

# PROPOSAL FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL: EXPANSION OF ARCASIA BOUNDARY

## 1.0 PREAMBLE

1.1 During the 44<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, it was agreed that a study is carried on the expansion of the current ARCASIA boundary as constituted in ARCASIA constitution, in order to consider the admission of new member institute applications from countries outside the ARCASIA boundary but within the Asia Continent. These recommendations are to be presented for Council consideration and approval at the 45<sup>th</sup> Council meeting in Incheon, South Korea in September 2025.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 ARCASIA; the Architects Regional Council Asia, is a council consisting of the Presidents of National Institutes of Architects in the Asian region that are members of the organisation.

2.2 ARCASIA originated initially during the 1967 Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) New Delhi Conference. An urgent need was felt for the establishment of a regional centre that would be concerned with environmental design and unity among the six Asian member institutes of the CAA. The six Asian Institutes (the founding members) were India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. The proposal was for a Centre for Environmental and Technical Advancement (CETA) and for the establishment of an ARCASIA Formation Council.

2.3 The First Formation Council (1969–1971) in September 1970 resolved that future assemblies of the National Institutes of the Asian region of the CAA and ARCASIA be formally called the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA).

2.4 While recognising the need for worldwide associations, the Institute within the region to deal with matters that are of more immediate importance to the region. Many of the current Members Institutes of ARCASIA already belong to the Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA) being an international organisation and integral with UNESCO.

2.5 In 1979, ten years after the establishment of the First Formation Council in Hong Kong, the constitutions for ARCASIA and the ARCASIA Board of Architectural Education (ABAE) were signed at the inaugural meeting held in Jakarta with the attendance of:

- HKIA
- IAI
- PAM
- ASA
- SIA
- UAP

2.6 The Architects Regional Council Asia became formally established and the acronym “ARCASIA” was retained for the new council which is held as a Council of Presidents (or their representatives) of the various national institutes of Architects in Asia.

2.7 By 1980, the Institutes had endorsed the Constitution and in August that year the 1st Council Meeting of ARCASIA and ACAE took place in Bangkok. This set the precedence for the convening of regular annual meetings at the various countries of Member Institutes.

2.8 From the initial 6 founding Member Institutes ARCASIA has now 24 Member Institutes with the inclusion of Architects Association of Khmer (AAK) and Architects Association Maldives (AAM(mv)) during the 44th Council Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 15–16 January 2025.

### 3.0 ARCASIA CONSTITUTION

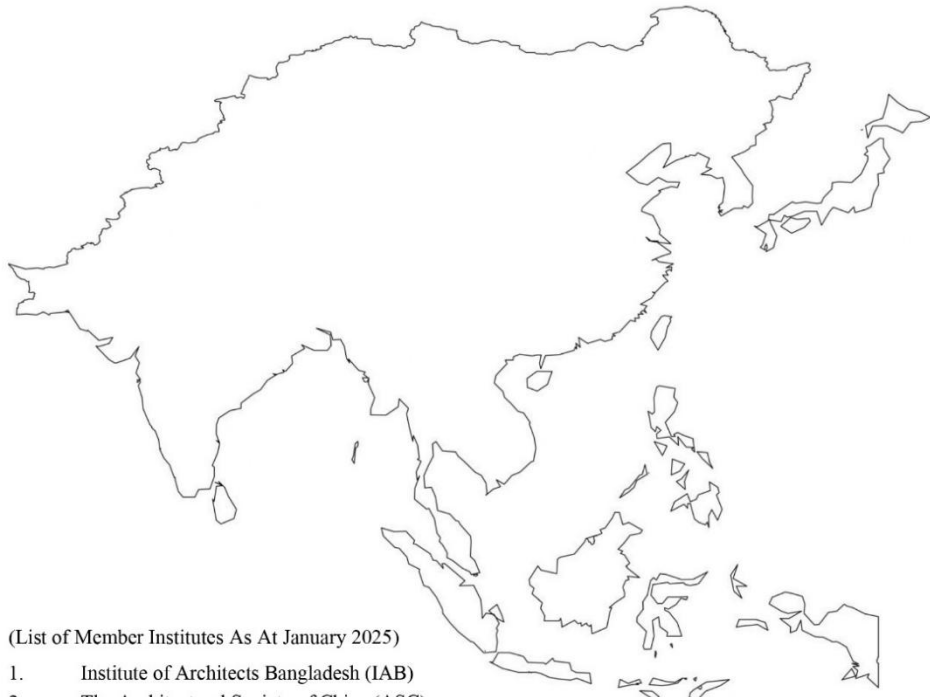
#### 3.1 In the ARCASIA Constitution Clause 4.0 Membership:

The membership of ARCASIA shall consist of

- a) the founding members Institutes, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka
- b) **any other national institute of Architects in Asia as may be admitted by the Council, and**
- c) **any independent Institute of Architects of a territory within a nation in Asia, accepted as such by the nation in Asia, accepted as such by the national Architects of that nation as may be admitted by the Council**

**(As shown in Schedule A below)**

#### SCHEDULE A



(List of Member Institutes As At January 2025)

1. Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB)
2. The Architectural Society of China (ASC)
3. \*The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA)
4. Indonesian Institute of Architects (IIA)
5. Japan Institute of Architects (JIA)
6. Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA)
7. Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE)
8. Association for Architects of Macau (AAM)
9. \*Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM)
10. The Union of Mongolian Architects (UMA)
11. \*The Institute of Architects, Pakistan (IAP)
12. United Architects of the Philippines (UAP)
13. \*Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA)
14. \*Sri Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA)
15. The Association of Siamese Architects (ASA)
16. \*The Indian Institute of Architects (IIA)
17. Vietnam Association of Architects (VAA)
18. Society of Nepalese Architects (SONA)
19. Bhutan Institute of Architects (BIA)
20. Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek, Brunei (PUJA (B))
21. Association of Myanmar Architects (AMA)
22. Architects Union of Korea (KAU)
23. Architects Association of Khmer (AAK)
24. Architects Association Maldives (AAM(mv))

(\* Denotes Founder Member Institutes)

## 4.0 ARCASIA BYE-LAWS

4.1 In the ARCASIA Bye-Laws, Clause 2.0 Membership:

*2.1 The Asian Region is the internationally accepted region as defined by the United Nations.*

## 5.0 UNITED NATIONS DEFINITION OF THE ASIAN REGION

The **United Nations** defines the **Asian region** as part of its **geoscheme** for statistical purposes. The UN divides Asia into **six subregions**:

### 1. Subregion 1 - South-East Asia

- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Viet Nam

### 2. Subregion 2 - East Asia

- China
- Hong Kong (China)
- Macao (China)
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea)
- Japan
- Mongolia
- Republic of Korea (South Korea)
- Taiwan (Note: political status is sensitive, but included for statistical purposes)

### 3. Subregion 3 - South Asia

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

### 4. Subregion 4 - West Asia

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Cyprus
- Georgia
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kuwait

