

Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)

Background & History

In October 14, 2013, the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) saw its beginning in the Republic of Korea.

The necessity of strategic support for emerging democracies that can establish legitimate government through free and fair elections and achieve economic and social development through political stability for emerging democracies became prominent as international economic and societal assistance struggled to achieve fruition due to political unrest and unstable political system in these countries.

Therefore, election management bodies and electoral professionals worldwide gathered to establish an international election organization, 'The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)', in order to ensure mutual cooperation for the spread of democracy and to simultaneously deal with the issues in the present and the future.

Year-2011

- Initial Proposal of the Establishment of A-WEB
- National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea (NEC) proposed the establishment of a global association for structural support and firm establishment of democratic elections in emerging democracies at the Conference commemorating the 20th year of ACEEEO in Hungary.

Adoption of the AAEA Conference Resolution to Establish A-WEB

- The AAEA Conference Resolution to establish A-WEB was reached at the A-WEB Foundation Forum in Seoul among 23 countries and international organizations in 2011.

Vision and Mission

- To foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide.
- The objective of strengthening electoral democracy worldwide.
- To identify latest trends, challenges and developments in democratic electoral management and electoral processes.
- To facilitate appropriate exchange of experience and expertise among members.

Objectives

- encourage the development and promotion of a democratic culture and an environment conducive to the holding of free, fair, transparent and participative elections;
- encourage the development of electoral laws that adhere to internationally accepted principles of election management;
- promote supportive relationships between election management bodies and election stakeholders through open and transparent electoral practices;
- facilitate access to and sharing of experiences, research, technology and technological information between and among election management bodies and election stakeholders;
- support and encourage capacity building programmes of management bodies to ensure the effective discharge of their mandate;
- establish relations with other organisations with similar objectives;
- support and facilitate election observation programmes on the request of members; and
- perform other functions that are conducive to, supportive of and in furtherance of the abovementioned objectives.

Recent Activities

2016

- a) The Election Commission of India hosted the 4th Executive Board Meeting of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) and a seminar on ‘Leveraging technology for transparent and credible elections’ (February, 2016)**

2015

- a) The 2nd A-WEB General Assembly, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (August, 2015)**

b) The 2nd Executive Board Meeting, Bucharest, Romania (March 25th - 26th)

c) Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

d) Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Kenya

- A-WEB began its partnership with the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of the Republic of Kenya in building the commission's overall capacity in election management.

e) Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CCER), Kyrgyz Republic

- A-WEB agreed to support the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic in its technical preparation for 2015 parliamentary election.

2014

a) Launch of A-WEB Secretariat in Songdo, Seoul, South Korea

b) A-WEB's First Election Visitor Program

- For the Local Elections of the Republic of Korea (May 30th -June 5th, 2014).
- Provided opportunities to observe the early voting and advanced election management skills of the Republic of Korea.
- 111 officials from 42 states participated in the program including the observation of voting/counting and seminar.

c) A-WEB's First Capacity Building Project

- From August 18th to 28th, 18 election officials from 6 Countries (Kenya, Mali, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Colombia, and Uzbekistan) participated in this seminar.
- The success of the first capacity building project led to subsequent capacity building programs.

2013

a) The 3rd Working Group Meeting (Jeju, ROK)

- The working group discussed and reached consensus on the A-WEB Charter.
- The Republic of Korea was chosen as the location of the Secretariat through a consensus.

b) A-WEB secretariat location secured

- The Secretariat was decided to be established at the 24th floor of G-Tower in Songdo-dong Yeonsu-gu, Incheon metropolitan city.

c) A-WEB Inaugural Assembly

- The establishment of A-WEB was officially announced.
- A-WEB Charter was approved. (Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary General, Executive Board members, Oversight and Audit Committee members were elected)

d) Establishment and Operation of Interim Office of A-WEB

2012

a) The 1st Working Group Meeting (Seoul, ROK)

- The working group reached an agreement on A-WEB vision and mission.

b) The 2nd Working Group Meeting (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

- The working group reached an agreement on A-WEB's roles, membership, structure and financing.
- NEC was decided to provide secretariat functions until the General Assembly meets and decides on establishing the Secretariat.