



UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE PHILIPPINES
THE INTEGRATED AND ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ARCHITECTS

COUNTRY REPORT 2026



CORPORATE THRUST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027



Justice to
the Profession
Visionary
Initiatives
Member
Empowerment



23rd ARCASIA FORUM
Delhi, Agra, Jaipur
September 8-12, 2026



/UnitedArchitects.PH



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23rd ARCASIA FORUM

September 8-12, 2026

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SUBMITTED BY:

AR. JONATHAN V. MANALAD, PhD, FUAP, PIEP

National President

(Fiscal Year 2025-2027)

United Architects of the Philippines

1) Brief History of the Institute

The UAP is the first professional organization that was accredited and registered by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) since 1975. We are also a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registered corporation.

With humility, the UAP is a multi-awarded professional organization, recognized by various government and private institutions, here and abroad. Indeed, the organization's efforts to promote the architectural profession, safeguard practice standards, and protect the interests of its members have not escaped the eyes of award-giving bodies worldwide.

Formed on March 26, 1975 with the integration of three existing architecture organizations then - the Philippines Institute of Architects (PIA), the League of Philippine Architects (LPA) and the Association of Philippine Government Architects (APGA), the United Architects of the Philippines successfully celebrated its fiftieth founding anniversary held on March 26, 2025.

2) Current Office Bearers of the Institute

The UAP leadership has 33 Members of the National Board of Directors and 8 Executive Directors.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)	
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (11)	
JONATHAN V. MANALAD, PhD., FUAP, PIEP National President	CHONA E. PONCE, FUAP National Executive Vice President
REX S. CHUA TAK, UAP Secretary General	MARIAN EILEEN FLORENTINO-MARUDO, FUAP, ASEAN Ar., APEC Ar., PIID, EAROPH National Treasurer
ALFRED GEOFFREY C. CARANDANG, FUAP Vice President, Area A	DENNIS LEO D. DE BELEN, UAP Vice President, Area B
HAROLD AURELIO T. TATING, UAP Vice President, Area C	DIXIE HANNAH LOU C. SARMIENTO, UAP Vice President, Area D
RAMON FRANCISCO M. TERUEL, UAP National Auditor	DONATO B. MAGCALE, FUAP, SFRIA, ASEAN AR., APEC AR. Immediate Past National President
MA. BENITA O. REGALA, FUAP, ASEAN AR. Chancellor, College of Fellows	
REGIONAL DISTRICT DIRECTORS (22)	
RYAN L. WONG CHING, UAP District Director, Ala	MARLON C. DUMLAO, UAP District Director, Alb

MACGIL M. DE LEON, UAP District Director, A2a	HERBERT P. ALDANA, UAP District Director, A2b
JORDAN A. TATLONGHARI, UAP District Director, A3	CHARLES HOWARD S. NG, UAP District Director, A4
ROBERTO A. SANTOS, UAP District Director, A5	WODERICK M. PAREJA, UAP District Director, A6
PAUL EUGENE A. ONG, UAP District Director, B1	JOSE B. LARANO JR, FUAP District Director, B2
JEDALYN L. CELIS-AYALA, UAP District Director, B3	EDWARD A. BOLIMA, UAP District Director, B4
ANGELES V. TABLIZO JR, UAP District Director, B5	NELSON G. YU, UAP District Director, C1
HUGO M. FLORES III, UAP District Director, C2	IAN RAY G. PEREZ, UAP District Director, C3
JOHN CARLO H. TIAMPONG, UAP District Director, C4	EVITO R. SALAC, UAP District Director, D1a
JIM HARRIS B. BASTES, UAP District Director, D1b	JOSE LUISITO C. MILLEVO, UAP District Director, D2
EDSEL M. CASTRO, UAP District Director, D3	CLIFFORD JOHN A. LANIPA, UAP District Director, D4
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS (8)	
MANOLO I. MERHAN, FUAP Executive Director Commission on Professional Practice	ELDA SHINA P. SALAZAR- SAMOZA, UAP Executive Director Professional Development Commission
JOCELYN A. RIVERA-LUTAP, FUAP Executive Director Commission on Education	MARIBEL V. MONILLA-COLLADO, PhD., UAP Executive Director Commission on Internal Affairs
MARY ROLYN ARA R. TORRECAMPO-ANGELES, UAP Executive Director Commission on Governmental and External Affairs	JAYSON B. PORTEM, UAP Executive Director Sentro ng Arkitekturang Filipino
MARK LOUIE M. SORIQUEZ, UAP Executive Director Commission on Convention, Assemblies & Exhibits	PAOLO V. JOSON, UAP Executive Director Commission on Communications and Creatives

