(Public company limited by guarantee) (Incorporated in Singapore. Registration Number: 201500327G)

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

(Public company limited by guarantee) (Incorporated in Singapore)

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

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#### **DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

#### Directors' statement

Asian Business Law Institute (the "Company") was incorporated under the Companies Act (Cap. 50) on 2 January 2015 and is a registered Charity with the Commissioner of Charities under the Charities Act (Cap. 37).

Charity Registration Date:

27 October 2016

Unique Entity Number:

201500327G

Registered Address:

1 Supreme Court Lane, #06-00, Singapore 178879

The objectives of the Company are to initiate, conduct and facilitate research and produce authoritative texts with a view to providing practical guidance in the field of Asian legal development and promoting the convergence of Asian business laws.

The directors present their statement to the member together with the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2017.

## **Directors' Opinion**

In the opinion of the directors,

- (a) the financial statements as set out on pages 6 to 20 are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 March 2017 and the financial performance, changes in equity and cash flows of the Company for the financial year covered by the financial statements; and
- (b) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

#### **Directors**

The directors in office at the date of this statement are as follows:

Name

Date of Appointment

Serene Wee Kheng Lian

2 January 2015

Sriram Sudarsanan Chakravarthi

2 January 2015

Paul Neo Tien Song

3 May 2016

#### **DIRECTORS' STATEMENT**

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

#### Directors' Interests

The Company is a public company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. There were no shares or debentures issued.

Since the beginning of the financial year, no director has received or become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related corporation with the director or with a firm of which he is a member or with a company in which he has a substantial financial interest, except for the employment relationship between the directors and the member of the Company for which the directors have received remuneration in that capacity.

## **Share Options**

The Company is a public company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. As such, there are no share options or unissued shares under option.

### Independent auditor

The independent auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, has expressed its willingness to accept re-appointment.

On behalf of the directors

Serene Wee Kheng Lian Director

Inenewhy

Sriram Sudarsanan Chakravarthi

Director

16 August 2017

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBER OF ASIAN BUSINESS LAW INSTITUTE

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

### Our opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of Asian Business Law Institute (the "Company") are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, Chapter 50 ("the Act"), the Charities Act, Chapter 37 and other relevant regulations (the "Charities Act and Regulations") and Financial Reporting Standards in Singapore ("FRSs") so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 March 2017 and of the financial performance, changes in equity and cash flows of the Company for the year ended on that date.

#### What we have audited

The financial statements of the Company comprise:

- the statement of comprehensive income for the year then 31 March 2017;
- the balance sheet as at 31 March 2017;
- · the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- · the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- · the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing ("SSAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities ("ACRA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code.

#### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is the Directors' Statement, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBER OF ASIAN BUSINESS LAW INSTITUTE (continued)

#### Responsibilities of Management and Directors for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the provisions of the Act and FRSs, and for devising and maintaining a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide a reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorised use or disposition; and transactions are properly authorised and that they are recorded as necessary to permit the preparation of true and fair financial statements and to maintain accountability of assets.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors' responsibilities include overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due
  to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain
  audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of
  not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from
  error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the
  override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit
  procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an
  opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including
  the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and
  events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBER OF ASIAN BUSINESS LAW INSTITUTE (continued)

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Act to be kept by the Company have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants

Singapore, 16 August 2017

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	2017 \$	For the financial period from 2 January 2015 (date of incorporation) to 31 March 2016
Interest income from bank deposits Donation income	5	6,843 509,900	995
		516,743	995
Expenditure: Secondment fees Professional fees Other expenses	6	(169,288) (36,944) (35,786)	(2,500)
Grants - Deferred capital grant amortised - Grants utilised	13 12	1,349 240,669	-
Net surplus/(deficit) and total comprehensive income/(loss)		516,743	(1,505)

