



ARCASIA EMERGENCY ARCHITECTS

ACSR & ARCASIA Council UPDATE

18 September 2023

What does AEA do?

Scope of ARCASIA Emergency Architects, as prescribed in the AEA Pledge, can be summarized as follows:

1. Building Knowledge of Emergency Management (preparedness and response) for the built environment;
2. Training professionals to deliver Emergency Management;
3. Forming a Team of architects and related professionals to deliver Emergency Management services;
4. Promoting the concept and knowhow of Emergency Management;

How it all began

1. When ACSR was formed in 2011, “Natural Disasters” and “Disaster Prevention, Preparedness & Risk Reduction” were 2 out of the 8 topics proposed.
2. MOU signed with ADPC (Asia Disaster Prevention Centre) in 2015 on training Architects on Emergency Management.
3. Conducted 2 international training for Region A and B since.
4. AEA Officially launched in ACSR Roundtable in Sep. 2019.
5. AEA Charter and Pledge signed by all Member Institute in Nov. 2019.

AEA Organization

The legal entity of ARCASIA Emergency Architects Limited was set up in 2019 in Hong Kong with the following setup:

Chairman : Ar. Joseph Kwan

Directors : Ar. Marvin Chen (replacing Ar. Barry Will in 2020)
Ar. Tony Wong

CEO : Ar. Thomas Cheung

The following ad hoc Task Force / Collaboration Platform were set up, with wide representation from across ARCASIA member institutes:

1. ARCASIA COVID-19 Workforce (since April 2020)
2. AEA Flood Disaster Group (since September 2022)
3. AEA Expert Core Team (since March 2023)

Achievement 2019-2022

1. Business Plan established and approved by ARCASIA Council
2. Legal Entity Setup in Hong Kong
3. Collaborated with ACSR and formed ARCASIA COVID19 Taskforce.
4. Completed the ARCASIA COVID-19 Guidelines (13 ACGs) - including Member Institute Survey, 3 meeting/workshop/seminar, and launched the implementation.
5. Assisted UIA AfA (Architecture for All) Workgroup and launched their Inclusive Design Guidelines responding to Natural Disaster and Emergencies in the UIA Congress in Brazil.

Action Plan & Status 2022-23

- Cross-Border Collaboration - Started in Q4 2022. Ongoing.
- Sponsorship for AEA operating costs - Secured in May 2023
- 13 ACGs Review - Kicked Off in September 2023
- UN World Habitat Day 2023 - ARCASIA's response - September 2023
- Zone C Training Programme - Delayed to Q1 2024
- Individual development by Country.

Cross-border Collaboration on Disaster Response

- Kick-started conversation with the Flood Disaster Group and several conference call were made to discuss support for Pakistan.
- Collaboration through whatsapp group and discussion and exchanges in knowledge done from Sep - Dec 2022.
- Identified List of Experts, started discussions and some preliminary information collected.
- AEA plans to increase international collaboration, share resources, experience, and best practices. More opportunities of discussion will be organized, information platform and library of literature to be built and shared. We will need members institutes to support.

Sponsorship to AEA

- Sponsorship had been obtained from a property developer, the Chinachem Group (CCG) of HK\$250,000 (approx. US\$32,000) over 5 years (2023 - 2028).
- This is to support only the basic operations of AEA (keeping the legal entity, financial account and basic secretarial support). Other events or projects (such as training, research or symposium...etc.) would require separate funding or sponsorship.

13 ACG's Review

- Initiated end of 2022 but put on hold. Restarted in September 2023.
- First session held with all contributors of the 13 ACG's on 11 Sept. Second meeting set 25 Sept. to discuss and align on methodology.
- Initial expectations is this will take 3-6 months depending on scope.
- Anticipate to come up with a report on its implementation.

ARCASIA Response to UN World Habitat Day/World Day of DRR

- This year's UN World Habitat Day is set on 2 October 2023, under the theme 'Resilient urban economies. Cities as drivers of growth and recovery'. UIA has also set the theme of World Architecture Day 2023 to be held in parallel as 'Architecture for Resilient Communities'.
- The UN International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction is set on 13 Oct. every year.
- AEA plan to organize discussion to establish an ARCASIA response to both. This would be constituted in 2 parts.
 1. Pocket event in the upcoming ACA in Boracay to initiate the discussion,
 2. Online webinar of 2 Oct. and/or 13 Oct. to establish an ARCASIA response to the theme.

Zone C Training Programme

- Due to budget, timing conflicts and logistic issues, the training is further delayed;
- Due to budget reasons, we will not engage the service of Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre but will partner with them on a remote basis.
- Currently tentatively planned to organize in Q1 2024 in Hong Kong.
- Initial thoughts is to hold a hybrid seminar with both physical and virtual seminars.
- Training will also be open to members outside of Zone C.

Individual Development by Country

- The advent of Emergency Management has been developing in each country to different extent. The 13 ACG's acted as a catalyst for some countries to further develop their emergency planning effort.
- AEA intends to collect input from each country on their respective development.
- For example, HKIA has translated the 13ACG's into Chinese, and have organized a Design Charette on application of 13 ACGs in Nov. 2022 for secondary school students to have a hands on workshop on the topic. Another one will be held in Dec. 2023 on Resilience Communities.

Thank You

