



CAMBODIA COUNTRY REPORT 2026

23rd ARCASIA FORUM
SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2026

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1. History of the Association

Architects Association Khmer (AAK) is the professional organization dedicated to advancing architecture education and practice in Cambodia. It was established as the Cambodian Society of Architects (CSA) in 2006 and renamed Architects Association Khmer (AAK) in 2022. AAK supports its members, promotes professional conduct, strengthens architectural education, and advocates for the advancement of the profession in Cambodia.



2. Current Office Bearers



Ar. Sin Sochiet
Chairman



Ar. Unnpheg Puthvisal
Vice Chairman / President



Ar. Tang Sochetvitou
Vice Chairman



Ar. Hun Chansan
Vice Chairman



Ar. Nom Sotheary
Member



Ar. So Sokuntheary
Member



Ar. Aerne Martin
Member

CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Ar. Unnpheg Puthvisal
Vice Chairman / President



Ar. Nom Sotheary
Member

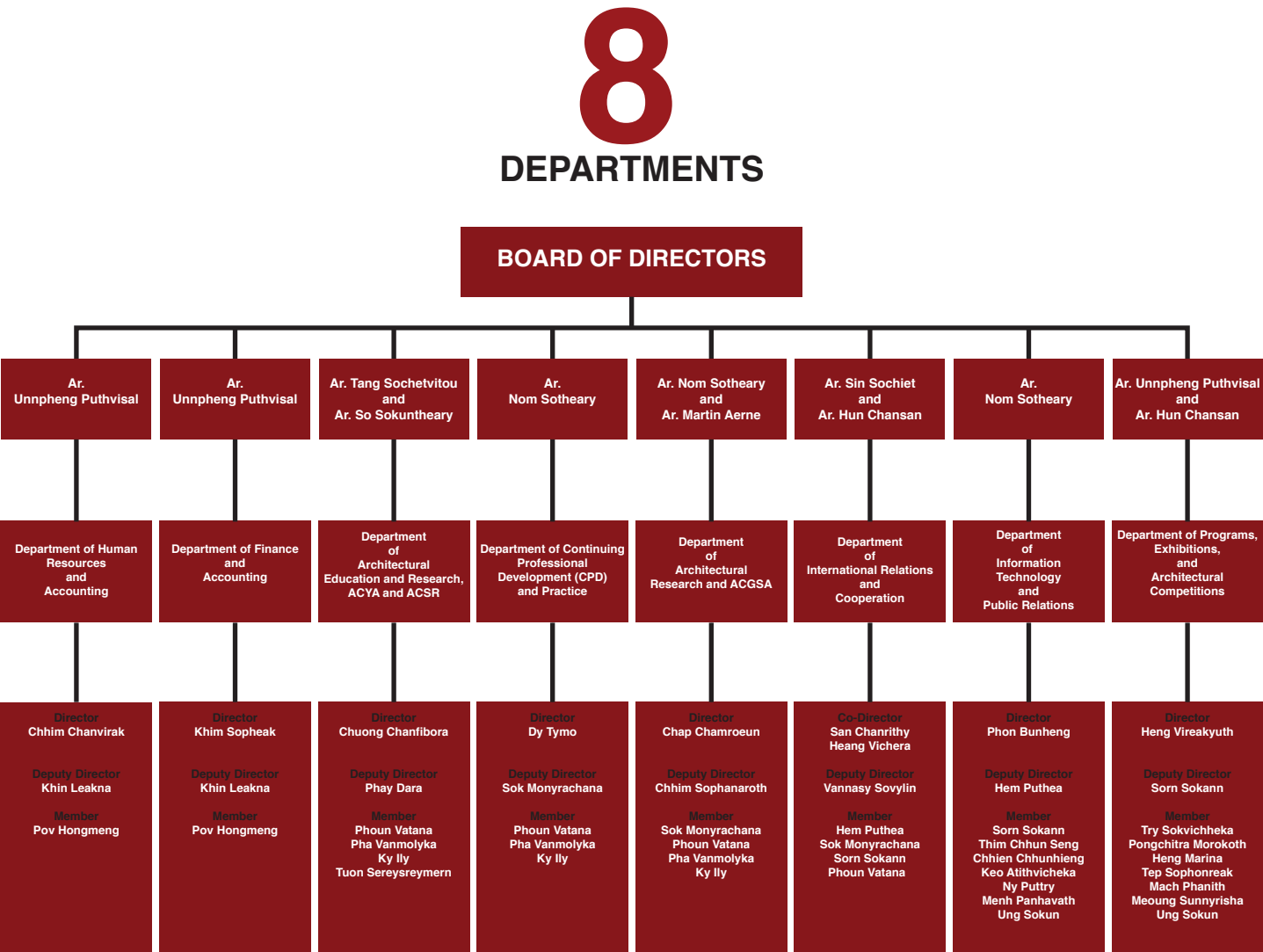


Mr. Chau Darith
Vice President

3. Current Membership Strength



3.1 AAK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHART



4. Budget of the Association

AAK's operating resources are derived from membership fees, donations and contributions, income from legally recognized activities, and organizational resources and property

5. Number of Chapters

AAK currently operates as a single national association serving Cambodia

6. Annual General Meeting

AAK held its 2024 Annual General Meeting and Dinner Reception as the New Year approached. The Board, members, and associates reviewed achievements, strengthened professional relationships, and reaffirmed their commitment to the association's future programs.

7. Legal Status of the Association in Cambodia

AAK is registered as a non-political, non-profit, law-abiding association under the laws of the Kingdom of Cambodia. The 2025 country report identifies Prakas 275 PK-MOI and Prakas 1428 PK-MOI as its registration instruments.

8. Legal Status of Architects in Cambodia

Architects are regulated by the Board of Architects Cambodia (BAC), the professional regulatory authority under the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. Registration includes Category 1, Category 2, and Category 3 architects, based on professional experience and applicable requirements.

9. Education and Registration Pathway

