



COUNTRY REPORT 2015

1.0 Brief History

Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) was established on February 25th, 1972 in Dhaka, following the independence of the country in 1971. The founder president of the Institute was Architect Muzharul Islam. The urbanization trends of the post colonial era and the independence in 1971 brought new challenges in terms of context and economy in the field of architecture.

There are about 3114 members of whom more than 2,277 are either currently practicing or working in Bangladesh, who are mostly the graduates of IAB accredited educational institutions. IAB is recognized as the professional body of architects in the country. The Institute is run by a fifteen-member Executive Council, elected by the General Members for a two year term.

2.0 Current Executive Council Members (for the Term 2015-2016) are;

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Membership No.</u>
President	Ar. Abu Sayeed M. Ahmed	A-035
Immediate Past President	Ar. Mubasshar Hussain	H-013
Vice-President (National Affair)	Ar. Jalal Ahmad	A-036
Vice-President (Int'l Relations)	Ar. Masudur Rahman Khan	K-036
General Secretary	Ar. Qazi M Arif	A-042
Asst. General Secretary	Ar. Mamnoon Murshed Chowdhury	C-031
Treasurer	Ar. Nawzesh Mahboob	M-042
Secretary (Education)	Ar. Md Anwar Riyad	R-038
Secretary, Profession	Ar. Ehsan Khan	K-047
Secretary, Membership	Ar. Shahnawaz Masud	M-039
Secretary, Publication & Publicity	Ar. Masudur Rashid	R-0181
Secretary, Seminar & Convention	Ar. Farhana Sharmin Emu	S-100
Secretary, Heritage & Culture	Ar. Asif M Ahsanul Haq	H-117
Secretary, Environment & Urbanism	Ar. Shaila Joarder	K-080
Chairman, Chittagong Chapter	Ar. Md. Taslimuddin Chowdhury	C-017

3.0 Membership Strength as of April, 2015

There are two honorary categories & four general categories of membership, namely Honorary Fellow & Honorary Member, Fellow, Member, Associate Member and Student Member. Only "Fellows" & "Members" have voting rights. The current membership strength of the Institute is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>
Honorary Fellow	: 0
Honorary Member	: 1
Fellow (Active)	: 347
Fellow (Inactive)	: 160
Member (Active)	: 880
Member (Inactive)	: 363

Associate Member (Active)	:	1050
Associate Member (Inactive)	:	250
Student Member	:	64

4.0 Budget of the Institute

Operational funding of IAB is raised from four major sources: -

- Annual subscription fee from the Members.
- Financial grants from the Government through the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.
- Supportive activities such as Competitions, CPD Activities, Different Services to the Members etc.
- Event based sponsorships.
- Interests from Fixed Deposits and Savings Certificates

5.0 Chapters & Branches

There is provision in the constitution to establish chapters of the Institute in each administrative division of the country and also in each country, where there are at least 25 IAB Fellows and/or Members are residing. At present IAB has one Chapter at Chittagong & one center in Khulna. Establishment of IAB Centers in Sylhet and Rajshahi are in the process. The Chapter is run by the Chapter-Committees. Currently, the elected Chairman & Secretary of Chittagong Chapter are Ar. Taslimuddin Chowdhury and Ar. Sohail Shakoor.

6.0 General Meetings

The last Biennial General Meeting (2013-2014) was held on December 05, 2014 to consider and adopt the yearly accounts and balance sheet and the general reports of the Executive Council. Installation Ceremony of the 21th Executive Committee held in December 2014. Honorable Minister of Housing and Public Works Engg. Mosharaf Hossain was the Chief Guest and Chairman RAJUK Engg Zainal Abedin was the special guest in the ceremony.

7.0 Legal Status of the Institute & Registration of Architects

The institute is registered with the Government as a Society under provision of law.

The Government recognizes the Institute (IAB) as the professional body representing the architects in the country.

Although there is no statutory body yet in the country to protect the title "Architect", however, it is mandatory to be a member of IAB under the building rules of the Major cities, which defines "Architect" as only those who are members of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh.

8.0 International Affiliations

IAB is affiliated with the following International Architectural Bodies:

UIA	:	Union of International Architects
CAA	:	Commonwealth Association of Architects
ARCASIA	:	Architects Regional Council for ASIA
SAARCH	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation of Architects

9.0 Major Activities in 2014-15

- **February 21, 2015** - On the occasion of the "Language Martyr's Day' and the "International Mother Language Day, IAB had placed floral wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar to pay their homage.
- This year IAB has formally accredited one school of architecture offering B.Arch. Programme in Bangladesh and two are in process.
- IAB actively takes part in social, cultural & environment movement and files law suits along with other professional bodies to safe guard the environment and heritage of the country. Accordingly, IAB along with civil society & cultural activists organized human chain and peaceful demonstration to create public awareness & create pressure on the government not the erected boundary fence around the National Parliament Complex, which got wide coverage in the media.

