



## **COUNTRY REPORT**

### The Japan Institute of Architects

2-3-18 Jingu-mae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001 Japan  
Tel +81-3-3408-7125, Fax +81-3-3408-7129  
URL [www.jia.or.jp](http://www.jia.or.jp)

ARCASIA (ACA-15 ) Council Meeting in Bali, Indonesia

November 1-2, 2012

# COUNTRY REPORT

The Japan Institute of Architects

## 1. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

The Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) is Japan's only professional organization of architects. Its principal role is to define and promote the social and legal status of professional architects in Japan.

Following seventy years of effort on the part of our predecessors to establish the profession of architecture in Japan, the JIA was founded in May 1987. It started by unifying two formerly separate associations that shared the same ideology: The Japan Architects Association (JAA) and The Japan Federation of Professional Architects Association (JFPAA).

As an association of free and independent architects, the JIA is striving to create a greater understanding of the field of architecture within Japanese society, and to establish a firm social foundation and recognition for its members and their foreign counterparts.

## 2. CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS

Officers representing the JIA for the year 2010 (2010/05/27-2012/05/31) are:

Mr. Taro Ashihara	President
Mr. Yoshihiko Oda	First Vice President
Mr. Nobuo Mori	Vice President
Mr. Toshio Matumoto	Vice President
Mr. Nobuya Tsutsui	Executive Director
Mr. Umekazu Kawagishi	Auditor
Mr. Ichiro Katsumura	Auditor

## 3. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH (as of August 21, 2012)

TYPE	NUMBER	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	(1,000 Japanese Yen)
Architect	4,377	45,000	196,965
Retired Architect	0	18,000	0
Life Member	28	0	0
Honorary Member	44	0	0
Affiliated Member	6	18,000	108
TOTAL	4,455	-	197,073

## 4. BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

Operational funding for the JIA is generated from the assessment of membership fees, admission fees, sales of JIA publications and registration fees paid by both members and non-members for participation in various activities.

In April 2005, the JIA annual membership fee was dramatically reduced by one half to encourage the acquisition of young new members. In April 2011, JIA raised the fare to strengthen its financial position.

## 5. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

The JIA has ten regional chapters located throughout Japan: Hokkaido, Tohoku, Kanto-Koushinetsu, Tokai, Hokuriku, Kinki, Chugoku, Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa. Each regional chapter includes district organizations that develop community-based activities.

## 6. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NATIONAL CONVENTION

The JIA held its 2012 General Assembly in Tokyo on May 31, 2012.

This year, yearly held JIA National Convention in Yokohama will be organized from November 29 to December 1, 2012.

## **7. LEGAL STATUS OF THE JIA IN JAPAN**

The JIA was incorporated on June 15, 1987 as a Japanese juridical corporation conforming to Article 34 of the Civil Code and approved by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

The current legal status of JIA is an aggregate corporation for public benefit under article 34 of civil code. JIA is now supervised by the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport. The Japanese government made a radical reform of Public Interest Corporation legal framework in early 2000s, and the Public Interest Corporation laws were promulgated on June 2, 2006. All current aggregate corporations must be reorganized into a “general incorporated association” or into “authorized public benefit corporation APBC” by 30th November 2013. Although there are various tax benefits for APBC, there are various new additional requirements for governance and information disclosure. For this reason, many current corporations have decided to become a general entity, rather than to commit as authorized public benefit. (for detail explanation and analysis of public benefit organization in Japan, refer to “Enabling Civil Society in Japan Reform of the Legal and Regulatory Framework for Public Benefit Organizations” by Karla W. Simon, Columbus school of Law).

JIA has been analyzing the pros and cons of these two legal statuses for many years since 2006. It was finally decided to become APBC at special general assembly in September 2011.

This decision shows the commitment of JIA to serve the public for the promotion of better built environment. JIA is now strongly promoting the concept of “community architect”, in which the architects play a major role in the enhancement of local built environment.

JIA will become new APBC in 2013.

## **8. LEGAL STATUS OF ARCHITECTS IN JAPAN and**

## **9. REGISTRATION AUTHORITY OF ARCHITECTS IN JAPAN**

In Japan, architects are authorized to practice under the “KENCHIKUSHI LAW” (Architect Law) which was enacted in 1950. However, the “KENCHIKUSHI LAW” is applied to both architecture and engineering, and is fundamentally unique from common architectural regulations established outside Japan. The Kenchikushi Law was formally amended in January 2007. New regulations regarding the qualifications for structural engineer and building mechanical engineers were made. Also, regular training for the Kenchikushi was introduced. However, the role of an architect under this Kenchikushi law was not amended fully to meet international standards. JIA is continuing its effort to improve the qualification system of architects in Japan.

## **10. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION OF THE JIA**

The JIA is represented in the International Union of Architects (UIA) as the “Japan Section,” and has been a member of the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) since 1991.

Additionally, in May 1999, the JIA revised the “Accord of Professionalism” that was concluded with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1989.

The JIA has also exchanged a “Memorandum of Understanding” with both the Association of Siamese Architects Under Royal Patronage (ASA) in 1993.

