

# **COUNTRY REPORT**

## **FOR THE 43<sup>rd</sup> ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING**



**The Architectural Society of China**

**20-21 September 2023**  
**Boracay, Republic of the Philippines**

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**01. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE**

The Architectural Society of China (ASC) is a nation-wide academic organization consisting of professionals in architectural science and technology. Registered in the Ministry of Civil Affairs, ASC is a non-profit social organization under professional guidance of the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and an official member of China Association for Science and Technology. ASC is the country member of both the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA). ASC is also the member of the Central Committee of the APEC Architect Project and Canberra Accord on Architectural Education.

Founded in 1953, ASC is one of the longest established academic organizations of the People's Republic of China. The mission of ASC is to unite architectural professionals across the country under the leadership of the CPC, to inherit and promote the outstanding architectural culture of the Chinese nation, to uphold the principle of “letting a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend”, to conduct academic exchange and research on architectural science and technology, to foster academic prosperity and architectural creation, and to facilitate the popularization of architectural science and technology and the development of talent in architecture. ASC defines its development strategy by adhering to “Pursuit of Academic Research, Pioneer in Building Industry, Think-Tank to Government, Home for Members”. In the country’s development, by fully leveraging an academic organization’s strength in talented resources, ASC has played a substantial role in drawing on the collective expertise to serve the public, and has become an important social force to promote the development of China’s architectural science and technology.

**02. CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS OF THE INSTITUTE**

The current office bearers were elected at ASC National General Assembly in 2021 for a term of 5 years.

President: XIU Long

Vice Presidents: WANG Jianguo, WANG Cuikun, LONG Weiguo, ZHUANG Weimin, LIU Jiaping, XU Jiefeng, SONG Yuan, MENG Jianmin, MEI Hongyuan, CHANG Qing, CUI Kai

Supervisory Board members: DING Jian, ZHAO Qi, ZHANG Ailin, ZHANG Baiping, GU Yongxin

Secretary General                      LI Cundong  
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### **03. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH**

To date, ASC has 74874 individual members and 2671 corporate members.

### **04. BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE**

The fund for ASC is from 3 channels, the financial allocation from the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development and the China Association of Science and Technology, part of the fund is collected by ASC General Secretariat from membership fees and consulting services. The Secretary General is the legal person of the General Secretariat and authorizes the spending.

### **05. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS**

ASC Council comprises 5 working committees and there are 61 sub-institutes under the umbrella of ASC. ASC and provincial architect institutes maintain close ties in organizational terms and work closely together in business through co-hosting various academic and professional exchange activities, jointly promoting the architectural development in China. The Secretariat of ASC is the permanent administrative body of ASC composed of 9 departments.

### **06. CONGRESS OF THE INSTITUTE**

The National Congress of ASC is held every five years to elect the Council, the Standing Council, and the Supervisory Board. The Council comprises 5 working committees, namely Internal Affairs Committee, Awards Committee, Standards Committee, Science Popularization Committee, and International Exchange Committee.

### **07. LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE**

ASC is the only national organization representing architects in the country. ASC is recognized by the government and is registered by the Ministry of Civil Affairs as a juridical association. The ASC is a multi-disciplinary institute including architects, engineers and other professionals in the field of building industry.

### **08. LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECT IN THE COUNTRY**

The architect registration system in China has been put into practice from 1995, and those who graduated from the schools of architecture can take part in the national examination for registration. By passing the examination, candidate is qualified for registration. After registration, the architect holds the title of Registered Architect. Now in China there are only a few firms for private practice. Most of the firms are government owned design institutes (offices). But there is a trend of transforming

from government owned design institute into partnership or joint-stock company.

For practice in China, there is double-control on the “license”, the business license and the qualification license. The business license is issued by the National or Provincial Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Administration to a design institute for commercial operation. The qualification license is issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development or the Provincial Construction Commission for undertaking architectural and/or building designs. There are presently 3 classes for architectural design offices, namely Class A, B and C. Class A is unlimited in the projects they can undertake, Class B limited to medium and small projects; and Class C to small projects. The qualification is based on the number of registered architects and/or registered structural engineers employed in the said office. For example, there should be no less than 3 Class-1 registered architects and/or 3 Class-1 registered structural engineers in a Class A office; One Class-1 registered architect and/or one Class-1 registered structural engineer in a Class B office; and one Class-2 registered architect and/or one Class-2 registered structural engineer in a Class C office. The qualification is re-examined and renewed every two years. No business license will be issued without firstly obtaining the qualification license.

The scale of design fee is jointly published by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development. It is more or less a guidance scale, and the client can still negotiate with the design offices for higher or lower rates.

## **09. ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY**

According to the law issued by the central government, architects’ registration is undertaken by NABAR (National Administration Board of Architectural Registration). The latest edition of Registered Architects Ordinance of China was issued on January 29, 2008 and the Bylaws of the Registered Architects were implemented from 1st July 1996. As of March 2023, there are 41065 registered architects (within the term of validity) in China.

