

VIET NAM ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS



COUNTRY REPORT
FOR THE 35TH ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING

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From: Viet Nam Association of Architects - VAA

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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

President: *Dr.Arch. Phan Dang Son.*

Vice-President: *Arch. Dang Kim Khoi.*

Vice-President: *Arch. Nguyen Truong Luu.*

Vice-President: *Arch. Hoang Thuc Hao.*

Vice-President: *Arch. Nguyen Thu Phong.*

3. Membership strength

VAA has over 6,300 members to Sept, 2020.

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 58 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 Vietnamese Architects is held every term of 5 years. General meeting of the VAA's Executive Committee is held every year and the Standing Committee is twice per year.

7. Legal status of the Association

VAA is registered with the Government as a professional – political – social society with its legal entity under provision of law.

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.

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 2020-2021

- Conference on “Design solutions for modern hospital architecture” (Ha Noi - 7/2020).
- The 10th VAA National Congress has elected New President and Executive Committee (Ha Noi - 4/2020).
- The National Architectural Student Festival attracted over 400 students from 23 architecture schools across the country (Da Nang -11/2020).
- Seminar on “Landscape architecture for good living environment in Vietnamese rural areas” (Ha Noi - 12/2020).
- Seminar on “Transform industrial heritage into creative space” (Ha Noi - 12/2020).
- Executive Committee Meeting and the Conference on “Architecture response to natural disasters” (Quang Nam - 12/2020).
- Forum "Thoughts about architecture in the integration era" on the occasion of Viet Nam Architecture Day (Ha Noi – 4/2021).
- Webinar "Architecture with a clean environment and disease response" attracted more than 1000 participants via zoom and livestream on the occasion of World Architecture Day (10/2021).

- 06 CPD programs for 1,188 architects and held an practice exam to serve the issuance of architectural practice certificates for 139 architects.

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 and ARCASIA programs.
- Other ad-hoc programs upon request.

13. Awards and design competitions

- The Makeshift Hospital Design Competition for “Creating and Sharing with community” (4/2020).

- The Km0 Milestone Project Design Competition which belonging to the renovating the area around Hoan Kiem Lake (7/2020).
- The 5th Viet Nam Green Architecture Awards (9/2020).
- The Loa Thanh Awards 2020 for the outstanding architecture student's graduate projects (11/2020).

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.

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.

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