# **BALANCE SHEET**

As at 31 March 2017

ASSETS Current assets	Note	2017	2016
Cash and cash equivalents Other receivables Other current assets	7 8 9	1,235,095 2,971 214	250,837 158
		1,238,280	250,995
Non-current asset Plant and equipment	10	9,566	<del></del>
Total assets	190	1,247,846	250,995
LIABILITIES Current liabilities Other payables Amount due to Member Grants received in advance	11	92,298 32,328 598,416 723,042	2,500 - 250,000 252,500
Non-current liability Deferred capital grant	13	9,566	
Total liabilities		732,608	252,500
Net assets/(liabilities)		515,238	(1,505)
EQUITY Retained earnings/(accumulated losses) Total equity		515,238 515,238	(1,505) (1,505)

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

2047	Retained earnings/ (accumulated losses)
2017 Beginning of financial year	(1,505)
Net surplus and total comprehensive income	516,743
End of financial year	515,238
2016 Beginning of financial period - 2 January 2015 (date of incorporation)	<u>~</u>
Net deficit and total comprehensive loss	(1,505)
End of financial period	(1,505)

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

Cash flow from operating activities	Note	2017 \$	For the financial period from 2 January 2015 (date of incorporation) to 31 March 2016
Net surplus/(deficit)		516,743	(1,505)
Adjustment for: - Interest income - Donation income - Grants utilised - Amortisation of deferred capital grant - Depreciation of plant and equipment		(6,843) (509,900) (240,669) (1,349) 1,349 (240,669)	(995) - - - - (2,500)
Change in working capital:  - Other receivables  - Other current assets  - Other payables  - Amount due to member  Net cash provided by operating activities		(396) (214) 89,798 32,328 (119,153)	2,500
Cash flow from investing activities Purchase of property, plant and equipment Interest received Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(10,915) 4,426 (6,489)	837 837
Cash flow from financing activities  Donation received  Grant received  Net cash provided by financing activities		509,900 600,000 1,109,900	250,000 250,000
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year/period		984,258 250,837	250,837
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year/period	7	1,235,095	250,837
Cash flow from investing activities Purchase of property, plant and equipment Interest received Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities  Cash flow from financing activities Donation received Grant received Net cash provided by financing activities  Net increase in cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of financial year/period Cash and cash equivalents at the end	7	(10,915) 4,426 (6,489) 509,900 600,000 1,109,900 984,258 250,837	250,000 250,000 250,837

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

These notes form an integral part of and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

#### 1. General information

The Company is incorporated and domiciled in Singapore. The address of its registered office is 1 Supreme Court Lane, #06-00, Singapore 178879.

Under Clause 6 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, each Member of the Company undertakes to contribute a sum not exceeding \$100 to the assets of the Company in the event of it being wound up.

The principal activities of the Company are to conduct legal research, training and development of Asian business laws.

As at 31 March 2017, the Singapore Academy of Law (the "Academy") was the sole Member (the "Member").

## 2. Significant accounting policies

## 2.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Singapore Financial Reporting Standards ("FRS") under the historical cost convention, except as disclosed in the accounting policies below:

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with FRS requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies. It also requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and assumptions.

## Interpretations and amendments to published standards effective in 2016

On 1 April 2016, the Company adopted the new or amended FRS and Interpretations of FRS ("INT FRS") that are mandatory for application for the financial period. Changes to the Company's accounting policies have been made as required, in accordance with the transitional provisions in the respective FRS and INT FRS.

The adoption of these new or amended FRS and INT FRS did not result in substantial changes to the Company's accounting policies and had no material effect on the amounts reported for the current financial period.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

#### 2.2 Revenue recognition

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

Donations are recognised as income upon receipt.

### 2.3 Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are recognised at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Subsequent expenditure relating to plant and equipment that has already been recognised is added to the carrying amount of the asset only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repair and maintenance expenses are recognised in profit or loss when incurred.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their depreciable amounts over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Useful lives 3 years

Computer equipment

The residual values, estimated useful lives and depreciation method of plant and equipment are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at each balance sheet date. The effects of any revision are recognised in profit or loss when the changes arise.

#### 2.4 Impairment of non-financial assets

Plant and equipment are tested for impairment whenever there is any objective evidence or indication that these assets may be impaired.

