

Review of Consultancy Section: direction and evaluation

(Document prepared by APPU Bureau)

1. Subject	References/paragraphs
Informing APPU members on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the relocation of RTCAP from Singapore to Bangkok and the creation of the Consultancy Section as the organisational structure for the unit - the plan to direct and evaluate the work of the Consultancy Section and provide an update report to the 2021 EC or Congress - the impact of COVID-19 on the Consultancy Section activities - the plan for the next year in terms of direction and evaluation of the Consultancy Section 	§§ 1.1 – 1.3 § 1.4 § 2 § 3
2. Decisions expected The EC, via the Reform WG, is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - note the relocation of RTCAP from Singapore to Bangkok and the creation of the Consultancy Section as the organisational structure for the unit - note the plan to direct and evaluate the work of the Consultancy Section from July 2020 and provide an update report to the 2021 EC or Congress - note the impact of COVID-19 on the Consultancy Section activities and, in particular, that it has simply not been possible to achieve the intended work on direction and evaluation - note the plan for the next year in terms of direction and evaluation of the Consultancy Section 	§§ 1.1 – 1.3 § 1.4 § 2 § 3

1. Background

1.1 RTCAP relocated from Singapore to Bangkok in March 2020. The relocation involved one employee, Mr Tan Yong Chee (Manager, RTCAP).

1.2 The employment arrangement of Mr Tan Yong Chee was on an annual contract basis. Overall tenure had not been specified.

1.3 Organisationally, the RTCAP work became part of the activity of a new Consultancy Section. This provided the required scope to deploy Mr Tan in other areas of work.

1.4 The 2020 EC meeting was updated on the relocation (EC 2020 Doc 15.4.2). Included in the document and discussion were the following points.

(i) The first months of Mr Tan’s work in Bangkok were quite different to what had been expected simply because of the COVID-19 situation. As with most other Bureau staff, the pandemic impacted on working methods. It also impacted the range of duties Mr Tan could perform.

(ii) Anticipating that there would be a quick return to normal working arrangements the 2020 EC agreed on a plan for the direction and evaluation of the Consultancy Section (i.e., RTCAP work plus activity undertaken by Mr Tan in his broader consultant role).

(iii) A brief report was to be submitted to the 2021 APPU EC or Congress as an information update on the direction and evaluation of the Consultancy Section.

2. Consultancy Section activity since 2020 EC meeting

- 2.1 RTCAP and consultancy work have been heavily influenced by COVID-19 i.e., travel has not been possible, members have been internally-focused, the emphasis has been on maintaining current business activities and not reaching out in new directions.
- 2.2 In terms of the period since July 2020 being useful for assessing the direction and value of the Consultancy Section, put simply this has not been possible. There has certainly been activity, but it has been more in support of existing work as opposed to new work. There has been strong involvement in training and assistance to the two lecturers and administrative tasks.

3. The year ahead

- 3.1 Mr Tan's current contract runs to March 2022. The time will be used to make whatever evaluation is possible for both Mr Tan and the future direction of the Consultancy Section.