- Architecture education: typically four to five years.
- Registered Architects: 2,502 graduates recorded in the professional pathway information.
- BAC Architects: 140, drawn from Registered Architects with a minimum of three years of professional experience.
- ASEAN Architects: 47. Cambodia follows ASEAN Architect Council guidance, with a minimum of eight years of work experience indicated for Cambodian applicants and seven years for applicants from other ASEAN countries.

These figures describe the statutory professional pathway and are separate from AAK membership categories.

10. Registration Authority

The Board of Architects Cambodia (BAC) is the sole authority responsible for registering and regulating architects in Cambodia.

11. International Affiliation

AAK is a member of the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA). The association participates in regional forums, congresses, committee activities, professional exchanges, and collaborative initiatives with other member institutes.

2026 Major Programs and Activities

JANUARY - COASTAL DESIGN COMPETITION



Throughout the year, the organizing committee successfully planned and managed the Coastal Design Competition, bringing together participants to develop innovative concepts and design solutions for coastal areas. The competition promoted creativity, sustainable coastal development, environmental awareness, and professional excellence through project submissions, technical evaluations, exhibitions, and award presentations. These activities fostered collaboration among students, professionals, and stakeholders while encouraging visionary approaches to enhancing coastal landscapes and communities.

FEBRUARY - POCHENTONG REBORN COMPETITION



Architecture Competition: "Pochentong Reborn : Transforming Phnom Penh Old Airport into a Sponge City" Phnom Penh is facing growing challenges from rapid urbanization, climate change, and the need for sustainable development. The former Phnom Penh International Airport site is a high-value land area that has not yet been fully utilized to its potential. This competition invites students and young professionals in architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, and related fields to propose the transformation of this site into a "Sponge City" that can absorb, store, and purify rainwater, reduce flooding, and create new green and social spaces.