For the purpose of impairment testing of the assets, recoverable amount (i.e. the higher of the fair value less cost to sell and the value-in-use) is determined on an individual asset basis unless the asset does not generate cash flows that are largely independent of those from other assets. If this is the case, the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit (CGU) to which the asset belongs.

If the recoverable amount of the asset (or CGU) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or CGU) is reduced to its recoverable amount. The difference between the carrying amount and recoverable amount is recognised as an impairment loss in profit or loss.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

## 2.4 Impairment of non-financial assets (continued)

An impairment loss for an asset is reversed if, and only if, there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognised. The carrying amount of the asset is increased to its revised recoverable amount, provided that this amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of accumulated depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of impairment loss for an asset is recognised in profit or loss.

#### 2.5 Loans and receivables

Cash and cash equivalents
Other receivables
Other current assets

Cash and cash equivalents, other receivables and other current assets are initially recognised at their fair value plus transaction costs and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less accumulated impairment losses.

The Company assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that these financial assets are impaired and recognises an allowance for impairment when such evidence exists. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy and default or significant delay in payments are objective evidence that these financial assets are impaired.

The carrying amount of these assets is reduced through the use of an impairment allowance account which is calculated as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. When the asset becomes uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are recognized against the same line item in income or expenditure.

The allowance for impairment loss account is reduced through income or expenditure in a subsequent period when the amount of impairment loss decreases and the related decrease can be objectively measured. The carrying amount of the asset previously impaired is increased to the extent that the new carrying amount does not exceed the amortised cost, had no impairment been recognized in prior periods.

These assets are presented as current assets except for those that are expected to be realised later than 12 months after the balance sheet date, which are presented as non-current assets.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

### 2. Significant accounting policies (continued)

### 2.6 Other payables

Other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. They are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business, if longer). Otherwise, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Other payables are initially recognised at fair value, and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### 2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits with financial institution which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### 2.8 Grants

Grants from the government are recognised at their fair value when there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the Company will comply with all the attached conditions.

Grants related to assets are credited to a deferred capital grant account and are released to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of the relevant assets.

Grants in respect of the current year's operation are recognised as income in the same year. Where the operating grant is received with conditions attached, the income is recognised in the same period provided there is sufficient evidence that the conditions will be met

#### 3. Critical accounting, assumptions and judgements

Management assessed and concluded that there are no critical accounting estimates and assumptions made by the Company that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

#### 4. Charity status & income tax

With effect from 27 October 2016, the Company is registered as a charity with the Commissioner of Charities under the Singapore Charities Act (Cap. 37) and is exempted from income tax under the provision of the Income Tax Act (Cap. 134).

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

# 5. Donation income

The donations are moneys received from organisations to support the Company's works on the convergence of Asian Business Law and its legal research projects.

## 6. Other expenses

	2017 \$	For the financial period from 2 January 2015 (date of incorporation) to 31 March 2016
Depreciation (Note 10) Event and related expenses Miscellaneous expenses Printing and stationery Rental and utilities expenses	1,349 7,260 7,728 5,479 11,616	- - - -
Repair and maintenance	2,354 35,786	

## 7. Cash and cash equivalents

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	135,095	20,000
Fixed deposits with a financial institution	1,100,000	230,837
•	1,235,095	250,837

The fixed deposits placed with a financial institution have an average maturity of 3 months (2016: 1 month) from the financial period end and have a weighted-average effective interest rate of 1% (2016: 0.14%) per annum at the end of the financial year (2016: period).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

Other receivables		
	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Other receivables - related party	396	-
Interest receivable	2,575	158
	2,971	158
	Other receivables - related party	Other receivables - related party Interest receivable  2017 \$ 396 2,575

Other receivables from a related party is unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

## 9. Other current assets

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Prepayments	214	

## 10. Plant and equipment

	Computer <u>equipment</u> \$	Total \$
2017		- 10
Cost		
Beginning of financial year	_	-
Additions	10,915	10,915
End of financial year	10,915	10,915
Accumulated depreciation Beginning of financial year	4.040	-
Depreciation charge (Note 6)	1,349	1,349
End of financial year	1,349	1,349
Net book value At 31 March 2017	9,566	9,566

