



VIETNAM
ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS (VAA)

COUNTRY REPORT

43rd ARCASIA
COUNCIL MEETING



KTSVN

Viet Nam Association of Architects - VAA

E-mail: vaa@hkts.vn / intl.vaa@gmail.com

Tel: +844 3936 0755 * Fax: +844 3934 9240

Website: <http://tapchikientruc.com.vn> / <http://kienviet.net>

1. Brief History of the Association

The Viet Nam Association of Architects (VAA) was established in 1948. It is a political - social and professional organization belonging to the system of literature and art associations in Viet Nam. VAA takes the important role of a social critical review body to government and management agencies and makes itself responsible for disseminating architectural knowledge, promoting and developing the profession of architecture nation-wide.

2. Office Bearers of the term 2020-2025



Dr.Ar. PHAN DANG SON
President



Ar. DANG KIM KHOI
Vice President



Ar. NGUYEN TRUONG LUU
Vice President



MSc.Ar. NGUYEN THU PHONG
Vice President



MSc.Ar. HOANG THUC HAO
Vice President

3. Membership strength

VAA has over **6,100** members to Sept, **2023**.

4. Financial Resources

The Association is officially recognized and supported by Viet Nam Government. In addition, it has another sources of income, such as:

- Membership fees.
- Incomes from other activities such as consultation; professional research projects; practicing; services and contributions from other companies and institutes belong to the association.
- Funds from partners and sponsors.

5. Number of Chapters

VAA comprises 61 Chapters in provinces, cities and 28 Association's Branches in major agencies those are practicing planning, architecture, construction and education in the whole country and VAA's functional divisions.

6. AGM/Congress of the Institute

National Congress of VAA is held every term of 5 years. General meeting of the VAA's Executive Committee (103 members) is held every year and the Standing Committee (19 members) is twice per year.

7. Legal status of the Association

Decree No. 85/2020 /ND-CP: Detailing a number of articles of the Law on Architecture which assigns the VAA to implement the following duties:

- To organize the elaboration and promulgation of the Code of professional conduct of practicing architects.
- Develop and issue the Scoreboard for continuous professional development activities of practicing architects.
- Develop and promulgate programs and documents serving the test, and a set of test questions for the granting of an architecture practicing certificate.
- VAA is one of the organization can organize the exam for the granting of architectural practice certificates

8. Legal Status of The Architect in the Country

After graduating from a university with a major in architecture, individuals with that university degree can use the title of architect.

After working for 3 years as an architect, passing the professional exam and being granted a Practicing Certificate by the local Department of Construction of province, a fresh architect can take on the role of an architectural design leader, or issuing independent name in the architectural design document for the appropriate building class, according to the provisions of law.

9. Registration Authority

Registration Authority of Vietnamese architects are the Local Construction Departments that is under the Ministry of Construction.

10. International Affiliations

- VAA is an official member of UIA, ARCASIA and ASEAN Architect Council – AAC.
- Beside, VAA has signed the MOU with other foreign organizations such as Architectural Institute of Korea (AIK); Korean Gyeong-gi Institute of Registered

Architects (KGIRA); Association of Laos Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE); Cuban Association of Architects; Genova Association of Architects, Urban Planners, Landscape Researchers and Conservationists; Korean Architects' Union (KAU); Korean Institute of Architects (KIA) Association of Siamese Architects under the Royal Patronage (ASA)...

11. Major programs and activities in 2023-2024

- Organizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Vietnam Association of Architects in April 2023 at Hanoi Opera House. Along with the main event, there are a conference "The role of architecture in sustainable development of Culture - Economy - Society"; the 15th National Architectural Awards ceremony; an exhibition of 75 years of Vietnam architecture.
- Coordinate with the Ministry of Construction and Kien Giang Provincial People's Committee to organize Vietnam Architecture Expo 2023, taking place from September 7-9, 2023 in Phu Quoc island city. Along with exhibition, there was a conference "Architecture creates sustainable space for the community".
- The Conference "Sustainable development of marine space associated with the marine economy of the Southwest region" was held in conjunction with the General meeting of the VAA's Executive Committee in December 2022. This 3 days event held in Phu Quoc island city and attracted more than 400 architects to participate.
- Hanoi Creative Design Festival 2022 is organized by Hanoi Department of Culture and Sports and Architecture Magazine (under VAA) in the central district of Hoan Kiem, Hanoi. From 11th to 20th November 2022, there were nearly 50 activities and events such as exhibitions, discussions, seminars, cultural, experiential, educational and artistic activities with many creative and interactive elements... takes place at 10 different locations across the city.
- The Young Architects Club of the Northern Midlands and Mountains organizes the program "Bac Giang - Sacred Land", along with the conference "Bac Giang Architecture and Rural Planning contributes to sustainable development". The 3 days event attracted more than 300 young architects to participate.
- Kien Viet (the media site under the support of VAA) organized an exhibition and award ceremony of Top 10 houses and Top 10 Interiors at Dien Hong garden in central of Hanoi.
- The Center of Architecture Practice Advancement of VAA has organized 06 CPD programs for thousands of architects and three professional exams to serve the issuance of architectural practice certificates for nearly 400 architects.
- Next month, the Young Architects Club organizes the National Young Architects Festival in Yen Bai province in October 2023. The festival is registered by 700 young architects to attend.
- In November 2023, Architecture Magazine (under VAA) coordinates with Hanoi Department of Culture and Sports organize Hanoi Creative Design Festival 2023. One of the main topic this year focuses on Industrial heritage with main location for events is Gia Lam Wagon and Locomotive factory in Hanoi.
- In December 2023, VAA organizes the 2023 Fall Meeting, along with the General meeting of the VAA's Executive Committee and activities in the 3 days event held in Nghe An province, more than 400 architects expected to participate the event.

