



PROPOSAL FOR ARCASIA BUILD BACK BETTER FUNDS

BACKGROUND

On March 28, 2025, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake happened in Myanmar caused serious injury 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 the 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 the disaster attacks 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 member institutes 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 both human, communities as well as economies. There are clearly plenty of rooms for improvements 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 resilience 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 include 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 Administration Procedures

- 5.1 The “Fund” will be received and parked in the ARCASIA account. A monitoring committee (MC) is suggested 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 the current President and the Immediate Past President and one of the director 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 and submitted to the MC for review and vetting.
- 5.3 The use of the “Fund” can be for the activities like workshop, Roundtable, excursions, etc. or the like disaster related matters hosted by our MIs. (For example, if unfortunately, a MI in future 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 except it is recommended by the MC to “The OB” for final decision.
- 5.5 The “Fund” can also be used through the approval of “The OB” for the administrative cost of AEA, donation and / or charity purpose to suitable 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 donations and the following are sources are suggested :

- 6.1 MIs, primarily those of higher means to those of less means;
- 6.2 Architects, members and corporates from MIs;
- 6.3 Business and practices related to the building and environmental industry;
- 6.4 Governments, Institutions and Charitable Funds sharing the same purpose.

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 donation shall be arranged immediately. Initially AEA will contact ASA and AMA, if accessible, to understand due to the 28 March, 2025 earthquake incident if they are interested to apply for this funding support.

The initial funding scheme is proposed as below :

1. One-off Start-up Funding

MIs are invited to donate by selecting any one of the following amount :

- USD 500
- USD 1000
- USD 5000
- Others (MIs to fill in the amount)



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2. Annual Donation

Donors (MIs or Individuals / Organizations) to make donation annually by selecting any one of the following amount :

- USD 300
- USD 500
- USD 1000
- Others (MIs to fill in the amount)

3. Special Donation

Donors (MIs or Individuals / Organizations) to make special donation anytime with or without specified purpose or receiver.

4. [More donation typology to be further discussed]

The above is the proposal for OB's comment and approval. Detail Execution Plan will be developed after OB's approval.

From AEA May 2025