



COUNTRY REPORT 2011

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 more than 2,000 members of whom more than 1,600 are either currently practicing or working in Bangladesh, who are products of the eleven educational institutions of which 90% are members of IAB. IAB is recognized as the sole professional body of architects in the country. The Institute is run by an eleven-member Executive Committee, elected by the General Members for a two year term.

2.0 Current Executive Committee Members (for the Term 2011-2012) are;

Office	Name	
President	Ar. Mubasshar Hussain	H-013
Vice-President	Ar. Kazi Golam Nasir	N-006
General Secretary	Ar. Jalal Ahmad	A-036
Joint Secretary	Ar. Abu Hena Md. Zia Uddin	U-005
Treasurer	Ar. Tapos Kumar Roy	R-073
Member (Education)	Ar. Shaila Joarder	J-013
Member (Publication)	Ar. Sultana Zakia Rahman	R-056
Member (Seminar)	Ar. Saumen Hazra	H-109
Member (Culture)	Ar. Md. Shahinul Islam	I-036
Member (Membership)	Ar. Nowajish Mahbub	M-043
Member (Profession)	Ar. Md. Selim Altaf Biplob	B-025

3.0 Membership Strength as of JUNE 2011

There are four categories of membership, namely Honorary Member, Member, Candidate Member and Student Member. Only "Members" have voting rights. The current membership strength of the Institute is as follows:

Category	Number
Honorary Member	: 1
Member (Active)	: 800+
Member (Inactive)	: 300+
Candidate Member (Active)	: 850+
Candidate Member (Inactive)	: 250+
Student Member	: 150+

4.0 Budget of the Institute

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

- Annual subscription of the members.
- Financial Grant from the Government through the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.
- Supportive activities such as competitions, consulting fee, building material exhibitions, publications 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 different regions of Bangladesh, where the number of architects is at least 100. We are yet to have such a chapter. But as per the constitution there is also provision for formation of branch offices of IAB at different parts of Bangladesh, where the number of practicing architects is between 10 and 100. At present IAB has one branch office at Chittagong. The branch office operates through a sub-committee. In May 2011 a new sub committee is being elected and is headed by Ar. Taslimuddin Chowdhury and Ar. Nazmul Latif is the Gen Secretary of the branch. Next branch will be set up in Khulna & Sylhet soon.

6.0 General Meetings

The last Biennial General Meeting (2010-2011) was held on 07 April , 2011 to consider and adopt the yearly accounts and balance sheet and the general reports of the Executive Committee. Installation Ceremony of the 19th Executive Committee held on 04, June 2011. Honorable Planning Minister A.K Khondoker was the Chief Guest and Honorable State Minister of Science & ICT Ar. Yeafesh Osman 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 sole 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" 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 2011

- **February 21, 2011** - 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.
- IAB has began the formal Accreditation process of the schools of architecture offering B.Arch. Programme in Bangladesh.
- IAB has finalized the CPD program whci will be mandatory for all members from January 2012
- IAB successfully published the Arcasia Heritage Book
- A formal publication ceremony of this book followed b an exhibition was held during July 17-22, 2011 at the Bangladesh National Museum which will be inaugurated by the Hon. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs bought 100 copies of this Arcasia Heritage Book for all the Bangladesh Missions abroad.
- Recently IAB delegation met the Honorable Environment Minister to brief him the problem faced by the public regarding approval process of buildings under his ministry. He took immediate some steps in this regard and assured the IAB delegation to look further into the matter.
- 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.
- IAB is playing a key role in the updating & revision of the Bangladesh National Building Code and Building Rules of Dhaka City.

10.0 Seminars and Lectures

IAB lecture program is a very popular event. As a public relation activity, since July, 2011 we have 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. Since July, 2011 2 architects from abroad have already delivered lectures and more lecture are also scheduled for the next 6 months

11.0 Publications & Exhibitions

- A publication ceremony of the ARCASIA Heritage book followed by an exhibition was held during July 17-22, 2011 at the Bangladesh National Museum which will be inaugurated by the Hon. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh
- The Institute also publishes "IAB Newsletter" covering national and international news and views on architectural issues.
- The Institute of Architects Bangladesh has recently published First Edition of "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct " for the member of the Institute.
- The IAB has recently published ARCASIA Heritage Book.

12.0 Award & Architectural Design Competitions

Architectural Design Competition is a frequent feature of IAB. Currently, two open competitions are being organized by IAB. The first one is the design competition for an office building of a Commercial Bank. The second one is for the campus design of an university.

IAB also monitors that the selection of architects is done as per IAB guidelines. Recently, it has asked its members to refrain from participating in two design competitions that were not in compliance with IAB Regulations for Architectural Design Competitions and the members complied.

- IAB Student Members Won The First & Third Prizes in the Arcasia Students Design Competition held at Lahore In october 2010
- Ar. Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, BUET was awarded honorable mention for one of his residential projects during last cycle of ARCASIA Awards.

IAB Design Award

The Institute has introduced IAB design Awards since 1996. It is a biennial program. The current cycle of the IAB Awards will be announced shortly.

Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture 2011

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. Nominations for the 2011 has already been received.

13.0 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
- (c) Difficulty in implementing a uniform curriculum ideally suited for us.

IAB has just recently passed the accreditation procedures and formed the accreditation committee to ensure the minimum standards of architectural education. All the architectural schools are gradually applying for IAB accreditation. Eventually without IAB accreditation, it will not allow any person to become IAB members.

Other Issues

- a) Re-invigorating architecture based on regional cultural values and geography.
- b) Lack of control over unauthorized construction.
- c) Design competitions and selection of architectural consultants by public agencies are not transparent.
- d) Problems faced by architects abroad due to non-validation of educational and professional credentials in many countries.

14.0 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.
- (b) The Institute has a small library
- (c) The Institute has Computer, Photocopier, Telephone, Facsimile and E-mail facilities with other required logistics.

15.0 Plans for the Future

- (b) Build its own building and locate its current activities in its own premises.
- (c) Create IAB Design Vetting Committee to assist the Capital Development Authority (RajUK), in approving the plans on the basis of newly enacted building rules.
- (d) Bringing amendments in the IAB Constitution to deal with changing scenario of the profession in the country.
- (e) Open new branches in other cities of the country and also in other countries.
- (f) Setting up a Heritage Center.
- (g) Publish representational Book on Architecture of Bangladesh.
- (h) Develop the Institute as a professional body aligned with sustainable environmental issues.

16.0 Any 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 modern architecture for us was not smooth and still same obstacles remain. Some relate to our own capacity for change and few require cooperation from International and Regional bodies like ARCASIA which are of our common interest. The constraints today reside in regulatory framework and the absence of it.

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

Ar. Jalal Ahmad
General Secretary

Ar. Mubasshar Hussain
President

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