## **10. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE**

ASC joined in the International Union of Architects (UIA) as a national section in 1955 and joined in the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA) as a national member in 1989. Besides, ASC is a member of APEC Architect Project and as a member of Canberra Accord on Architectural Education, National Board of Architectural Accreditation (NBAA)’s daily work was undertaken by ASC.

ASC established and maintained academic exchanges and friendly cooperative relationship with relevant organizations in the UK, the US, Japan, Russia, Republic of Korea, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Mongolia, Brazil, Belarus, etc. ASC also communicated closely with architectural institutes in Hong Kong China, Macao China and Chinese Taipei.

## **11. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE PAST YEAR**

### **1) Expanding International Outreach and Participating in and Hosting International**

## **and Regional Academic Exchange Activities**

**On 1 to 2 December 2022**, the 13th International Symposium on Architectural Interchanges in Asia (ISAIA) was successfully held both in-person and virtually. Co-hosted by ASC, Architectural Institute of Korea (AIK) and the Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ), the 2023 Symposium was organized by ASC with the theme of “Sharing Healthy Cities for More People”. In addition to six sub-themes, the conference also had two special forums under the theme of “Healthy City” and “Healthy Architecture”. Around 200 delegates and students from the three institutes attended the conference through zoom and about 8,000 people watched the live stream broadcast.

**From 27-29 April 2023**, ASC delegation attended the APEC Architect Project 10<sup>th</sup> Central Council Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting deliberated on the future of APEC Architect Project where economies forwarded propositions to improve the mobility and value as APEC Architects. The meeting adopted a set of resolutions highlighting the importance of strengthening the APEC Architect Project to explore more benefits for the APEC architects.

**During 26 April to 1 May**, the 152<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting of the International Union of Architects was held in Beijing. Delegates also paid visits to world cultural heritage sites including the Great Wall and the Summer Palace, modern industrial heritage renovation and urban renewal projects.

**From 15 to 17 June**, ASC delegation headed by Zhuang Weimin (Director of the National Board of Architectural Accreditation and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering) attended the 2023 Canberra Accord 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting held in Hong Kong China. As decided over the meeting, the 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting will be held in China in 2025.

**From May to July**, ASC actively engaged our members in the application for 2023 ARCASIA Awards for Architecture and more than 100 entries were submitted via the online portal.

**From May to July**, ASC organized the collection of works for 2023 ARCASIA Student Design Competition and ARCASIA Thesis of the Year Awards (Mainland China Division). Both Competitions have received overwhelming response from top universities across China. TOY Awards received 36 entries from 20 architectural schools in China and Student Architectural Design Competition received 34 entries from 19 architectural schools. Through strict evaluation by diverse juries of experts, three entries selected from each of the two competitions were submitted to ACA20 Secretariat for the final competition.

**From 2 to 11 July**, ASC delegation headed by President XIU Long attended the General Assembly held in Copenhagen, Denmark. During the General Assembly, ASC together with the Beijing government won the bid to host the 2029 UIA Congress and the city of Beijing will be designated as World Capital of Architecture for 2029 by UNESCO. Ar.

ZHANG Li, ASC Standing Council Member and Dean of the School of Architecture, Tsinghua University was elected as UIA Vice President for the 2023-2026 term.

## **2) Pursuing Academic Excellence and Promoting Progress in the Industry**

### **The Awarding Ceremony for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize/ 28 April/Beijing**

On 28 April, the Awarding Ceremony for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize was held in Beijing. Last year, evaluation of the two editions was successfully merged over the course of one single meeting by the same jury because the 10<sup>th</sup> edition jury meeting was postponed due to the pandemic in 2020. Japanese architect **Arata Isozaki** and Chinese architect **Li Xinggang** were chosen as winners of the 10<sup>th</sup> Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize. Chinese architects **Zhang Li** and **Hu Yue** won the 11<sup>th</sup> Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize.

### **Weihai Habitat Festival and Architectural Design Forum/12 June/ Weihai, Shandong Province**

On 12 June, co-hosted by ASC, Shandong Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, and Weihai Municipal Government, the Weihai Habitat Festival and Architectural Design Forum was successfully held. Besides keynote reports, there was also an awarding ceremony for the 11<sup>th</sup> Weihai International Architectural Design Grand Prix which has become a veritable card of the city of Weihai and now serves as a crucial platform to showcase the talent of architectural design masters and promote the growth of young talents.

### **2023 China Architectural Design Expo (CADE) / 3-6 August/ Shanghai**

2023 China Architectural Design Expo (CADE) was successfully held from 3-6 August with the theme of " One Planet, One Sustainable Tomorrow ". The Expo, through 3 sections for the ASC 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 6 themed sections for architectural design, and 2 special sections, integrating forums, seminars, workshops, and academic salons, systematically presented Chinese architectural achievements and development process, and discussed the most leading-edge architectural design concept.

