

Evaluation of Application by Architects Association of Khmer (AAK) as ARCASIA Member Institute
(Tan Pei Ing, Advisor, August 2024)

AAK submitted their application via email dated 13th August 2024, addressed to President of ARCASIA, Saifuddin Ahmed. The following 9 documents were attached with the email:-

1. Official application from AAK dated 05-0802024, signed by the Chairman of the AAK, Sin Sochiet.
2. Resolution of Board of Directors of AAK for the purpose of registration as ARCASIA Member Institute dated 22-07-2024, duly signed.
3. History of AAK
4. AAK Constitution
5. AAK legal status
6. AAK list of members
7. AAK list of current office bearers
8. AAK official address
9. List of documents submitted and information concerning AAK

The application was evaluated based on the ARCASIA Constitution, Bye-law and checklists.

1. Geographically, Cambodia is defined by the United Nations to be under the Asian Region.
It is within the boundary of ARCASIA as per Schedule A of the Constitution.
2. The following are the conditions to be complied with:-
 - a) That the country in question is not already represented in ARCASIA.
Complied.
 - b) That the body, which has submitted the application, is a professional body and the national Institute, which may be considered to be truly representative of the majority of, qualified architects of the country.

According to the history, a temporary working group called '**Cambodian Association of Architects**' (CSA) was formed in 2006, but not officially registered, to act as a body to represent the Architects in Cambodia.

In May 2007, CSA representatives were permanently elected to attend meeting on the formation of the **Board of Architects Cambodia, BAC** chaired by the Ministry of land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. As such, CSA remained unregistered as an association although activities were still being held, while working on the formation of BAC under the Royal Decree.

CSA established their own statutes and internal regulations in 2008.

CSA attended the ARCASIA Council Meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam in 2011 as observer.

In 2018, CSA's Executive Committee decided to formally register the association. However, the name of "Cambodian Association of Architects" could not be registered and the name 'the Union of Khmer Architects Association' (UKAA) was accepted by the Ministry of Interior.

UKAA was recognised by the Ministry of Interior under "Prakas No. 275" dated 18-01-2022. The UKAA has a 13-member board of directors and 23 member executive committee. The UKAA has 6 commissions.

In March 2023, the name **Architects Association of Khmer (AAK)** was finally registered as an Association. The name of **UKAA** was changed to **AAK** accordingly.

According to AAK Constitution, AAK is an Association with the vision and objectives to represent Architects, designer, decorators, improvers and urban planners

In conclusion, AAK is considered to be the only body (besides the Board) that truly represent the majority of qualified architects of the country.

- c) That it includes or represents at least 50 architects.
AAK has submitted a list of their members and there are more than 50 architects.

3. Prior to its acceptance by the Council a new member must categorically declare its willingness to follow the spirit and accept the Constitution and Bye-Laws of ARCASIA
Complied as stated in the Resolution

4. The applicant Institute must furnish the following information/documents to the Honorary Secretary, Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA) for tabling at the very next Meeting of the Council after the submission of the Application:-

- An official letter on the letterhead of the applicant Institute addressed to the President. ARCASIA requesting for the Membership of ARCASIA
Complied. Email dated 13-08-2024 and official letter from AAK dated 05-08-2024.
- A copy of the Resolution of the Executive Committee/ National Council / General Board of the applicant Institute agreeing to the Institutes Membership in ARCASIA.
Submitted.

The Board of Directors decided to assign the 5th Commission of AAK, the International Relations and Cooperation Commission, to be responsible for communicating and preparing the necessary documents for the application for ARCASIA membership.

- Brief history of the Institute.
Submitted.

- Copy of the Constitution / Articles of Association of the Institute (with translation into English, if required.)

Submitted. There are 4 categories of members : -

- **Honorary Members**
- **AAK members, Level II**
- **AAK Members, Level I**
- **Student Members**

- Legal status of the applicant Institute in their country,
Submitted. "Prakas" on registration of UKAA dated 18 January 2022 and 'Prakas' on change of name to AAK dated 27 March 2024.

It is registered as a non-political, non-profit, and law-abiding Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

- Details of International Affiliations, if any, of the applicant Institute,
None

- Number of Registered Architects in the country.

- **Registered Architect.: 1947**
- **BAC Architect: 104**
- **Asean Architect.: 34**

- Number of Members in the applicant Institute

- **Registered Architect: 313 (AAC Level I)**
- **BAC Architects.: 98 (AAC Level II)**
- **Asean Architects.: 12**

(Note: Constitution stated AAK but the list mentioned AAC. Requires clarification)

- List of Names and Addresses of Members of the applicant Institute

Submitted

- List of current Office Bearers, their Names/Designations/Addresses and Telephone, Fax, Telex Number, E-mail Address, if any.

Information submitted only for the Director of Department of Administration and Co-Director of Department of Relation and International Cooperation.

The Constitution submitted included the composition of management structure of AAK, comprising 11 Board of Directors, and 12 Executive Committee. The President and 2 Vice-Presidents of AAK are under the Executive Committee.

To write to AAK to submit the outstanding details i.e., telephone no, email addresses etc. of the other members.

- Institutes' Official Address with Tel, Fax and Telex Numbers, E-mail Address, if any.

Submitted

Conclusion & Recommendation

1. ARCASIA has been pursuing 'AAK' to join ARCASIA for many years and we definitely welcome them to be part of the ARCASIA family.
2. AAK has complied with the requirements except for some minor missing information **highlighted in red**, which is not crucial. However, it is recommended to follow up with AAK to submit the outstanding documents to complete their application in accordance with ARCASIA's requirements.

3. Clarification & Additional Information

AAK members, Level II appear to be 'non-registered architects' according to AAK's Constitution, while AAK Architect Members, Level I appear to be registered architects.

However, the list of members submitted by AAK, which includes ASEAN Architects, BAC Architects, and Registered Architects, shows that ASEAN Architects and BAC Architects are registered with AAK as '**AAK Level II**' Architects, despite the Constitution referencing AAK and not AAC.

It would be prudent for ARCASIA to seek clarification on this discrepancy and the classifications, and to request information about the various categories of membership and the relationship between BAC membership and AAK membership. Additionally, I recommend to write to AAK to provide details regarding their registration and licensing system.

If some AAK members are "non-registered architects," the approval of AAK as an ARCASIA Member Institute should be contingent upon the condition that only registered architects are allowed to represent AAK in all ARCASIA meetings and activities (Similar to approval given to other Member Institute in the past)

Way Forward

4. Once all the documents are submitted and verified to be in order, the application needs to be tabled for approval by Council in a Council Meeting by not less than 2/3 majority of the total number of member Institutes of the Council.
5. AAK, whose application for membership is being considered at a Council Meeting may be invited by the President to send its delegates to the Council Meeting as observers. The observers will withdraw from the meeting when their Institute's application is debated.
6. The Council Meeting shall also decide on the following:-
 - a. ARCASIA Zone
Should be Zone B.
 - b. ENTRANCE FEES AND SUBSCRIPTION
The Council has not imposed entrance fees in the past and recommend to do the same for AAK. Proposed to follow the current subscription of USD 1000.

Once decided, AAK shall pay the entrance fee and one year's subscription in advance not later than one month from the date of its admission.