3) Current Membership Strength

To date, the UAP has a roster of membership numbering more than **68,000** or 100% of the total registered architects at the PRC, with **30,192 members in good standing**. Also, we now have a total of **153 registered ASEAN Architects** and **73 APEC Architects**.

4) Budget of the Institute

The Annual National Budget contains the following information, such as but not limited to: (a) a statement of estimated revenues for the ensuing fiscal year; (b) a statement of estimated expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year; (c) a comparative statement of last fiscal year's annual budget with the ensuing fiscal year's recommended budget.

5) Number of Chapters

The UAP has a total of **212 chapters worldwide**: 188 local chapters and 24 international chapters, clustered under four (4) geographical areas (Northern Luzon, Greater Manila, Visayas, and Mindanao) and twenty-two (22) regional districts.

6) AGM/Congress of the Institute

The **United Architects of the Philippines (UAP)** conducts two major national professional gatherings each year: the **National Conference of Architects (NCA)**, which serves as the Mid-Year Assembly, and the **Annual National Convention (NATCON)**. These flagship gatherings bring together UAP members, chapter and national leaders, government and academe representatives, industry partners, and international guests, providing important platforms for professional development, organizational engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaboration.

The **National Conference of Architects (NCA)** is the UAP's annual mid-year conference, traditionally held outside Metro Manila in October. The conference coincides with the first-ever **Regional Exhibit (RegionEx)**, an exhibition that provides a regional platform for industry partners, architectural firms, and other stakeholders to showcase products, services, technologies, and innovations relevant to the architectural profession.

Held on October 24-25, 2025, in Bacolod City, the NCA carried the theme "**SANDAG: Championing Justice to the Architectural Profession**" and gathered **more than 800 delegates** from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and UAP Chapters abroad, together with representatives from government, academe, and the private sector. The assembly featured the National Board of Directors Meeting, General Membership Meeting, CPD Seminars, RegionEx, exhibits, and tours, providing opportunities for professional dialogue, organizational coordination, and engagement with the broader built environment sector.

The **Annual National Convention (NATCON)** is the UAP's largest annual professional gathering, traditionally held in Metro Manila every April. It brings together thousands of Filipino architects, UAP leaders and members, and distinguished guests from the Philippines and abroad. The convention also serves as a major venue for organizational activities, including the Chapter Presidents' Assembly, as well as the Conferment of the

College of Fellows, the highest distinction bestowed by the UAP, and the Emeritus Conferment.

A major component of NATCON is the UAP Construction Expo (CONEX), the Philippines' premier building and construction exhibition, which brings together various sectors of the construction industry. The **2026 CONEX** featured **121 industry partners** in a three-day exhibition, providing opportunities for architects and industry partners to engage with the architectural profession.

The 2026 NATCON welcomed **more than 6,000 delegates**, including ARCASIA President Wu Jiang and other distinguished international architects. Beyond professional learning, the convention strengthens organizational solidarity and provides a significant platform for national, regional, and international exchange and collaboration.

Together, the NCA and NATCON serve as key platforms of the UAP to advance professional competence, strengthen organizational engagement, foster industry collaboration, and connect Filipino architects with the broader architectural community in the Philippines and across the region.

7) Legal Status of the Institute

On May 12, 1975, the UAP was granted Certificate No. 001, the first professional organization to be accredited by the PRC – the central agency of the Philippine Government charged with the licensing and regulation of professionals and the professions, as well as the Accredited Professional Organizations (APOs).

In 2004, by virtue of Republic Act No. 9266, otherwise known as the "Architecture Act of 2004" and upon confirmation of the Professional Regulation Commission, UAP became the Integrated and Accredited Professional Organization of Architects (IAPOA).

