Should a member encounter any form of misfortune i.e. bereavement, members will be voluntarily give contributions to that effect. The money will be given as a token and is non-refundable to the union.

Section 6. Certificates of special recognition shall be awarded to any member or person who would have made remarkable contribution to the association. All committees shall sit to decide on whom the certificates shall be awarded to depending on the nature of the support or contribution.

CHAPTER 10– ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Section 8. Functions of the electoral commission

- 1) Electoral commission shall be responsible for verification of the eligibility of the candidates before campaigns.
- 2) All application forms for posts in the AZSIC offices shall be handed and delivered by the Electoral commission.
- 3) The electoral commission shall declare official timetable for opening and closing campaign, and the election date 4) The electoral commission shall be responsible for making declaration of the active members eligible for voting 1 day before the general election.
- 5) The electoral commission shall supervise the election, be involved in vote counting and lastly announce the winners. 6) Within one (1) week of the election, the executive committee (elected) headed by the incoming President shall submit the proposed names(appointed officials) of the ministers, General Secretary, Treasurer, chairman of the advisory committee (AC), Ambassadors, and all Secretaries to the electoral commission for vetting.
- 7) The electoral commission shall devolve the office to the newly elected leaders together with the appointed leaders during the first compulsory general assembly meeting of the new GUAST year, the electoral commission shall also publish and announce the complete list of GUAST officials during the same meeting.

CHAPTER 11:

AZSIC PRESIDENCY, LEADERSHIP AND IMPEACHMENT

1. The president of AZSIC is to be creative, disciplined and focused at all times with a high moral standing

2. An AZSIC president who fails to perform his duties efficiently and diligently and brings the name of the association, or in question can be impeached by at two thirds of the majority.
3. The motion of impeachment can be proposed by any member of the association by giving valid reasons, evidence and points of why they wish the motion should be considered. Both members of the AZSIC leadership and those not are free to recommend such a motion
4. Once the motion is proposed, the association through the Secretary General shall set up a committee to look into the matter.
5. Upon conclusion of the investigations into all matters put forward by the disciplinary committee, the disciplinary committee chairperson shall present the findings before the entire AZSIC National Executive Committee for discussion, consideration and recommendation
6. A president can be impeached if 2/3 of the members of the association vote to have them impeached
7. Some of the matters the president can be impeached on include;

Article1: Abuse of office

Article2: Squandering of association resources.

Article3: Negligently failing to perform his/her duties.

AZSIC LEADERSHIP AND POLITICS

1. As AZSIC is not a political association, any leader who tries to use their position to influence or propel a political cause's shall face disciplinary action.
2. Political association and direct intent by the AZSIC president or leadership to incite a political causing AZSIC if found guilty will be subjected to impeachment.

SECTION 3

RESIGNATION

1. In order to resign the following will be adhered to by executive members;

Article1: A leader may resign from office after a valid explanation to the Executive Committee (2 weeks notification should be made prior to resignation).

Article2: If the President leaves office for whatever reason the Vice President automatically assumes the presidency. This is the case for the other positions too.

Article3: In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee will appoint a replacement for the position as necessary.