### **Jury meeting for 2019-2020 ASC Architectural Design Award in the category of Architectural Creation/ 13 March 2023/ Beijing**

On 13 March, the Jury meeting for 2019-2020 ASC Architectural Design Award in the category of Architectural Creation was held in Beijing. 9 experts including academicians and national design masters serve as jurors. After voting and deliberation, a total of 18 awards were granted, including 8 gold awards and 10 silver awards. ASC Architectural Design Award, established in 1992, is an important professional award in the Chinese architectural industry, aiming to encourage architectural creation.

### **Training and Science Popularization Work**

- As of 2023, ASC has 132 scientific popularization sites located in architectural

schools, design institutes, experts' and academicians' studios, museums, libraries, research centers, architectural media and production bases.

- Held a series of "Science Lectures of Master Architects" covering various topics, launched "ASC Science Popularization Special Support Program", and organized the publication of science popularization books.
- ASC planned and organized series of training events including "Science and Technology Training Center Annual Academic Conference" "ASC Young Architects Lecture Series" and "Lecture Series on Appreciating Architectural Imprints" which aims to promote Chinese architectural culture and cultivate good reading habits.

### **3) Fulfilling the Role of "Government Think Tank" and Facilitating Local Construction**

#### **2023 Selection of Candidates for Academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering**

Entrusted by China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), ASC carried out the selection of candidates for 2023 Academicians. A total of 16 nominees were received including 15 nominees recommended by ASC sub-institutes and corporate members and 1 nominee by CAST.

#### **Engage in the construction of China's key projects**

Fully leveraging talented professionals and giving rein to its role as a think tank, ASC brings together experts to actively engage in the construction of China's key projects. ASC mobilized architects to take part in "the Ten Grand Buildings" in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the PRC in the 1950s, the design competitions for bridge tower of Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge in the 1960s and China Pavilion for the 2010 Shanghai Expo, design workshops for Xiong'an Civic Center and Taizheng Snow Town at Zhangjiakou of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, urban and architectural designs for Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Zhengdong New District of Zhengzhou, Kaifeng, Sanya, Dunhuang, Hulun Buir, Weihai, Qingdao, Dezhou, Beichuan, Yushu, Anyang, etc., and preservation workshops of the historic cities of Suzhou, Quanzhou, Shaoxing, Xi'an, Liulin in Shanxi, etc. ASC has also organized architectural designs for the post-earthquake construction of Tangshan, Wenchuan and Yushu, and offered consultancy on urban design and project development for local governments and development agencies, practicing ASC's social responsibilities and professional commitment.

### **12. ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS/AWARDS FOR MEMBERSHIP DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW**

- 1) **ARCASIA Awards.** Organized and assisted members of ASC to apply for 2023 ARCASIA Awards for Architecture and organized the collection of works for 2023 ARCASIA Student Design Competition and ARCASIA Thesis of the Year Awards (Mainland China Division).
- 2) **Jury Meeting for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize.** The jury

selected Japanese architect **Arata Isozaki** and Chinese architect **Li Xinggang** winners of the 10th Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize, adjudication for which was postponed due to the pandemic in 2020. Chinese architects **Zhang Li** and **Hu Yue** won the 2022 (11th) Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize. On 28 April, the Awarding Ceremony for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Liang Sicheng Architecture Prize was held in Beijing.

The architects were honored for having dedicated their careers to preserving architectural heritage and developing technological and socially responsible innovations in the field of architecture.

One of ASC's founding members and Vice President of its first council, Liang Sicheng participated in international design projects around the world, notably including the United Nations headquarters. The prize embodies his knowledge of Chinese architecture and art, interest in innovation and his efforts to advance cultural exchange between Chinese and international architects.

- 3) **Jury Meeting for 2019-2020 ASC Architectural Design Award in the category of Architectural Creation.** On 13 March 2023, the Jury meeting for 2019-2020 ASC Architectural Design Award in the category of Architectural Creation was held in Beijing. 9 experts including academicians and national design masters serve as jurors. After voting and deliberation, a total of 18 awards were granted, including 8 gold awards and 10 silver awards. ASC Architectural Design Award, established in 1992, is an important professional award in the Chinese architectural industry, aiming to encourage architectural creation.

### **13. KEY ISSUES FACING THE ARCHITECTS/ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION /INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY**

#### **14. RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE**

The ASC has moved to the new office building in Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture.

### **15. THE INSTITUTES EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT ARCASIA RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN THE PAST COUNCIL MEETINGS**

#### **16. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

##### **2023 ASC Annual Convention and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Urban Design Conference/ 22-23 September/Zhengzhou, Henan Province**

Jointly hosted by ASC, Henan Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Henan Provincial Department of Natural Resources, and the People's Government of Zhengzhou, 2023 ASC Annual Convention and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Urban Design Conference is scheduled to be held in Zhengzhou City, Henan Province from 22 to 23 September 2023. The Conference will hold 1 keynote speech and 18

special topic forums. Besides, the Exhibition on Urban Design will also be officially unveiled during the Conference.

**18. ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE ARCASIA COUNCIL TO ADDRESS/ASSIST**