8) Legal Status of The Architect in the Country

The practice of architecture in the Philippines is a **regulated profession and a professional privilege** granted to individuals and firms duly registered and licensed under Philippine law. The profession is primarily governed by **Republic Act No. 9266, or the Architecture Act of 2004**, which establishes the legal framework for the practice of architecture and defines the qualifications, responsibilities, and professional standards of architects.

The **Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)** serves as the government agency responsible for regulating and supervising the architecture profession through the **Professional Regulatory Board of Architecture (PRBArch)**. Licensed architects are required to maintain a valid **Professional Identification Card (PIC)**, which is generally renewed every **three years**, subject to compliance with applicable **Continuing Professional**

Development (CPD) requirements and other regulatory requirements prescribed by the PRC.

This regulatory framework ensures that the practice of architecture is entrusted to qualified professionals who maintain the competence, ethical standards, and continuing professional development necessary to protect **public health, safety, welfare, and the quality of the built environment.**

9) **Architects Registration Authority in the Country**

Aside from its accreditation with the PRC and the SEC, the passage of Republic Act No. 9266, otherwise known as the Architecture Act of 2004, has recognized the UAP as the Integrated and Accredited Professional Organization of Architects (IAPOA) in the Philippines.

10) **International Affiliations of the Institute**

The UAP is one of the founding members of the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA), a National Section of the International Union of Architects (UIA), a member of the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH), APEC Architects Central Council Monitoring Committee, and a member of the ASEAN Monitoring Committee on Architectural Services (Philippines Section).

The election of **Ar. Jonathan V. Manalad, National President of the United Architects of the Philippines, as UIA Council Member representing Region IV for the 2026-2029 term** further strengthens the Philippines' representation within **the International Union of Architects (UIA)**. This provides Filipino architects with a stronger voice in regional and international discussions, particularly in shaping architectural policies, fostering professional collaboration, and contributing to the future direction of the global architectural profession.

11) **Major Programs of the Institute in the past year**

The Institute's major programs during the past year were **MOVERS OF PROGRESS**, anchored on its three strategic pillars: **Justice to the Profession, Visionary Initiatives, and Member Empowerment.**

Justice to the Profession, UAP continued to uphold the rightful role and responsibilities of architects, including advancing professional recognition and protecting the integrity of architectural practice. These efforts reinforce the profession's contribution to public safety, sustainability, and nation-building.

Visionary Initiatives, UAP pursued programs that respond to the changing architectural landscape, particularly in technology, sustainability, innovation, and inclusive leadership, while

advancing a long-term vision for the organization through strategic planning.

Member Empowerment, UAP strengthened opportunities for professional development, participation, and member-driven initiatives, ensuring that architects across all levels of the organization have access to relevant programs, resources, and platforms that enhance their competence and contribute to the advancement of the profession and the communities they serve.

12) Program of the Institute

For the current fiscal year, the Institute will continue and build upon the momentum of **MOVERS OF PROGRESS** through its Second Edition – **MOVERS OF PROGRESS 2.0**, focusing on sustained progress, stronger organizational foundations, and greater impact for the profession and its members.

At the core of this direction is the **Second Edition of the UAP Long Range Plan**, which consolidates **77 specific programs into 10 Strategic Goals**, anchored on four key pillars: **The Architecture Profession, The Professional Architect, The Professional Organization, and The Professional Product**.

Aligned with the corporate thrusts of **Justice to the Profession, Visionary Initiatives, and Member Empowerment**, the program serves as the Institute's roadmap for advancing the profession, empowering Filipino architects, strengthening the organization, and enhancing the contribution of architecture to nation-building.

13) Architectural Competitions / Awards for Membership during the year under review

The UAP annually recognizes its regular members, chapters, and districts through the Annual **UAP National Awards**. This tradition honors meritorious achievements that uphold the architectural profession and contribute to the growth of the organization.

The National Board of Directors continues to champion this initiative, acknowledging accomplishments that demonstrate excellence in organizational management, elevate the profession's image, and align with UAP's flagship programs and advocacies.