We also would like to congratulate the winner team on their achievement.
For more information about the winner project :
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1GSiE91Sbd/>

MARCH - MAY - CPD PROGRAMME ON BUILDING REGULATIONS



JUNE - SEMINAR AT LIMKOKWING UNIVERSITY



A seminar on the theme of “Culture and modernity” was held on Friday 6th of March at Limkokwing University. The event was opened with an introduction speech by the Rector, followed by insightful sharing from guest speakers Hun Chansan, Nom Sotheary, and Unnpheng Puthvisal. All guest speakers pointed out the need to combine Culture and Modernity to ensure sustainable architectural projects.

JULY - SEMINAR AT NORTON UNIVERSITY

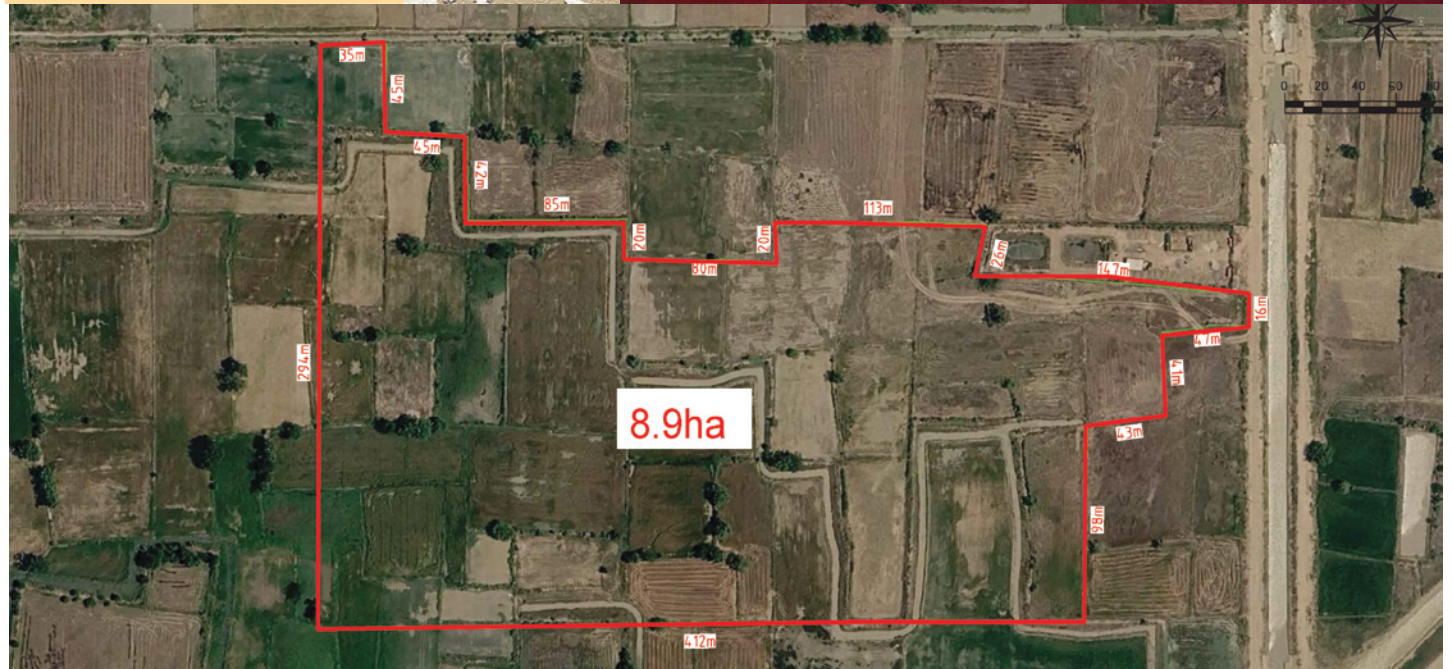


AUGUST - WORLD BANK WORKSHOP



On 19 August 2026, H.E. Lao Tep Seiha, Secretary of State, presided over a seminar on “Construction Permitting Procedures in Cambodia,” attended by H.E. Leang Monirith, H.E. Roth Vireak, H.E. Hang Sothsamphea, representatives of the Architects Association of Khmer (AAK), and the World Bank. The seminar enhanced understanding of Cambodia’s construction permit laws, regulations, and procedures, while providing a platform to discuss challenges and improve the efficiency and transparency of the permitting process. The event also strengthened collaboration among government institutions, professional associations, the private sector, and development partners in support of the vision of “Building a Prosperous Cambodia.”

