



ARCASIA EMERGENCY ARCHITECTS

ACSR & ARCASIA Council UPDATE

September 2025

What does AEA do?

Scope of ARCASIA Emergency Architects, as prescribed in the AEA Pledge, can be summarized as follows:

1. Building Knowledge of Emergency Management (preparedness and response) for the built environment;
2. Training professionals to deliver Emergency Management;
3. Forming a Team of architects and related professionals to deliver Emergency Management services;
4. Promoting the concept and knowhow of Emergency Management;

How it all began

1. When ACSR was formed in 2011, “Natural Disasters” and “Disaster Prevention, Preparedness & Risk Reduction” were 2 out of the 8 topics proposed.
2. MOU signed with ADPC (Asia Disaster Prevention Centre) in 2015 on training Architects on Emergency Management.
3. Conducted 2 international training for Region A and B since.
4. As per ARCASIA Council’s decision. AEA was set up and officially launched in ACSR Roundtable in Sep. 2019.
5. AEA Charter and Pledge signed by all Member Institute in Nov. 2019.

AEA Organization

The legal entity of ARCASIA Emergency Architects Limited was set up in 2019 with a view to kick start the initiative and eventually pass on the baton to the rest of the ARCASIA countries. The current organization is as follows:

Chairman : Ar. Joseph Kwan
Directors : Ar. Marvin Chen (replacing Ar. Barry Will in 2020)
Ar. Tony Wong
CEO : Ar. Thomas Cheung

The following ad hoc Task Force / Collaboration Platform were set up, with wide representation from across ARCASIA member institutes:

1. ARCASIA COVID-19 Workforce (since April 2020)
2. AEA Flood Disaster Group (since September 2022)
3. AEA Expert Core Team (since March 2023)
4. **AEA Expert Core Team for Myanmar Earthquake (since March 2025)**

Achievement 2019-2024

- Business Plan established and approved by ARCASIA Council
- Legal Entity Setup in Hong Kong
- Collaborated with ACSR and formed ARCASIA COVID19 Taskforce.
- Completed the ARCASIA COVID-19 Guidelines (13 ACGs)
- Assisted UIA AfA (Architecture for All) Workgroup and launched their Inclusive Design Guidelines responding to Natural Disaster and Emergencies in the UIA Congress in Brazil.
- Cross-Border Collaboration, and AEA Expert Core - Started in Q4 2022
- ARCASIA's response to UN World Habitat Day and International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction - October 2023

Action Plan Status in 2025 & Beyond

- Delay of sponsorship for AEA due to sponsor leadership change and resolved.
- AEA Training Programme scheduled on 9-10 & 12 Sept, 2025 with KIRA in ACA 21
- Expert panel to support Myanmar architects in the March 2025 Earthquake;
- Initiated “Build-Back-Better Fund”(BBB Fund) pending Council approval.
- Collaboration with UIA Natural and Human Disaster Work Programme.
- Recruitment & Formation of EA Teams (Reps from MIs)
- More Professional EA Training, Competitions and Awards will be further developed.

Sponsorship to AEA

- Sponsorship had been agreed with a property developer, the Chinachem Group (CCG) of HK\$250,000 (approx. US\$32,000) over 5 years (2023 - 2028).
- This is to support only the basic operations of AEA (current estimation at US\$4K per annum in keeping the legal entity, financial account and basic secretarial support). Other events or projects (such as training, research or symposium...etc.) would require separate funding or sponsorship.
- Contract was delayed due to sponsor leadership change. With diligent follow up, the funding was cleared and we received first payment on 15 August, 2025.

AEA Training Programme x KIRA in Zone C

- With kind support from KIRA on scheduling and logistic support, the training is finalized to be held 9-10 and 12 September, with an excursion on 10 September and wrap up session on 12 September.
- 4 experienced trainers with different expertise and background were engaged to provide the training.
 - Mr. Bill Ho, Programme Lead of Academy, Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre
 - Ar. Geomilie Tumamao-Guittap, Head of Resilience Architects, United Architects of the Philippines
 - Mr. Wardell “Woody” Eastwood, Humanitarian Shelter Practitioner
 - Prof. Chang-Geun SONG, Prof of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Incheon National University
- Unfortunately, due to timing of announcement and unexpected lengthy visa process, participation is lower than expected. But there is a strong demand for remote online participation. As such, we decided to open the training for online training. Due to visa challenges, one of the speakers will not be able to make it physically and will deliver her training remotely.

Response to Myanmar Earthquake

- In March 2025, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar, and a group of Myanmar architects seek support from the ARCASIA.
- AEA responded by corralling support from the Member Institutes as well as the expert team in AEA, to set up an panel of architects with expertise and experience in Disaster Management, in particular to Earthquake and Flooding.
- Several meetings were held between Myanmar architects and the Expert Panel. Information was exchanged and some preliminary advice were given on setting up projects to support. This included identifying areas of help, as well as potential funding possibilities.
- The Myanmar architects were supporting this from outside of Myanmar (Singapore and Thailand), and it appeared that the logistic support were very challenging.
- We are still waiting for the Myanmar architects to identify possible projects to help.

Build Back Better (BBB) Fund

- Noting the increasing need to provide support in an effective and efficient manner, the Build Back Better Fund is initiated and is being tabled to the Council for approval.
- The “Fund” 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).
- It may also be used by MI(s) to provide immediate relief to the affected communities of a specific Disaster Incident, as well as mid-term relief or the like on disaster related matters.
- It 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.
- The Fund will be governed by the OB and administered by AEA.

Collaboration with UIA

- Ar. Yolanda Reyes, UAP past president of ARCASIA, has taken up the Co-Director role of the UIA Work Program on Natural and Human Disasters. The coordinator for Region IV is Ar Aimee Roslan, PAM who is also active in ARCASIA.
- In the Myanmar earthquake, AEA reached out to Yolanda and Aimee to collaborate. And activities planned by both parties were exchanged. It was agreed that we could collaborate on future activities.
- It was agreed that AEA will involve UIA in their support for Myanmar, and will send speaker (Tony Wong HKIA) to the webinar to be held on 22 September 2025. Further collaboration will take place in the UIA-IAI-AEA conference in Banda Aceh in 2026.

Immediate Requests

- Consider and approve the Build Back Better (BBB) Fund
- Support our collaboration with UIA
- Other Supports:
 - Provide name and contact of representative and alternate for AEA.
 - Participate in survey to update status of AEA or similar organization in your Institute.
 - Consider in the longterm playing a more active role and running the AEA by turn.

Thank You