In 2023, the UAP expanded its recognition program by institutionalizing the **UAP Design Awards**. This initiative aims to highlight architectural branding, provide equal opportunities, and celebrate exemplary work, best practices, sustainability, and innovation across the industry.

On **May 26, 2026**, the UAP conducted the **UAP Design Excellence Awards (DEA) 2026**, with the theme **"OBRA: Vision, Artistry,**

Universality." The awards recognize and honor architects, owners, and builders behind significant projects that contribute to the improvement of quality of life and enhance public awareness of the potential of the built environment.

The UAP Design Excellence Awards further reinforce the profession's commitment to **design excellence, innovation, sustainability, and responsible development**. Its current mandate is aligned with the global commitment to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy** and **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**, which promote inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable human settlements.

14) Key Issues facing the Architects /Architectural Profession / Institute in the Country

- a. Full implementation of the Republic Act No.9266 otherwise known as the Architecture Act of 2004
- b. The preparation, signing, and sealing of architectural plans and documents are only for registered and licensed architects
- c. Proposed Amendments to the UAP By-Laws of 2009 (The 2025 UAP Amended By-Laws)

15) Resources of the Institute

The UAP's present resources came from the annual membership dues and major national events to sustain the operational outlays of the UAP.

16) The Institute's efforts to implement ARCASIA Resolutions adopted in the past Council Meetings

The UAP supports the implementation of ARCASIA Resolutions adopted in the past Council Meetings through the various ARCASIA Committees where we have full representation.

ARCASIA Committee on Architecture Education (ACE)

- a. Organized various programs for the UAP Student Auxiliary
- b. Institutionalized Architects Academic Colloquium and Architects in the Academe Assembly
- c. Educational Exchange and Architecture Incubation Enterprise
- d. Mentor Program
- e. Asian Architects in the Academe Assembly

ARCASIA Committee on Professional Practice (ACPP)

- a. Ethics and Disputes Manual and Standards and Architects' Directory
- b. Implementation of Republic Act No. 9266 (The Architecture Act of 2004)
- c. Finalization of the Architectural Code of the Philippines as the referral code of the National Building Code (P.D. 1096)

- d. Nationwide conduct of RA 9266 Forums through the Task Force on RA 9266
- e. Strengthening the campaign against illegal practice of architecture through the Architects Against Illegal Practice (AIP)

ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility (ACSR)

- a. UAP's Renato A. Heray Bayanihang Arkitektura Programs and Projects

ARCASIA Committee on Green & Sustainable Architecture (ACGSA)

- a. Active participation in green building ordinances of Local Government Units
- b. UAP as support group in the promotion of green building practices in the Philippines

ARCASIA Committee on Young Architects (ACYA)

- a. Institutionalize Young Architects Assembly 2026
- b. UAP CONNECT: NatCon 51 Edition Feature: Committee on Young Architects (Connection Platform)
- c. Young Architects Exhibit at Regionex
- d. Urban Toilets Design Competition

17) Plans for the Future

The alignment of the UAP's programs with its 10-Year Long-Range Plan is anchored on extensive consultations and stakeholder inputs gathered across the organization. The Plan provides a unified framework for translating the UAP's vision into strategic priorities, programs, and actionable initiatives for the next decade.

Organized around four strategic pillars—The Architecture Profession, The Professional Architect, The Professional Organization, and The Professional Product—the Long-Range Plan provides a comprehensive and forward-looking roadmap to strengthen the profession, empower Filipino architects, enhance organizational effectiveness, and elevate the quality and value of architectural services and outputs.

18) Any other important issues which require the ARCASIA Council to address/assist.

The UAP encourages the ARCASIA Council to continue strengthening regional cooperation among architectural organizations, particularly in addressing the evolving challenges brought about by **digital and intelligent technologies, artificial intelligence, sustainability, climate resilience, and the changing global practice of architecture.**

The UAP also sees value in expanding opportunities for professional mobility, continuing professional development, knowledge exchange, and collaboration among architects and architecture schools across Asia. Greater regional cooperation in these areas can help ensure that Asian architects remain globally competitive while responding effectively to the social, environmental, technological, and cultural challenges facing our communities.