



DRAFT CHARTER

Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network

The Asia Pacific Bioinformatics NetworkThe initial member countries (see below) resolved on 6 January 1998 at the PSB 98 conference in Maui, Hawaii, USA, to form (and eventually incorporate).

DEFINITIONS

Bioinformatics shall be defined as the disciplines and sub-disciplines emerging at the broad interface between the life sciences and the sciences and technologies associated with information, computing computation. (Miyazaki, TenEyck, Subbiah, McBride, Littlejohn, Xue and Tan)

Asia Pacific shall be defined as countries and economies within Asia and the Pacific Rim. In view of the highly dynamic nature of Bioinformatics and Asia Pacific region, these definitions shall be tentative and used in the broadest and most inclusive sense in situations of ambiguity.

ABBREVIATION

Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Network shall be officially abbreviated according to the findings and recommendations of the Abbreviation Working Group, but it shall be tentatively abbreviated as APBioNet, APBN, APBIN, APBInet, etc.

MISSION

The mandate of the organisation is to promote bioinformatics in the region.

APBioNet members are involved in the production and provision of bioinformatics resources (such as databases, software, standardisation guidelines - particularly culture specific ones), network communication, education, training, consulting & collaboration.

APBioNet will provide specialist expertise and a forum for regional communication and will also help the member organisations develop bioinformatics activities. APBioNet will also act as a consolidated regional body that can act as a single entity in dealing with external groups thereby presenting a unified voice in representing the region.

Members must have commitment to contribute to this mission.

COMPOSITION:

APBioNet is an organisation of Asia and Pacific Rim founder member countries currently:



- Australia
- Canada
- China
- HongKong SAR
- India
- Japan
- Korea
- Malaysia
- Singapore
- USA

MEMBERSHIP

APBioNet will have two classes of membership from any of the countries and economies primarily from the Asia-Pacific region. The first class will be at the national representation level- each country will have one representative with one vote. The other class will be affiliate (non-voting) members, individual institutions from Asia Pacific countries whose mandate is not to represent their parent country but who would be valuable members of this body.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

A) National members should have:

i. A clear mandate from their government or appropriate research council preferably in the form of a letter expressing the intention adequately to support the prospective node. (Initially the APBioNet will form with members without such written official mandate, this mandate will become necessary as the APBioNet matures.)

ii. The majority support of existing national member nodes in order to join

B) Affiliate members should have:

i. Special reason to join- such as geographic or networking relevance, provision of specialised skill, resources, etc

ii. The majority support of existing national member nodes in order to join

INITIAL REPRESENTATION

In the first instance, all original founder members will be designated interim national members. When and if any of these original members do not meet the required criteria to be the national members (see MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA section A above) which can represent their country as a single body, that member will automatically be withdrawn from the national member status and be guaranteed Affiliate Member status.



STRUCTURE

Advisory Committee

- comprises bioinformatics luminaries, influential people and provides external and independent review,
- commentary and influence on decisions and activities of the Organisation.

Executive Committee

- appoints people to lead working groups;
- is selected from the full council;
- is voted in by the full council;
- holds policy proposal and executive roles given approval of the full council;
- will be voted in by the full council for a period of time to be agreed at the first meeting of the full council

Full Council

- has right of veto of the Executive Committee
- is the final decision making body in policy
- includes executive matters

Working Group Leaders

Secretariat/Administration Executive Standing Working Group Ad Hoc Working Groups

DECISION PROCESS

Modification of and amendment to the constitution and charter of APBioNet will occur with a simple majority vote in the spirit of consensus and goodwill.

FUNDING

APBioNet will seek funding from multiple sources for activities collectively or subsets thereof, as defined by the terms and conditions of the awarding body. Funding will not be restricted to one single source.

MODIFICATIONS TO THIS CHARTER

This charter is presently in draft form and may be modified and later ratified.