

Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA)

May 13, 2022

In news– India has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024.

About AAEA-

- **AAEA was conceived to promote and institutionalize open and transparent elections, independent and impartial election authorities, professionalization of Asian election authorities,** citizen participation in the electoral and civic process, information sharing, and the development of resources for election-related information and research.
- **It was established in 1998,** in pursuance of the resolution passed by participants of the Symposium on Asian Elections in the 21st Century held from January 26-29, 1997 in Manila, Philippines.
- The AAEA **aims to provide a non-partisan forum in the Asian region** for sharing experiences and best practices among election authorities to discuss and act upon ways to promote open and transparent elections **to support good governance and democracy.**
- **AAEA** is also an **Associate Member of** the 118 member **Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).**
- **Currently, 20 Asian EMBs are members of AAEA.**
- The new members of the Executive Board now include Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan, and the Philippines.
- **The members of AAEA include:** India, Russia, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, S. Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka,

Taiwan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

- **The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a founding member** of the Election Management Body (EMB) of the AAEA.
- **India also served on the Executive Board of the AAEA as the Vice-Chair during 2011-13 and Chaired during 2014-16.**
- The decision of electing a new chair was taken at the recently held meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila, Philippines.

India's association with AAEA-

- In India, India International Institute for Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) has been regularly conducting International Training Programmes which are attended by the officials from many AAEA member countries.
- Since 2019, more than 250 officials from AAEA member countries have attended these programmes.
- Further, IIIDEM also conducts customized capacity development training programs for specific AAEA member countries.
- Delegates from AAEA have also been regularly participating in the International Election Visitors Programme organised by Election Commission of India.
- 62 officials from 12 AAEA members participated in the 3rd International Virtual Election Visitors Programme (IEVP) hosted by ECI during Assembly Elections in 2022.

Further reading:
<https://journalsofindia.com/association-of-world-election-bodies-a-web/>