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

# 10. Plant and equipment (continued)

	Computer equipment	Total \$
2016 Cost Beginning and end of financial period		
Accumulated depreciation Beginning and end of financial period		
Net book value At 31 March 2016	* <u>-                                   </u>	=
Other payables		
	2017 \$	2016
Other payables to: - non-related parties - related parties - director	46,647 1,632 148	-
	48,427	2.500
Accrued operating expenses	43,871 92,298	2,500 2,500

Other payables to related parties and director are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

## 12. Grants received in advance

11.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Beginning of financial year/period	250,000	
Grants received during the year/period	600,000	250,000
Transfer to deferred capital grant (Note 13)	(10,915)	
Transfer to statement of comprehensive income	(240,669)	-
End of financial year/period	598,416	250,000

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

### 12. Grants received in advance (continued)

In 2016, grant amounting to \$250,000 was received from Singapore Academy of Law to embark on activities to build up an Asian business law framework, to develop legal research and studies capabilities and programmes covering areas of legal convergence, international marketing and brand-building and for acquisition of office equipment and other assets.

In 2017, grant amounting to \$600,000 was received from Ministry of Law to support the operation of the Company.

## 13. Deferred capital grant

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Beginning of financial year/period		=
Transfer from grants received in advance (Note 12)	10,915	s <del>=</del> :
Transfer to statement of comprehensive income	(1,349)	State:
End of financial year/period	9,566	-

Deferred capital grants are transferred to profit or loss over the periods necessary to match the depreciation of the assets purchased with the grants.

### 14. Related party transactions

Other than as disclosed elsewhere in the financial statements, there were the following significant related party transactions, at terms agreed between the parties concerned:

		For the
	R	financial period
N		from
		2 January
		2015 (date of
		incorporation)
		to
		31 March
	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Secondment fees paid/payable to Member	60,646	=
Rental expense payable to Member	11,616	-
Payment on behalf for a related party	396	_
Rental expense payable to a related party	1,632	€.
The second control of		

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#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

### 15. Financial risk management

The Company's activities expose it to credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Member of the Company is responsible for setting the objectives and underlying principles of financial risk management for the Company. The financial risk management of the Company is handled by the Member.

## (a) Market risk

(i) Currency risk

The Company's business is not exposed to any significant foreign exchange risk. The Company's transactions and balances are substantially denominated in Singapore Dollar.

(ii) Price risk

The Company is not exposed to equity price risk as the Company does not hold any equity financial assets.

(iii) Interest rate risk

The Company has insignificant exposure to interest rate risks.

## (b) Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Company. The major classes of financial assets of the Company are bank deposits.

The Company places its cash and fixed deposits with banks and financial institutions in Singapore.

The maximum exposure to credit risk for each class of financial assets is the carrying amount of that class of financial instruments presented on the balance sheet.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

## 15. Financial risk management (continued)

### (c) Liquidity risk

The table below analyses the Company's non-derivative financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period from the balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows

	Less than <u>1 year</u> \$
At 31 March 2017	
Other payables	92,298
Amount due to Member	32,328
At 31 March 2016	0.500
Other payables	2,500
Amount due to Member	

# (d) Capital risk

The Company's objectives when managing capital are to ensure that the Company is adequately capitalised and monitor its capital based on retained earnings. The Company is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

## (e) Financial instruments by category

The aggregate carrying amounts of loans and receivables and financial liabilities at amortised cost are as follows:

2017	2016
1 238 066	250,995
124,626	2,500
	\$ 1,238,066

# 16. New and revised accounting standards and FRS interpretations

The Company has not early adopted any mandatory standards, amendments and interpretations to existing standards that have been published but are only effective for the Company's accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2017. However, management anticipates that the adoption of these standards, amendments and interpretations will not have a material impact on the financial statements of the Company in the period of their initial adoption.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 March 2017

# 17. Authorisation of financial statements

These financial statements were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors of Asian Business Law Institute on 16 August 2017.