12. Program of the Institute

The program of association activities: the whole course (5 years) and each year decided by the Executive Committee, including:

- CPD programs and practice exams according to Architecture Laws according to the needs of practitioners in each year.
- Research programs on national emerging issues in short and long term cycles. Issues due to requests from state agencies, problems that the association deems necessary and sources of funding. There are about 4 long-term programs for the whole 5 years term and 2 short-term programs per year.
- Criticism on planning and architecture takes place regularly throughout the country with a network from the central (large projects), to the local (smaller projects).
- Continue to promote the programs developing young architects: this is a very important program to connect and encourage the next generation.
- National executive committee conference combined with seminar at the end of each year. Thematic forums and seminars are held 2-3 times a year.
- Publications and promotion activities: Architecture Journal (monthly); Nice House Architecture Magazine (monthly); Websites to update new information and activities daily; Media center for regular social connections and design, publish professional books...
- External relations: Fully implementing the UIA, ARCASIA and other dual-cooperation programs with other Institutes.
- Other ad-hoc programs upon request.

13. Awards and design competitions

- Vietnamese architects were awarded the 2023 UIA Awards:
 - Architect Hoang Thuc Hao was awarded the Robert Mathews Award for Humane and Sustainable Environment.
 - Architect Doan Thanh Ha was awarded the Vassilis Sgoutas Award for Architectural Works Deployed to Serve the Poor
- Dao Van Quan and Nho The Quang awarded UIA 2023 Student Competition for “Co-living” project in Burkina Faso.
- The 15th National Architectural Awards ceremony was held in April 2023. From 226 entries, the National Architecture Award Council decided to award 5 Gold awards, 18 Silver awards, 34 Bronze awards.
- The Loa Thanh Awards 2023 for the outstanding architecture student’s graduate projects (11/2022).
- The Architecture Magazine and Institute of Architecture (under VAA) organized several architectural / urban design competitions as demand of partners.

14. Key issues facing the Architects/Architectural Profession and the Association in Viet Nam

- Key issues facing the Architects in Viet Nam: Problems of unfair competition, low design fees, high additional costs; practice procedures are more complicated.

- Key issues facing the Association: The effectiveness of the Association's programs on research and criticism. Ability to protect the architecture heritage of the past and present; Lack of sustainable funding for long-term development; The unsubstantial companionship of society with architectural issues.
- Digital transformation issues in the field of architecture: VAA's management process needs to keep up with the rapid changes in the practice environment and the system of related standards / regulations / laws, not only in Vietnam but also international, in the context of the increasingly expanding cross-border architecture market, cross-border practice is becoming more and more popular.

15. Future Plans

- Contribute to the operation of the Law on Architecture and in creating an equal practice environment for architects in Viet Nam.
- Effective connection and cooperation between architects and investors, businesses, especially the private sector.
- Striving for highly professional creative consulting. Comprehensive focus on creativity design, concentrate on reality in the new rural construction programs.
- Consolidating and clarifying the architectural trend "Modern associated with national identity"; Green Architecture, Community Architecture.
- Theory - Criticism work is associated with timely and clear social criticism with specific effects on the development of the country's architecture.
- Scientific Research - Training - Workshops with high practical application. Widely deployed and flexible in form.
- Young Architects: Promoting non-stop in a timely and efficient manner. It is clear that this is the decisive force for the development of a good and successful country's architecture in the future.
- Reorganize Communications units to really turn potential into reality. The most important goal is to find the same voice in Architecture in a voluntary and sustainable way of decision makers, businesses and the masses.
- Focusing on external affairs, proactively and persistently building effective relationships with authorities and specialized agencies at all levels. Regular coordination with related union and professional associations. Maintain international relations, actively respond to UIA and ARCASIA activities.
- Association construction is strictly reviewed in terms of legality, flexible and creative in activities so that the Association at all levels can continue to promote as a common home for architects and relative experts. Strengthen regular, continuous and shared companionship between the central association and its member associations.

16. Any other important issues which require ARCASIA Council to address/assist

- VAA has attended most of ARCASIA Council Meetings, Congresses and Forums, but not all the Committee meetings and roundtable meetings because of financial restrict. We suggest that the Host Institutes for ARCASIA Congress/ Forum should encourage more Member Institutes' participants to attend Committee Meetings by offering 01 compliment fee for each official Institute's member of each Committee attending the Congress/ Forum.

- VAA members and students have participated most of ARCASIA Awards/ Competitions and have gaint many awards. However, some award certificates and prizes are not given/ sent to our awardees, especially in student competitions within Arcasia.
- AAA is most important award of ARCASIA but our communication and promotion work for AAA has not been focused recently. Our architects can't find the information and results of AAA through the years, even last year. The results of AAA are not posted on the website for many periods... Awards/ Competitions results were also not sent to the Member Institutes in time to respond to the entries and widely promote. There is a great need for better improvement and promotion of ARCASIA's activities as well as our Awards/ Competition.

* * *