In 2003, The JIA exchanged an “Accord on Professionalism” with the Korean Institute of Architects (KIA) and the Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) separately.

In 2008, The JIA exchanged an “Accord on Professionalism in Architecture” with the Union of Mongolian Architects (UMA).

The JIA hosted the UIA XXIV Congress and UIA XXV Assembly in Tokyo, Japan in 2011.

In the end of 2011, the JIA exchanged “Accord on Professionalism in Architecture” with the Architectural Society of China (ASC).

## **11. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE JIA (2011-2012)**

- (1) General Assembly: May 31, 2012 in Tokyo.
- (2) “JIA Young Architect Award” of 2011 (refer to item 13).
- (3) “JIA Sustainable Architecture Award” of 2011 (refer to item 13).
- (4) “JIA 25 Years Award (2011)” (refer to item 13)
- (5) “JIA Architect of 2011,” “JIA Grand Prix” and “JIA Award” (refer to item 13).

## **12. OUTREACH PROGRAM OF THE JIA**

The JIA publishes the periodical “JIA Magazine” on a monthly basis.

### **13. ARCHITETURAL COMPETITIONS / AWARDS FOR MEMBERS**

The JIA awards the "JIA Architect of 2011," "JIA Grand Prix," "JIA Award," "JIA Young Architect Award," "JIA Sustainable Architecture Award" and "JIA Twenty-Five Year Award" annually.

JIA Grand Prix Mr. Tomohiko Yamanashi, Mr. Taro Nakamoto, Mr. Takashi Suzuki,  
Mr. Masanori Yano and Mr. Tohihiko Kono, "Hoki Museum"

JIA Award Mr. Ken Yokogawa, "Sugiura Villa/ polyhedron Gifu Hirugano"  
Mr. Shuhei Endo and Mr. Hirokazu Toki, "LOOPTECTURE Fukura/Fukura Port"  
Mr. Ryue Nishizawa, "Teshima Art Museum"

#### The JIA Young Architect Award (2011)

Winner: Ms. Kumiko Inui "Flower Shop H"  
Mr. Osamu Nishida and M. Erika Nakagawa "Yokohama Apartment"

#### The JIA Sustainable Architecture Award (2011)

(All Facilities: The First Prize)

Winner: Mr. Takushi Fukuda and Mr. Osamu Koizumi, "Misaki Junior High School"

(All Facilities: The Second Prize)

Winner: Mr. Masakkuni Nagahiro, "Yamanashi City Hall"

(All Facilities: The Third Prize)

Winner: Mr. Shiro Asada, "Kokugakuin University Shibuya Campus"

(Residential Projects: The First Prize)

Winner: Mr. Iwasaki Shunsuke, "THE FALLINGSUN"

#### The JIA Twenty-Five Year Award (2011)

Winner: Mr. Fumihiko Maki <Maki and Associates>, "Spiral"  
Mr. Tsutomu Abe <ARTEC>, Stanley Electric Co., Ltd. The Institute of Technology  
Building"  
Mr. Tadahiro Yoshida, Mr. Toshihiko Kimura, Mr. Seiichi Endo, Mr. Shuichi Kitamura,  
Mr. Hidetoshi Ono, Mr. Sadao Takasu <YKK50-Building Project Team> and Mr.  
Hiroshi Miyazaki (Renovation) <Plants Associates Inc.>, "YKK50-Building"  
Mr. Fumihiko Maki <Maki and Associates>, "Maetzawa Garden House"  
Mr. Akihiko Miura, Mr. Yasuhiko Kitani (Renewal) <NIKKEN SEKKEI LTD.>, "Toyota  
Motor Corporation – Headquarters Building in Tokyo"  
Mr. Tomoharu Ide <SUM Co., Ltd.>, "Yurigaoka Village"  
Mr. Asao Sugama <Takumi Sekkei>, "Yomitanzan Kiln"  
Mr. Takayo Ageta <Ageta Architects>, Japanese Traditional Craft Center – Japanese Paper  
Museum Ino Town"  
Mr. Osamu Ishii <ISHII TOMOKO BIKEN ARCHITECTS>, "JITSUTA, OKAYAMA  
BRANCH"

#### JIA Architects 2011

100 JIA members were selected to be published in the "JIA Architects 2011",  
which is the year book of the JIA.

The JIA Grand Prix and JIA Awards were selected from the works published in  
this book

### **14. KEY ISSUES FACING ARCHITECTS AND THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION**

Present Japanese "KENCHIKUSHI LAW" (translated as "Architects Law") defines qualifications both for architects and building engineers, which are remarkably different from architectural standards established by most other countries. Consequently, the JIA has developed in December 2003, a system known as the Qualification System of Architects in Japan. Additionally, within this context, the JIA has instituted a "Continuing Professional Development" system that is based on the UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice.

#### **14-1. REGISTERED ARCHITECTS**

The Qualification System for Registered Architects was approved by JIA at its general assembly in

May 2003, as a certification system that meets or exceeds the standards stipulated by the UIA Accord. The Council of Architect Certification was established soon afterward.

