



Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE)

Country Report: Lao PDR

The 38thASCASIA Council Meeting at AYUTHAYA, Thailand

Date: 11-15 November 2015

1. History of the Institute

The Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE) were found in 2004. A regulation administered by the Ministry of Communication Transport Post and Construction came into effect requiring that architects to be licensed to practice the profession. ALACE concentrated on building an organization that served both the profession and society. Activities addressed the following areas:

- Professional practices
- Professional standards
- Professional ethics
- Code of conduct
- Cooperation among members in pursuing shared goals
- Promoting architectural research
- Professional advocacy
- Green Building Council / Green Building Rating Tool (*in progress*)

2. Objectives

ALACE aims to **(i)** promote the continuing enhancement of the architectural and engineering professions in ways that are friendly to the environment and that preserve Lao traditions, while maintaining professional independence **(ii)** Promote harmony and unity among members to enhance the stature and efficacy of ALACE with a common focus on activities that benefit the profession and society **(iii)** Serve as a resource for professional and technical information and advice for the benefit of members and society **(iv)** To encourage, support, and promote education, research, and development that ensures the field of architecture and engineering progresses forward **(v)** Cooperate with government agencies, as well as domestic and international organizations and institutions, to create a common understanding and appreciation of the principles, roles, and scopes of the architectural and engineering profession as a means for fostering credibility and trust **(vi)** Promote, develop, and perform in accordance with the highest standards of services and ethics for the benefit of members and the public **(vii)** Define and certify the standards and rules for the practice of architecture and engineering.

3. Current Office Bearers

Term of Office: 2012-2015

President	:	Ar. Phonexay Southiphong
Vice presidents 1	:	Ar. Khamthavy Thayphachanh
Vice presidents 2	:	Ar. Manokham Vongxay
Committee Board	:	Assoc. Prof. Manoloth Phinith
Auditor	:	Assoc. Dr. Aphisayadeth Insisiengmay
Honorary Secretary	:	Ar. Desa Paramy Abhay
Honorary Treasurer	:	Ar. VongphayBounmany

Social and Communication Committee 1	:	Ar. SounanthaKanlaya
Social and Communication Committee 2	:	Ar. PhatthanaSimmalavong
External Relation Committee 1	:	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khampaseuth Thepvongsa
External Relation Committee2	:	Ar. Saykham Thammanosouth
Green Building Council Committee	:	Ar. Siphathay Phanphengdy

Honorably Executive Committee:

Honorably President :	H.E. Dr. BounchanhSinthavong , Minister of Ministry of Public WorksandTransportation
Honorably Adviser Committee:	(1) Prof. Sengkham Phinith (2) Mr. Seun Phetsanghane (3) Prof. Dr. Bounleuam Sisoulath (4) Prof. Dr. Somphone Dethoudom
Event Manager Assistance:	(1) Mr. Kiethong Boriboun (2) Mr. Thavy Saysanith

4. Current Membership

Membership: As of 31/1/2015, ALACE has **1,243** active members:

- Regular Members: 1,074
- Associate Members: 165
- Honorary Members: 4

5. Revenues and Expenditures

ALACE annual revenue derives from the annual ALACE Convention and Exhibition. Additional sources of revenue includes: membership dues; professional and academic seminars; social events and activities; recreational activities.

6. The ALACE Network

Headquarters

The primary operational role of the ALACE headquarters is to provide services to members and architects in general through general administration (administrative and financial services) and by implementing the various aspects of the Board's annual operational plan: professional; technical; preservation; architecture and engineering; international; green building; and recreation. In addition, the ALACE provides up-to-date information to members and architects concerning building codes through publications, seminars, and inquiries. ALACE HQ office provides membership information such as membership processes and renewals, publications and reports, and also an architectural/engineering library for the members to use.

ALACE Chapters

There are currently 3 chapters of ALACE, semi-autonomous chapters under the ALACE umbrella located in three regions of Lao PDR as:

- North region including of 7 provinces
- Central region including of 5 provinces
- South region including of 4 provinces

Each province also assigned sub-chapters to scaling up the policy of ALACE.

Legal status

ALACE is registered as a private association under the laws of Lao PDR. After the establishment of ALACE, all licensing and registration of architects came under ALACE by law. Registration Authority of ALACE is at the provincial Departments of Public Works which's under the Ministry of Public Works.

7. Congress

The National Congress of ALACE holds every term of 3 years to review the activities implemented and select the new committee board of ALACE. Every year ALACE also hold annual meetings to review a physical year, programs and future plans.

8. International Affiliations

The ALACE has been a member of ARCASIA since 2011 and renewed its membership to UIA in 2008. ALACE signed Memorandum of Understanding with 8 other countries including:

- Association of Siamese Architects (ASA) in 2006
- Vietnam Association of Architects (VAA) in 2006
- Vietnam Federation of Civil Engineering Association (VFCEA) in 2007
- Pertubulan Akiteck Malaysia (PAM) in 2010
- Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) in 2010
- Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) in 2011
- Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (IAI) in 2011
- Sri-Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) in 2012

ALACE entered into these relationships to exchange information about professional know-how, practices, and standards and to organize joint activities among organizations and their members.

