



SECURITY ISSUES

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GETTING HELP

OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The OSAC is a Federal Advisory Committee with a US Government Charter to promote security cooperation between American business and private sector interests worldwide and the US Department of State. OSAC currently encompasses the 34-member core Council, an Executive Office, over 100 Country Councils and more than 3,500 constituent member organizations and 372 associates.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COUNCIL AS OUTLINED IN THE CHARTER ARE:

- △ *To establish continuing liaison and to provide for operational security cooperation between State Department security functions and the Private Sector.*
- △ *To provide for regular and timely interchange of information between the Private Sector and the State Department concerning developments in the overseas security environment.*
- △ *To recommend methods and provide material for coordinating security planning and implementation of security programs.*
- △ *To recommend methods to protect the competitiveness of American businesses operating worldwide.*

The Hong Kong OSAC has a website at <http://hongkong.osac.gov/> as means of facilitating communication between OSAC constituents in Hong Kong and Macau, the US Consulate in Hong Kong and OSAC headquarters in Washington DC. The site is linked to the main OSAC database.

MEMBERS

Membership is available to representatives of all US owned or incorporated private sector enterprises, non-governmental organizations and educational institutions abroad, regardless of citizenship or nationality. US citizens employed locally by foreign owned companies are also eligible.

The US Consulate General's Regional Security Officer (RSO) is a permanent, non-voting member and advisor to the Council, and is the point of contact between the Council and the Consulate General. Council membership is also available to the US Consulate General staff at the discretion of the RSO, but a minimum membership should include the Commercial Attache and Consular section representatives.

Membership will finish upon the member's written resignation or automatically when a member no longer meets these qualifications.

Questions regarding membership eligibility is referred to the OSAC Executive Director in Washington DC.

FINANCING

The Hong Kong OSAC is self-supporting and its activities financed locally. However, membership is free and no otherwise qualifying member maybe excluded from an OSAC meeting, function or event based upon an inability or unwillingness to contribute financially. Operating expenses are event driven, and the Council does not maintain an expense account or collect fees of any kind.

STEERING COMMITTEE

A Steering Committee, elected from the active members every November at the Annual General Meeting, is responsible for the Council's governance, activities, and liaison with the OSAC. The Committee is composed of five members, whose term of office lasts one year, plus the US Regional Security Officer (RSO). Any member can serve on the Committee with the exception of Council members representing American security services companies.

GOALS IN HONG KONG

BY SHARING INFORMATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS, THE HONG KONG OSAC:

- △ *Examines the security needs of the local American community and discuss matters of broad interest (e.g. terrorism, disaster plans, emergency evacuations, trends in crime and security best practices).*
- △ *Establishes a working relationship with the US Consulate General's Regional Security Office.*
- △ *Distributes information rapidly about security threats that may affect members.*
- △ *Reports to the OSAC any new threats or significant security developments in Hong Kong.*

BY SHARING INFORMATION AMONG ITS MEMBERS, HONG KONG OSAC MAY:

- △ *Create a system for personal security briefings.*
- △ *Identify communication links for members to use in the event of an emergency*
- △ *Make available information about personal and residential security.*