- In association environmental activist, legal & civil society bodies recently organized human chains & demonstration to free playgrounds and open spaces from illegal occupation & encroachments, which is getting wide coverage in the media.
- IAB is playing a key role in the updating & revision of the Bangladesh National Building Code and Building Rules of Dhaka City.

10. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programs

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs are very popular among the members. To maintain the proficiency of the Members, very soon it will be made mandatory for renewing Memberships. A number of CPD programs on various building rules, codes, building services & professional practice issues are regularly being conducted by IAB.

11.0 Seminars and Lectures

IAB lecture program is a very popular event. As a public relation activity, since December, 2014 IAB has made these lectures open to not only architects but also to the public. IAB invites distinguished architects and relevant professionals from home and abroad in these lectures. A large number of architects from different countries of Asia, Africa, Europe & USA have already made presentation on their works.

12.0 Publications & Exhibitions

- The Institute publishes "IAB Newsletter" covering national and international news and views on architectural issues.
- Besides the News Letter, IAB has printed version of "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" & a "Manual of Procedure for Selection of Architects" for the member of the Institute.
- The IAB is currently working on the publication of the IAB Directory.

13.0 Award & Architectural Design Competitions

Architectural Design Competition is a frequent feature of IAB. During the current tenure of the 21th EC, IAB has already organized 1 competition and more are in the pipeline.

Members of IAB are winning awards in different local, regional & international architectural awards programs.

14.0 Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture 2015

Originally conceived & introduced as Berger Young Architects Awards, Berger Awards for Excellence in Architecture is a very popular and prestigious joint program of Berger Paints Bangladesh and IAB. 42 Projects have been received in 5 categories. Jury process is going on and the award giving ceremony will be held on 4th December.

15.0 Key Issues Facing the Architects

Architectural Practice

- (a) Difficulty in charging and realizing the minimum fees that IAB prescribes; and
- (b) Selection of architects particularly in the public sector is often not on the basis of design excellence but on the basis of lowest bids.

Architectural Education

- (a) Scarcity of competent teachers to cope with the rapid growth of architectural school
- (b) Books and magazines are expensive and difficult to procure; and

Other Issues

- a) Re-invigorating architecture based on regional cultural values and geography.
- b) Lack of control over unauthorized construction.
- c) Difficulties of establishing Design Competition as the most appropriate basis of selection of architects for the public sector building projects.

- d) Problems faced by architects working abroad due to non-validation of educational and professional qualifications in many countries.

16.0 Resources of the Institute

- (a) The institute has an acre of land allocated by the Government near Parliament Complex in Dhaka and the Building of the Institute is under construction and expected to be ready by the end of the year.
- (b) The Institute has a small library.
- (c) The Institute has Computer, Photocopier, Telephone, Facsimile and E-mail facilities with other required logistics.

17.0 Plans for the Future

- (b) Build its own building and locate its current activities in its own premises.
- (c) Formulate uniform building rules for the whole country and incorporate the definition of Architect in that rule.
- (d) Open new Chapters in other cities of the country and also in other countries.
- (e) Setting up a Heritage Center.
- (f) Publish representational Book on Architecture of Bangladesh.
- (g) Develop the Institute as a professional body aligned with sustainable environmental issues.

18.0 Other Important Issues

Locally IAB believes in the betterment of the society and the profession by addressing the key issues of the time like better environment, sustainability, protection of heritage sites etc. by generating awareness among the public.

It is also closely and actively perusing public interest issues and also engaged in mobilization of public opinion on different civic issues.

- IAB has formal representation in the Urban Development Committee of Capital Development Authority (RajUK), by law.
- IAB is also invited to send representatives in evaluation committees for selection of architectural consultants of different public, semi autonomous and autonomous agencies like National Housing Authority, City Corporations and so on.
- IAB is also regularly invited to send delegates and present papers in seminars and workshops of different public and autonomous agencies related to Architecture, Planning and Environment.

Globally the transition to sustainable architecture for us is so not smooth and we are still working to have our own rating systems.

IAB have succeeded in making it mandatory to design buildings by architects through the Building Rules of the major cities. This has empowered the architects to a great extent.

Ar. Qazi M. Arif
General Secretary

Ar. Abu Sayeed M Ahmed
President

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