AUGUST - EQUESTRIAN DESIGN COMPETITION



Heritage Through Equestrian Design

This design is inspired by Cambodia's rich cultural heritage and the enduring significance of horses throughout history. The horse symbolizes strength, nobility, freedom, and perseverance, values that have long been reflected in Khmer traditions and artistic expression.

Through the integration of traditional motifs and contemporary design elements, this work seeks to celebrate Cambodia's cultural identity while presenting it in a modern and elegant manner. The equestrian theme not only honors the historical relationship between people and horses but also represents progress, determination, and the spirit of moving forward.

Ultimately, this design serves as a tribute to the nation's heritage, preserving its cultural legacy while embracing innovation and creativity for future generations.

UP COMING ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER - 23rd ARCASIA FORUM, INDIA



NOVEMBER - ARCHITECTURE GALLERY



2025 HIGHLIGHTS



The 21st Asian congress of architects, Incheon & Student Jamboree



Cambodia coastal design competition orientation



CPD PROGRAMME

13. Architectural Competitions and Awards

AAK uses design competitions as a platform for innovation, professional exchange, student engagement, sustainability, and public awareness. Recent programs include coastal development, Pochentong Reborn, and Heritage Through Equestrian Design. Entries are supported by orientation, technical review, exhibition, and award processes.

14. Key Issues Facing the Profession

- Some national regulations require updating, which limits effective collaboration between BAC and AAK, particularly in implementing continuing professional development.
- Professional standards, building codes, implementation systems, and enforcement remain areas requiring further strengthening.
- Cambodian architects and the association continue to need greater international exposure, exchange, and institutional experience.

15. Resources of the Association

AAK's principal resources are its members, Board and eight departments; its partnerships with BAC, ministries, universities, development partners, and the private sector; and its growing regional network through ARCASIA. Competitions, seminars, CPD programs, exhibitions, and communication platforms support knowledge exchange and professional development.

16. Efforts to Implement ARCASIA Resolutions

- Inclusivity: promote equal opportunities, collaboration across diverse backgrounds, and representation on national and regional platforms.
- Sustainability: integrate environmentally responsible design into programs, competitions, advocacy, and responses to local and regional challenges.
- Knowledge sharing: strengthen seminars, joint projects, technical exchange, and participation in ARCASIA and other international events.

17. Forward Program and Priorities

- September 2026: participation in the 23rd ARCASIA Forum in India.
- November 2026: Architecture Gallery, bringing together professional practice, education, exhibitions, technical learning, and public engagement.
- Continue CPD implementation with BAC and relevant government institutions.
- Maintain recurring design competitions, seminars, university engagement, and regional collaboration.
- Strengthen the association's membership systems, communications, website, and institutional capacity.

18. Issues for ARCASIA Council Engagement

As a developing ARCASIA member institute, AAK seeks continued opportunities for knowledge exchange, institutional capacity building, professional mobility, sustainable design collaboration, and participation in regional committees. Closer engagement will help Cambodia contribute its cultural knowledge and emerging professional experience while learning from established member institutes.

Conclusion

AAK is strengthening its role as Cambodia's professional platform for architecture through advocacy, education, competitions, CPD, university engagement, and regional cooperation. The updated 2026 program demonstrates a practical focus on regulation, sustainability, cultural identity, young professionals, and public-sector collaboration. Continued partnership with BAC, government institutions, development partners, universities, the private sector, and ARCASIA will support a more capable, responsible, and internationally connected architectural profession in Cambodia.

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