



PROPOSAL FOR ARCASIA BUILD BACK BETTER FUNDS

BACKGROUND

On March 28, 2025, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar caused serious injuries and damages not only in Myanmar but also to the neighbouring countries such as Thailand and China. In view of the increasing frequency of the attacks by natural disasters to our Asian Regions as well as other places around the world, the ARCASIA Emergency Architects (The "AEA") is calling for the setting up of a charity fund to provide a solid support to the long-term development of our architects' capability to build back our community with better resilience to disaster in future.

1.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The ARCASIA Council consists of the Presidents & representatives from different Institutes of Architects in Asia.

Among some of its various objectives, it aims to "foster and maintain professional contacts, mutual cooperation and assistance among the Member Institutes (MIs)"; "promote the development and education of architects to serve society" and "promote research and technical advancement in the field of the built environment."

Most MIs are facing an increasing trend of natural and man-made disasters, triggering emergency situations, causing significant losses in lives and properties, and disrupting the well-being of human beings, their communities as well as economies. There are clearly plenty of rooms for improvement-in the capability of societies to mitigate such disaster and emergency situations, in which there is a role where architects can contribute, in particular in **building back better (BBB)** so that future disasters and its impact can be mitigated. Yet, the potentials of architects in such roles are not fully tapped, both in terms of resources and expertise.

It is therefore ARCASIA, together with its extended arm formally established in 2019, The ARCASIA Emergency Architects (AEA), intend to set up a **Build Back Better Fund** (namely the "**BBB Fund**" or the "**Fund**") to support the member institutes and their members.

2.0 PURPOSE

2.1 The "Fund" is set up with the goal to provide, over time, a more risk resilient environment for its MIs. However, it would not exclude measures for immediate relief or mid-term measures for transitioning into a long-term resilient environment.

2.2 The "Fund" targets MIs which has the highest need for the support, both in terms of urgency, significance of risk, as well as gap in capacity to deal with the risk.



3.0 SCOPE

- 3.1 The “Fund”, as named, first focus is on developing the knowledge, expertise, and capability to improve the current built environment to become more risk resilient for the affected MI(s). Activities that support this could be on research, education, promotion and improvement of the built environment and communities, and for both building professionals and the occupants. This may include, for example, trainings, workshops, roundtable, excursions, or the like on disaster related matters;
- 3.2 The “Fund” may also be used by MI(s) to provide immediate relief to the affected communities of a specific Disaster Incident, (such as supporting architects to conduct building safety assessments), as well as mid-term relief (such as providing design and advice on mid-term transition accommodation) or the like on disaster related matters.
- 3.3 The “Fund” can also be used to maintain a long-term region wide support for emergencies in Asia, such as collection and dissemination of disaster related information and knowledge, formation of secretariat, the administration of AEA, etc.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY

All MIs are entitled to apply for the “Fund”. To be eligible for the successful award, the MI(s) shall submit their proposals including the following :

- 4.1 Identification of a material Disaster Risk or Emergency Situation;
- 4.2 A demonstration of gap in terms of capacity to deal with the risk;
- 4.3 Proposal to mitigate such risk;
- 4.4 The required funding amount with breakdown into major items of how the funds are to be utilized.
- 4.5 Proposed target results, time frame and reporting methodology.

More detail approval criteria to be further discussed after a monitoring committee is formed as mentioned in 5.0 below.

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- 5.1 The “Fund” will be received and deposited into the AEA account. Account already set up in Hong Kong. A Monitoring Committee (MC) is to be formed by the representative(s) from the current ARCASIA (“The OB”) and the AEA to help to monitor the use of the “Fund”. It is initially proposed that the current President and the Immediate Past President, and one of the directors from AEA to form the monitoring committee.



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- 5.2 The use of the “Fund” shall be through making application to AEA, who will in turn submit to the MC for review and vetting.
- 5.3 The use of the “Fund” can be for disaster related matters hosted by the MI(s) for activities such as workshop, roundtable, excursions, etc. or the like. (For example, if unfortunately, a MI is attacked by disaster and would like to organize some works, say community program, to help the reinstatement of a village, the MI can apply for the financial support from the “Fund”.)
- 5.4 The “Fund” approval shall not be granted unless it is recommended by the MC to “The OB” for final decision.
- 5.5 The “Fund” can also be used without application from MI(s) through the initiation of the AEA or “The OB” , and approval of “The OB”, for related matters such as the administrative cost of AEA, making donation to suitable charitable or non-profit making organization such as international charity organizations, government, etc.

6.0 POTENTIAL SOURCE OF FUNDS

The setting up of this “Fund” required primarily sponsorships or contributions, and the following are potential sources :

- 6.1 MIs, primarily those of higher means to those of lesser means;
- 6.2 Architects, members and corporates from Mis;
- 6.3 Business and practices from the building and environmental industry, and any interested parties;
- 6.4 Governments, Institutions and Charitable Funds sharing the same objectives.

7.0 WAY FORWARD

To start up this “Fund”, after the endorsement of this proposal from “The OB” and the ARCASIA Council, a call for contributions shall be arranged immediately.

The initial funding scheme is proposed as below :

(1) One-off Start-up Funding

MIs and Individuals are invited to sponsor USD\$500 (MIs) & USD\$100 (Individuals) respectively as the one-off start-up fund and targeted an amount of around USD 10,000 can be raised for the basic running of AEA and the purpose mentioned in the above.

(2) On-going Sustaining Sponsorship

Sponsors (MIs or Individuals / Organizations) may make contributions anytime throughout the year and fill in the amount they would like to contribute.

Mis are encouraged to raise funds from their members or other sources for this purpose.



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(3) Regular Annual Sponsorship

Sponsors (MIs or Individuals / Organizations) commit to make contributions annually. The following amounts are proposed for their selection or they can fill in the amount they would like to contribute.

- USD 50
- 甲、USD 100
- 乙、USD 300

It is expected that this annual sponsorship will be given on a regular basis recurring in each year. AEA will annually invoice the sponsors for receiving the contributions.

(4) Disaster-Specific Sponsorship

Sponsors (MIs or Individuals / Organizations) may make contributions specific to a particular disaster as and when it happens.

(5) Special Sponsorship

Sponsors (MIs or Individuals / Organizations) may make special contributions anytime with specified purpose or receiver.

8.0 SOUGHT FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL

AEA would like to seek the following for the Council Approval :

1. The setting up of this Build Back Better Fund under AEA;
2. Further to the deliberation from the Office Bearers, it is recommended to provide USD5,000 from the ARCASIA account as the One-off Start-Up Funding in 7.0 (1) mentioned above.

Detail Execution Plan will be developed after the approvals obtained.

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