

# BY-LAWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHIN BUDDHIST STUDIES

## 1. Association Name and Aim:

This Association, named the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies (IASBS), has as its aim the development of international Shin and Pure Land Buddhist studies, and the facilitation of exchange among its members.

## 2. Headquarters:

The headquarters of the Association shall be located at:

c/o Department of Shinshu-gaku  
Ryukoku University  
Shichijo, Omiya  
Shimokyo-ku, Kyoto  
JAPAN 600-8268

## 3. Activities:

This Association shall engage in such scholarly activities as holding conferences, research meetings, and seminars; publication of both scholarly and general materials, including books, pamphlets, and newsletters; and other activities deemed appropriate by the steering committee.

## 4. Membership:

Membership is open to those interested in the aim of the Association. This Association shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) **Regular members**, who are entitled to participate in conferences and other Association activities, to read papers (as a rule, in English) and join discussions at these activities, and to contribute articles to Association publications.
- (2) **Student members**, who have the same privileges as regular members.
- (3) **Supporting members**. These are individuals or organizations who, sympathetic to the purposes of this Association, wish to give financial assistance. they have the same privileges as regular members.
- (4) **Life members**, who, through the payment of the life membership fee, have the privileges of lifelong regular membership.

**5. Membership Benefits:**

Association members shall receive without charge The Pure Land: Journal of Pure Land Buddhism and regular Association publications, newsletters, and notices. Special Association publications will be available at a charge.

**6. Membership Fees:**

Membership fees shall be for a period of one year, and shall be paid at the beginning of the fiscal period as follows:

	In Japan	Other than Japan
(1) <b>Regular:</b>	¥3,000 for 1 yr	\$20 for 1 yr
(2) <b>Student:</b>	¥2,000 for 1 yr (First year: no charge for students)	\$15 for 1 yr
(3) <b>Supporting:</b>	¥10,000 or more per year	\$60 or more per year
(4) <b>Life membership</b>	¥100,000	\$600

Members residing in Japan shall pay fees in Japanese yen to their district treasurer; other members shall pay fees to the appropriate district office. Each district is normally required to remit to the Association headquarters 90% of the collected fee for each of its regular members and 100% of its student members.

**7. Membership Withdrawal:**

Membership shall be withdrawn under the following conditions:

- (1) When a member submits his or her resignation;
- (2) When so determined by the district (old: local) steering committee.

**8. Officers:**

The Association shall have the following officers:

- (1) President (one).
- (2) Vice-President (one).
- (3) Executive Secretary (one).
- (4) Treasurer (one).
- (5) Advisors (unspecified number).
- (6) Steering committee members (unspecified number).
- (7) Auditors (two).

**9. President:**

The President shall represent the Association and direct its activities. The term

of office shall be four years; the limit is not more than 2 terms (or 8 years), except under extraordinary circumstances.

**10. Vice-President:**

The Vice-President shall assist the President in the latter's performance of duties. The term of office shall be four years; the limit is not more than 2 terms (or 8 years), except under extraordinary circumstances.

**11. Executive Secretary:**

The executive secretary shall administer the operations and activities of the Association. The term of office shall be four years; the limit is not more than 2 terms (or 8 years), except under extraordinary circumstances. The executive secretary shall be selected by a simple majority vote of the steering committee. He or she shall be assisted in the Association headquarters by an unspecified number of secretarial assistants.

**12. Steering Committee:**

The steering committee members shall select the Association officers and directly participate in the operation of the Association. The term of office shall be four years; the limit is not more than 2 terms (or 8 years), except under extraordinary circumstances.

**13. Advisors:**

The advisors shall give advice concerning the Association operations.

**14. District Offices:**

The Association may establish district offices. It is recommended that activities and operation of each district shall be carried out by the District Representative, Treasurer and Membership Coordinator in close consultation with members of the steering committee members of their district, maintaining communication with the Association headquarters.

**15. Income:**

Operating funds for the Association shall be drawn from membership fees, contributions, and other sources. The Association encourages donations and contributions from members and non-members.

**16. Fiscal Period:**

The fiscal period for this Association shall run from January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**17. By-Laws:**

The by-laws of this Association may be amended by a simple majority vote of the steering committee.

**18. Dissolution:**

The Association may be dissolved by a simple majority vote of the officers on a motion presented by at least one-fourth of the members of the steering committee.

**19. Assets:**

In the case of dissolution of the Association, the remaining Association assets shall, upon the determination of the steering committee by a simple majority vote, be contributed to a research organization that has aims in agreement with this Association.

**Supplementary Provisions**

1. These by-laws shall go into effect on 1 May 1982.
2. Amended on August 10, 1987.
3. Amended on January 1, 1989.
4. Amended on September 10, 1991.
5. Amended on August 23, 1995
6. Amended on August 3, 2001
7. Amended on August 3, 2007