To be certified as a registered architect under this system, current certification as a *First Class Kenchikushi* in combination with five years of practical experience is required. For a new architect, completion of the JIA practical training program is required for certification.

A registered architect who intends to renew his/her registration must acquire a minimum of 108 CPD (Continuing Professional Development) credits over three years. In Japan, there are some other architectural institutions in addition to the JIA, and the JIA's intention is to establish commonality by having these other institutions adopt the Qualification System for Architects as well.

#### **14-2. JIA CPD**

The JIA established the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system for JIA members in April 2002. All JIA members are requested to acquire 108 CPD credits for 3 years. One credit is approximately equal to one hour of training. Currently, there are two ways to acquire credits: (1) participate in a program accredited by the JIA CPD Council, or (2) obtain credits through self-motivating training programs. Since JIA members are dispersed across Japan, the JIA places particular importance on self-motivating training.

Generally speaking, training can be categorized into four categories: (1) the social role of an architect, (2) improved practical ability as an architect, (3) improvement in the ability to manage a project, and (4) management of an architectural firm.

Because the JIA established the Qualification System for Registered Architects in 2003 and acquiring CPD credits is mandatory for all registered architects, CPD for JIA members is recommended now.

#### **15. QBS (QUALIFICATION BASED SELECTION) IN JAPAN**

In Japan, competitive bidding remains the accepted practice for selecting an architect for public works projects. This is especially true among local governments, where architects selected through a bidding process design more than 80% of all public buildings. The reason for this is that bidding is a comparatively easy selection process. Other selection practices, such as design competitions, place an additional burden on clients in terms of time and cost. However, there is growing concern over the quality of public buildings in Japan, and the JIA believes that improvements in quality cannot be achieved through the practice of bidding.

The JIA has been actively encouraging local governments to adopt Qualification Based Selection (QBS), a system that has been adopted by many countries, as a measure of an architect's ability. The JIA is willing to dispatch experts in building design to act as QBS judges when required to explain the procedures of QBS. Consequently, the JIA is confident in its ability to provide practical examples of selecting an architect through QBS.

#### **16. RESOURCES OF THE JIA**

Having been established in 1987, the JIA has not yet accumulated significant assets. However, the JIA is striving to further develop the "JIA Architects International Fund" (established in 1992) with the goal of improving international communications among architects in the future.

#### **17. REPORT: "UIA2011 Tokyo World Congress"**

At the UIA General Assembly (held in Istanbul in July 2005), the JIA was chosen to host the UIA XXIV Congress and UIA XXV Assembly in Tokyo, from September 25 to October 1, 2011. Consequently, the Japan Organizing Board (JOB) of the UIA 2011 Tokyo was established in July 2006.

After the huge earthquake along with the tsunami devastated the Northeast Japan in March 11, UIA and JOB examined carefully the current situation in Tokyo and concluded to have this big event as scheduled, under the theme of "**Design 2050**" **Beyond Disasters, through Solidarity, towards Sustainability.**

The number of visitors reached more than 5,000 including some 2,000 from overseas, about 110 countries, and the congress ended with a great success.

## **18. ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES**

### **18-1. EARTHQUAKE**

After the East Japan Great Earthquake on March 11, JIA works on disaster relief activities voluntarily and performs the damage investigation into cultural assets and heritage building with the local government and the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

### **18-2. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

The third attempt of the international exchange program, “East-East 3”, was carried out from May 31 through June 5, 2011. In this event, 10 Lithuanian architects and 10 students visited Japan, and the students’ workshop, lectures, and architecture exhibitions between Japan and Lithuania were held.

### **18-3. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

The JIA has positively promoted the social responsibilities of architects on a variety of issues ranging from the global environmental and urban development to improving living conditions and providing consulting services for citizens with problems at the local level.

These activities are intended not only to address current issues among the adult population, but also to acquaint the younger generation – who hold Japan’s future in their hands – with such issues. In this regard, the JIA is planning fundamental programs that will support educational institutions.

### **18-4. ACTIVITIES FOR THE AMENDMENT OF KENCHIKUSHI LAW**

Due to problematic issues resulting from 1<sup>st</sup> class Kenchikushi in 2005, both the Japanese Government and the National Assembly enacted amendments to the Kenchikushi Law. The president of the JIA was invited by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport to participate at the round table discussion, “Fundamental System Work Program of the Architecture Department of the Social Infrastructure Council.” At this discussion, the JIA insisted that the current “Kenchikushi Law” should be amended to better satisfy the needs of society and assure the quality and safety of architecture.

In August 2008, the details of the Kenchikushi Law were announced to be amended. (Refer to the attached document “Details of the Amendment to Kenchikushi Law”) The JIA is still involved in discussions toward finalizing details of the amended law.

### **18-5. ARCASIA PRESIDENT FROM JIA**

In 2009, the JIA nominated its member, George Kunihiro, FAIA, to the position of the president, ARCASIA. Mr. Kunihiro was elected in the 30<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting of the ARCASIA held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. (The term: 2011-2012)  
The JIA will fully support Mr. Kunihiro and his effort to execute his office during his tenure as the President of ARCASIA.

--- End ---