

# - DRAFT 2016/04/22 - Letter of Agreement among members of the ASIA TIER CENTER FORUM

## PREFACE

1. Members of the Asia Tier Center Forum (hereafter ATCF), being aware that:
2. As early as in 2010, Prof. Toru Sugitate has addressed the importance of connectivity inside Asian countries, hosting “ALICE Analysis Workshop for Asian Communities.” The conceptual guideline has lead valuable activities and become a base of this forum;
3. In this regard, Prof. Chinorat Kobdaj of SUT has hosted Asia Pacific Grid Workshop in 2015 in effort to visualize the reality of this forum;
4. As the formal platform for the Asian community, Dr. Seo-Young Noh of GSDC has initiated to organize the first meeting of ATCF and shape this forum into a formality;
5. Have come to the following agreement with regards to the establishment and functioning of ACTF beyond 2016:

## SCOPE OF THE LETTER OF AGREEMENT

6. The purpose of this agreement is to establish arrangements for continuing the activities of ATCF beyond 2016 as a venue for exchange of information and consultations among members.
7. This agreement is not legally binding, and does not create enforceable rights and obligations.
8. The members undertake to use reasonable efforts to perform and fulfil promptly, actively and on time all necessary actions to realize the purpose of this agreement, always subject to the availability of resources at the members.
9. No member or the Chair of ATCF shall be entitled to create legal obligations for any other member without the latter’s prior consent letter of agreement is not legally binding.
10. It is understood that the members do not make any commitment to undertake obligations other than those set out explicitly in the present agreement.

11. The present agreement does not constitute, nor shall it be construed as creating or implying, directly or indirectly between the members a joint venture, association, partnership, legally enforceable agreement or other formal business organization or mandate.

## REMIT AND GOAL

12. ATCF's scope is data grid and networking within Asia, among others, but not the least, for human association, institutional cooperation, and common prosperity.

13. ATCF's goal is to ensure that progress in data grid and networking will be a coherent response to the technical as well as scientific opportunities through an optimal set of national, regional and international projects.

## OBJECTIVES

14. ATCF's objectives are, inter alia:

- a) To exchange information on and understand the priorities, programs and constraints of each country, including strategic goals, budgets and project status;
- b) To provide a forum for updating funding agencies on scientific progress, new opportunities and R&D in grid and networking;
- c) To improve the possibilities for international cooperation by understanding the planning processes, roadmaps and interests of the funding agencies in different countries;
- d) To provide information and guidance to governments for planning and coordinating large grid facilities;
- e) To provide a forum to promote knowledge of the applications of the techniques developed for large grid facilities, both in other scientific areas and in industry;
- f) To discuss and consult relevant S&T policy issues, such as access to, and management of large facilities.

## ACTIVITIES

15. The activities of ATCF shall not pre-empt or interfere with national mechanisms for planning, prioritizing, authorizing, funding or overseeing specific projects.

16. ATCF's activities include

- a) Meetings: ATCF will normally meet once yearly on a rotating basis, and, if necessary, may meet in between the annual meetings. The meetings need not be exclusive but open to relevant experts.

b) Reports: ATCF may issue occasional reports or recommendations on matters of national/international importance.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

17. The Chair will be elected among its members. If elected, the Chair will normally serve for two years, and will involve the commitment to host the annual meetings and provide the local organizing staff. Normal hospitality during the annual meeting is expected.

18. ATCF may operate the Steering Committee (SC), for swift and efficient decision-makings. The Chair may be an ex officio member of SC.

19. SC members are elected among the members from at least three different nations, but they may not exceed more than one third of the ATCF. The SC members will serve normally three years.

20. The founding members of SC are Prof. Toru Sugitate of Hiroshima University, Prof. Chinorat Kobdaj of SUT, and Dr. Seo-Young Noh of KISTI.

21. ATCF will establish and operate the bureau office at KISTI in Daejeon, Korea. The cost of operating the bureau will be borne by KISTI. The function of the bureau will cover the organizational and logistical issues related to meetings, compilation and dissemination of any reports, assistance to the Chair, and maintenance of a dedicated website ([www.ATCFforum.org](http://www.ATCFforum.org)).

## MEMBERSHIP

22. ATCF members are individuals representing national agencies that have responsibilities for national/international grid and networking. In exceptional circumstances, substitutes may be approved by the Chair.

23. Each country in Asia may have two representatives. When initially establishing ATCF, the founding members are confirmed of their memberships, regardless of the national quota.

24. After has this agreement come into force, any national agency may apply or be invited to nominate a suitable representative as a member of ATCF, within the national quota. New membership shall be approved by a consensus of existing ATCF members.

25. ATCF members should have a good knowledge of strategies, policies and programs in their countries and be able to communicate with some authority on these issues, noting that ATCF is a forum for exchange of information and has no formal decision-making role.

26. Any member who cannot maintain his/her membership may be resigned three months prior to the next meeting. The Chair may ask the written intention of the resignation.

27. ATCF membership is voluntary with no dues being requested. As necessary, the costs of participation in ATCF activities will be covered by their own expenses. All members of ATCF participate in the activities with identical rights and standing.

## OBSERVERS AND GUESTS

28. Individual experts, spokespersons of projects, members of scientific bodies, or relevant government officers may be invited as guests to attend the annual or occasional ATCF meetings. Invitations may be issued by the Steering Committee.

29. International organizations or entities, with significant investments or interests in grid and networking, may be invited to nominate representatives to attend ATCF meetings for specific agenda with observer status. Observers shall be agreed by consensus among ATCF members.

## ENTRY INTO EFFECT, MODIFICATION, AND TERMINATION

30. This agreement shall be signed in among the ATCF founding members as the written charter of commitment and be kept in the bureau. Afterwards, each new member may be asked to sign in together with the Chair to signify his/her membership into effect.

31. This letter of agreement may be modified or amended by a consensus of members, but not before 2019.

32. This agreement may be invalidated at any stage by a two-thirds vote of members, which implies the termination of the ATCF, but not before 2019.

Signed in X original copies in English by:

[Full legal title of member]

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[Full legal title of member]

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[Full legal title of member]

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[Full legal title of member]

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ [as many as necessary]

Endorsement to this letter of agreement:

[Full legal title of endorser]

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

[Full legal title of endorser]

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ [as many as necessary]