- Lebanon
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

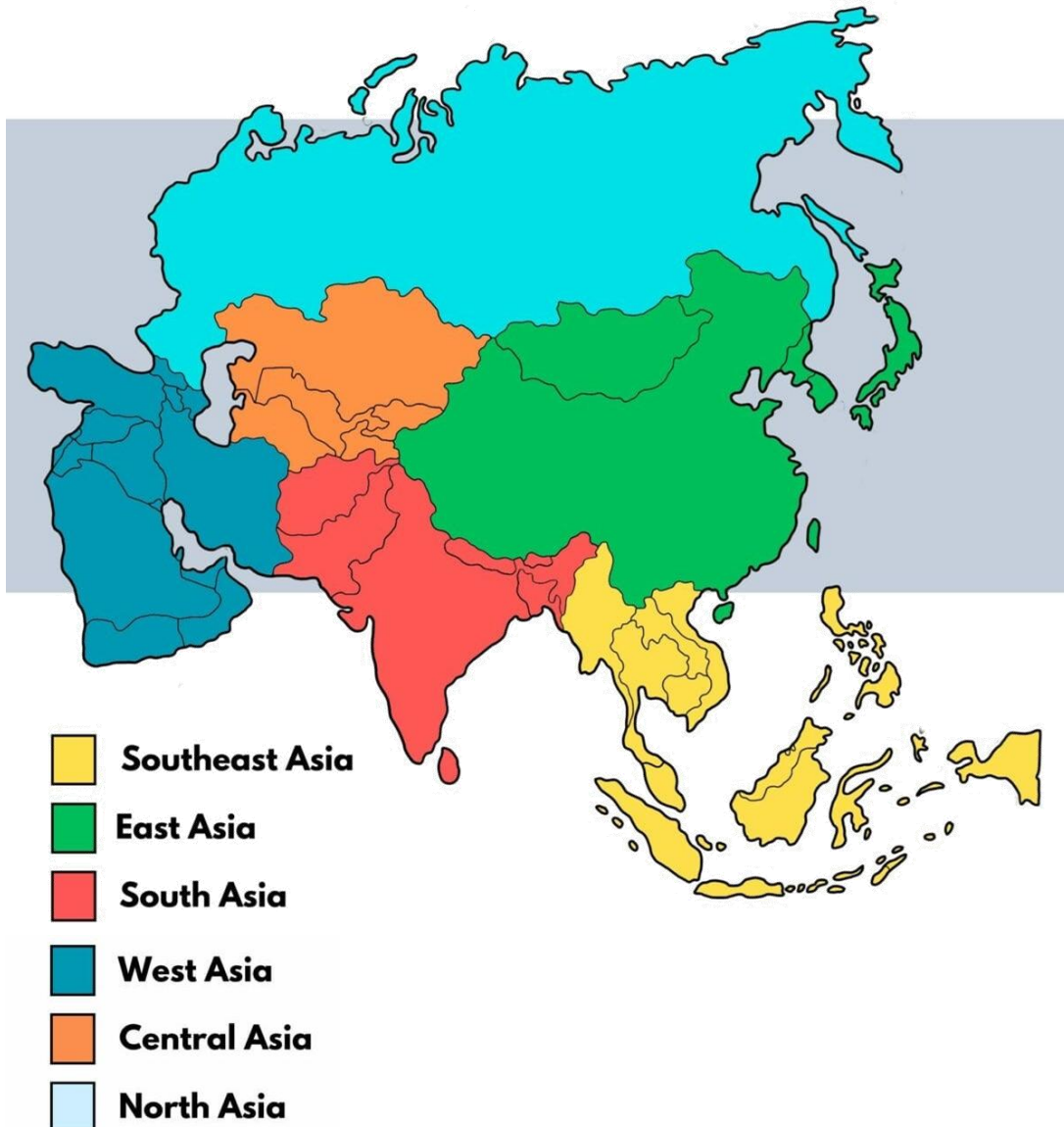
**5. Subregion 5 - Central Asia**

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

**6. Subregion 6 - North Asia**

- Politically, **North Asia is part of the Russian Federation**
- Culturally and demographically, it's less diverse than other parts of Asia, being largely inhabited by ethnic Russians and various indigenous Siberian peoples.

## The 6 different regions of Asia



## 6.0 PAST PRECEDENTS

- 6.1 Over the years, ARCASIA has received requests from architectural institutions to be an Observer with the intention of being a Member Institute of ARCASIA i.e.:
- During the 16th Council Meeting in Singapore, 23-24th November 1995, Council rejected RAlA's request to be an Observer. The status was denied as it was not provided for in the ARCASIA Constitution.
  - During the 24th Council Meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 9-10 December 2003, Ronald Poon informed the body that ARCASIA By Law 2-1 states: "*The Asian Region is the internationally accepted geographic region as defined by the UN definition and as per By Laws of ARCASIA,*" the application of Brunei Institute of Architects (BIA) and Union of Architects of Russia (UAR) were not approved.
  - Recently there were requests from institutions from West Asia eg. AIOmran

## 7.0 ISSUES - CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS

- 7.1 Under the Constitution Clause 4.0 (c), there is a map shown under Schedule A that is well defined and specific to the boundary of nations eligible to be a member of ARCASIA, whereas under the Bye-Law Clause 2.0, it refers to 'Asian region that is internationally accepted region as defined by United Nations.'

However, in this instance, it is known that the Constitution shall override the Bye-Laws.

- 7.2 Under the Constitution Clause 4.0. – Memberships, there are 3 categories of nations that are eligible to be a member of ARCASIA.

*(a) the founding members Institutes, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka*

*(b) any other national institute of Architects in Asia as may be admitted by the Council, and*

*(c) any independent Institute of Architects of a territory within a nation in Asia, accepted as such by the nation in Asia, accepted as such by the national Architects of that nation as may be admitted by the Council*

(a) and (c) are specific while (b) is general.

(c) in fact has a Schedule A attached which is pictorial.

- 7.3 When a contract contains both specific and general clauses and there is a conflict, the specific clauses are typically interpreted to prevail the general ones.
- 7.4 At the same time, one can also bring the matters to court on the interpretation of the clauses. The court will look at various tests to fill the gap. Court may imply what is the best term/clauses so that the contract is enforceable and have business efficacy - apart from looking at what is the actual intention of the parties.

## 8.0 PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- 8.1 Council to decide whether to expand the boundaries of ARCASIA to be as per the definition of Asia Region internationally accepted as defined by United Nations  
**or**  
remain as per boundary in Schedule A map.
- 8.2 Irrespective of Council deciding of either of the above, the Constitution still needs to be amended accordingly to avoid disputes later on.

Saifuddin Ahmad

1 May 2025