



## OVERSEAS SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (OSAC)

### Country Council FAQs of RSOs

#### **Most of my contacts are foreign or third country nationals, can they participate?**

Yes. You do not have to be an American citizen to participate in an OSAC Country Council. You can be a foreign national or third country national, just as long as you are working for a U.S. owned or incorporated business, religious group, NGO, or educational institution. Some of our councils are made up entirely of foreign nationals.

Additionally, OSAC is now including representatives of UK owned or incorporated interests as potential members, due to OSAC's strategic partnership with SISBO.

#### **What companies qualify as American interests?**

What exactly a U.S. company is gets a little more confusing these days with the complicated corporate ownership scenarios. If the corporation has a U.S. subsidiary, then it is okay; or if the company has a business licensing agreement with a U.S. firm from which a U.S. parent company profits, like Microsoft franchise-type arrangements, etc. In practice, we have not been splitting hairs on these types of interpretations, as it gets very complicated. Please refer any question of corporation eligibility to the OSAC Executive office.

#### **Where is a good place to get more info on potential council members?**

We have a few posts in the process of re-energizing their councils now and the successful ones seem to be leveraging the American Chamber of Commerce connection or connection to an American Business Group (ABG) type organization. If you have one there I'd encourage you to link up your OSAC Council with them.

#### **Are there any prohibitions on who can be in OSAC leadership?**

One major concern is having a Security Service Provider Company representative in a position of leadership with the Council. The natural competitive pressures for these companies to increase profits can be a problem for the OSAC Country Council when these representatives are in positions of leadership. They are more than welcome to be on the Country Council itself, but current OSAC policy forbids service providers from serving in a position of leadership.

**What costs are associated with an OSAC Country Council?**

There is no fee for membership to OSAC and we do not recommend local Country Councils charge a fee either. The sample charter talks about finances and some councils do charge a nominal fee. Over the years some local OSAC Country Councils decided to charge a small fee to cover a newsletter or administrative assistant position (for big councils), but we do not recommend it and try to discourage it.

**I'm having an OSAC Country Council meeting and I have no funds to pay for a meeting room or refreshments. Can OSAC fund these?**

No. OSAC has no funds in which to support Country Council meeting costs. Historically, OSAC Country Council members have donated meeting venues and refreshments. Consider the Embassy or Consulate for your meeting if local space is not available or cost prohibitive. Some RSOs have used Post representational funds. Remember, an OSAC Country Council is a Post project administered by the RSO. The OSAC is the Secretary of State's Council, not Diplomatic Security's. An OSAC Country Council will pay dividends beyond those of the RSO. Post's Consular, ECON, and Commercial Attaché all have equities in making the OSAC Country Council a success.