

PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL: THE FUTURE OF AAA AWARDS

1. Preamble

During the 43rd Council meeting held on September 21, 2023, in Boracay, Philippines, it was decided that the incoming Office Bearers for the 2024-2025 term would establish a Task Force to conduct a comprehensive study on the ARCASIA Awards for Architecture (AAA Awards). The Task Force will recommend improvements to the management and structure of the Awards, with the potential of establishing a new entity. These recommendations are to be presented for Council approval at the 44th Council Meeting in 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1 The AAA Awards underwent major restructuring and rebranding in 2013 under President Tan Pei Ing's term (2013-2014) and changed from a biennial to an annual event. The Awards are organized by the host institute of the ARCASIA Congress or Forum, following the AAA Awards Guideline. The latest guideline (updated until 2016) is attached as [Appendix 1](#). Additionally, the Host Institute is responsible for organising the AAA Awards Dinner and Exhibition as part of the Congress/Forum.
- 2.2 For the 2014-2019 AAA Awards, Congress and Forum hosts had to set up their own AAA Awards platforms, which involved considerable time and cost. During President Rita Soh's term (2019-2021), the AAA submission platform <http://arcasiaawardsarchitecture.com/> was established under ARCASIA, allowing for reuse in future award cycles.
- 2.3 Registration for AAA submissions was free from 2013 to 2018. A registration fee was imposed per entry starting with the AAA2019 Awards.
- 2.4 From 2020 to 2024, the AAA Awards submission platform has been used by various organising Member Institutes to receive and process submissions, and for jurors to access for shortlisting and judging.

Year	ARCASIA Secretariat	AAA Organising Institute	Forum/Congress Host Institute	Entries Registered	Paid Entries Received
2020	SIA	ASC	ACA19 postponed due to Covid.	xxx	xxx
2021	SIA	ASC	ACA19 - ASC	407	236
2022	IAB	UMA	Forum21 - UMA	520	268
2023	IAB	UAP	ACA20 - UAP	573	397
2024	PAM	ASC	Forum22 - SLIA	645	345

- 2.5 For the 2024 AAA Awards, in view that SLIA confirmed the hosting of the ARCASIA Forum 22 only in 2013, one year later than the usual timeline, the Council, during the 43rd Council meeting appointed the previous AAA Awards Organising Team from the Architectural Society of China (ASC) to assist in organising the Awards, considering the tight schedule. Several meetings were held involving ARCASIA Office Bearers, ASC and SLIA to establish the scope of works and responsibilities of the parties concerned as outlined in [Appendix 2](#).

3. Issues with the Current AAA Awards Framework

The AAA Awards from 2013 to 2023 were organised by the Host Institutes of the ARCASIA Congress or Forum, which changes annually, resulting in:

- Lack of continuity, as each new Award Secretariat must learn the organisation and management process from scratch.
- Failure to pass down troubleshooting and lessons learned from each award cycle to the next organising team.
- Inconsistencies in management and organisation, causing confusion and additional burden on the ARCASIA Secretariat, which manages the AAA Awards submission platform and registration fees.
- Added burden on the host institute of the ARCASIA Congress/Forum.

4. Proposed New AAA Awards Framework and Structure

President Saifuddin Ahmad established a Task Force consisting of Office Bearers. A brainstorming session was held on June 1, 2024, resulting in the following proposal to address the identified issues:

Proposed Solutions:

- Establish a permanent Award Secretariat to organise the AAA Awards.
- Separate the organisation of the Awards from the Awards Dinner and Exhibition, which will still be hosted by the Host Institutes of the ARCASIA Congress/Forum as part of their programs.

Hence, the Task Force proposes the following for Council's consideration and approval:

“Invite Member Institutes to submit bids to organize the ARCASIA Awards for Architecture (AAA) for a period of 5 years.

The AAA Awards will be organized based on the 'AAA Awards Organising Framework' draft as per Appendix 3.”

(Note: The 'AAA Awards Organising Framework' as per Appendix 3 is similar to the model adopted for the AAA2024 Awards)

Advantages & Justification:

- This proposal mirrors the successful method used in 2020 to select a Member Institute to publish the Architecture Asia magazine for a 5-year period.
- The existing online platform has proven effective over the past five cycles and can be used by any Member Institute organising the AAA Awards.
- **Enhanced Continuity and Stability:**
A single Member Institute managing the AAA Awards for five years ensures greater continuity and stability in the organisation and execution of the Awards, reducing the need for constant reorientation and transition between different Host Institutes.
- **Improved Efficiency & Effective Use of Resources:**
With the same team handling the Awards over multiple cycles, processes and procedures can be refined and streamlined, leading to increased efficiency and a more cohesive management approach.
- **Increased Expertise:**
The permanent Awards Secretariat will develop greater expertise in organising the Awards, leading to higher-quality administration, improved problem-solving capabilities, and a more professional approach.
- **Long-term Planning and Innovation:**
A five-year tenure allows for strategic long-term planning and the potential to implement innovative changes and improvements without the disruption of changing organisers each year.
- **Consistent Quality:**
Maintaining a single organising body can lead to more consistent quality and standards in the execution of the Awards, enhancing the overall reputation and prestige of the AAA Awards.
- **Stronger Relationships:**
The chosen Member Institute can build stronger, long-term relationships with sponsors, partners, and stakeholders, fostering more robust support and collaboration over time.
- **Opportunity for Development:**
The proposal provides an opportunity for Member Institutes that have not previously hosted Congresses or Forums to take on a significant role, broadening their involvement and contribution to ARCASIA.
- **Enhanced Focus:**
The dedicated Secretariat can focus solely on the AAA Awards, allowing for more specialised attention to detail and a higher level of dedication compared to a rotating host institute model.

Possible Negative Impact:

- **Concentration of Responsibility:**
Having a single Member Institute responsible for organising the AAA Awards for five years could lead to over-reliance on that institute. If issues arise, it might be harder to address them compared to the current system where responsibilities rotate annually.
- **Reduced Opportunity for Host Institutes:**
The current system allows various institutes to gain experience and visibility by organising the Awards. Centralising this responsibility may limit these opportunities for some Member Institutes.
- **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**
The organising institute might face conflicts of interest, especially if their own members or affiliates are competing for the Awards.
- **Financial Burden on Organising Member Institute:**
The opportunity to bid for the organising the Awards for five years is limited to Member Institutes that are financially strong and have abundance of resources. However, even these Member Institute might face significant financial burdens and strain their resources in organising the Awards for over an extended period.

5. Way Forward

If the proposal is approved at the 44th Council Meeting, the following process will ensue:

- The call for bids will be issued by the ARCASIA Secretariat in December 2024.
- ARCASIA Office Bearers will review the bid/bids and present them to the Council at the 45th Council Meeting in Incheon in September 2025 for consideration and voting/decision.
 - In the event no bid is submitted or the bid is not accepted, the Council shall decide on the way forward.
 - In the event a Member Institute's bid is accepted, the Awards Organising Contract will be signed between ARCASIA with the selected Member Institute and the contract shall commence with the 2027 cycle and run through the 2031 cycle.
- The next bidding for the Awards Organiser will take place in 2030, a year before the current contract expires.
- KIRA will continue to organize the AAA for the 2025 cycle, as its accepted bid for ACA21 included organising the AAA.
- The Host Institute for the 2026 Forum will organise the AAA2026 Award cycle, as the new Awards Organiser will start from 2027 onwards.

If the proposal is rejected by Council, the AAA Awards will continue to be organised by the Host Institute of the ARCASIA Congress/Forum according to the AAA Awards Guideline.