9. Main Activities Implemented in 2014 - 2015

- **The ALACE Fair 2015 and Annual Forum**

ALACE Fair was held during 26 February – 1 March 2015 and Chaired by the Minister of Public Works and Transport. The Fair was the most prominent architectural/engineering and

construction event organized by ALACE and handled by a committee appointed specifically for this purpose. The Architectural Exhibition and Seminars event displayed work by ALACE-registered architectural companies and from all institutions of architecture under the theme “The way towards to AEC”. ALACE invited senior resource persons to discuss on how are the Lao Architects and civil engineers be ready for AEC members. ALACE also received delegates from KIRA, ASA, ASA ESAN, ASA LANNA and ASA THAKSIN as VIP guests.

- **Cooperation Activities with External Institutes in 2015**

ALACE continues to cooperate with institutes by joining activities:

- January 23 – 25: Attended the Annual Conference of ASATAKSIN in Hadyai province Thailand
- February 25 – 27: Submitted 3 projects to the Exhibition for East-Asia Culture and Architectural Building in Bali, Indonesia as Buddhist Cultural Hall, Kiri Dara Boutique Hotel, and Brunei Embassy and Resident
- April 31 – May 2: Attended to annual ASA conference in Bangkok Thailand
- September 9 - Organized ALACE Friendship Football Match in Vientiane
- October 9 – 10: Attended the Annual Conference of ASA/ESAN in Oudonthani province Thailand
- October and November: Organized coffee talks/discussions and exchanges ideas between ALACE and Thai Architects on a topic of “Residential Building Design” by Arc. Chana Deputy Managing Director of Architect 49 and “Commercial Building Design in Thailand” by Arc. Suchat Chutipabhakorn Forum Architect Co., Ltd.
- November 5 – 6: Attended to the Green Building Index (GBI) facilitator course in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- **Professional Practice and Social Responsibility Programs**

ALACE has also organized and joint various meetings to discuss, contributing and sharing knowledge of ALACE members to Annual Conference of MPWT, Technical meeting with Bolikhamsay Province, Korean Asphalt Road Standard, Lao Building Control, Urban Development Projects, Urban Dongdok Development project, Lanexang Avenue Control and landscape improvement, Market Construction, Hotel and Apartment construction permission, and Landfill of paddy field, canal and road preservation area.

- **Outreach and Publication Programs**

ALACE provides architectural and engineering information to the members and the public through various media including:

- (i) ALACE Magazines – every two months, ALACE magazines are sent out to all members and to governmental and academic organizations. The magazines can also be purchased by the general public

- (ii) ALACE Website - provides up-to-date information on various architecture/engineering related subjects to the members and the general public

10. ALACE Upcoming Activities for 2016

- **January – December: Discussions and Seminars (TBD)**
 - Organization of various discussions and seminars throughout the year of 2016
 - Meetings and other activities among ALACE members and other institutes
- **March: The ALACE Fair 2016 and Annual Forum**
 - To encourage provincial chapters in organizing new elected head provincial chapters
 - To strengthen ALACE networks by collecting membership status and establishing a system for more convenience and suitable ways to collaborate
 - To improve ALACE membership administration system, office operation and management
 - To improve ALACE financial sustainability and budgeting system
 - To advance in collaborations and communications among members and its network
 - To assist and support young and upcoming architects and engineers
- **September to October: ALACE Friendship Football Match in Vientiane Capital (TBD)**

11. Green Building Council / Green Building Rating Tool

ALACE is enthusiastically getting on board regarding green building and sustainable design, but has yet to establish a Green Building Council and a Green Building Rating Tool. At the moment, ALACE is in the process of forming a Green Building Council Committee and a rating tool to promote sustainability, raise awareness among all the professions including architects, engineers, planners, designers, developers, contractors and the general public about environmental issues and the responsibility to the future generation. ALACE is currently studying the different green building rating tools and learning from the various green building councils from other countries in expecting to establish its own rating tool to standardize the architectural and engineering industry in Lao PDR.

- **What is the Current State of Green Buildings in Lao PDR?**

The green buildings market in Lao PDR is still at the very early stages of development, primarily as a result of short-term thinking, cost sensitivities, lack of information on green buildings to the professionals and the general public, misaligned incentives between designers, developers and users, an underdeveloped regulatory market, and a limited supply of skilled employees with green building awareness, etc. However, some large projects with foreign investments through green initiatives have begun to be introduced to Laos, such as the new U.S. Embassy building project, which is a registered building with the US Green Building Council (USGBC) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

certification with LEED Silver certification. The use of other country and industry certifications have had their relevance in specific situations but they are still typically niche applications. As a result, ALACE is considering to establish its own Green Building Council Committees and a Green Building Rating Tool.