



## **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)

The 32nd ARCASIA Council Meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam

August 16-17, 2011

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### **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. Jiro Murofushi	First Vice President
Mr. Takao Tojo	Vice President
Mr. Yoshihiko Oda	Vice President
Mr. Nobuya Tsutsui	Executive Director
Mr. Umekazu Kawagishi	Auditor
Mr. Ichiro Katsumura	Auditor

### **3. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH (as of June 16th, 2011)**

TYPE	NUMBER	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	(1,000 Japanese Yen)
Architect	4,545	45,000	204,525
Retired Architect	0	18,000	0
Life Member	28	0	0
Honorary Member	46	0	0
Affiliated Member	5	18,000	90
TOTAL	4,624	-	204,615

### **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 2011 General Assembly in Tokyo on May 31, 2011.

Also, the extraordinary General Assembly is expected to be held this fall, tentatively scheduled on 25 of this September, the day on the starting date of UIA2011 Tokyo World Congress.

This year, yearly held JIA National Convention will not be organized, since JIA wants to concentrate its energy all on UIA Congress.

## **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.

## **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 JIA has endeavored to establish a qualification system of architects, as well as to amend “KENCHIKUSHI LAW,” to conform with international standards (refer to item 14). Additionally, 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 (refer to item 17-2). The Kenchikushi Law was formally amended in January 2007.

## **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 will host the UIA XXIV Congress and UIA XXV Assembly in Tokyo, Japan in 2011.

## **11. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE JIA (2010-2011)**

- (1) General Assembly : May 31, 2011 in Tokyo.
- (2) “JIA Young Architect Award” of 2010 (refer to item 13).
- (3) “JIA Sustainable Architecture Award” of 2010 (refer to item 13).
- (4) “JIA 25 Years Award (2010)” (refer to item 13)
- (5) ”JIA Architect of 2010,” “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 2010,” “JIA Grand Prix,” “JIA Award,” “JIA Young Architect Award,” “JIA Sustainable Architecture Award” and “JIA Twenty-Five Year Award” annually.

### **The JIA Young Architect Award (2010)**

Winner: Mr. Hiroshi Nakamura “House C”  
Ms. Akiko Miya “house K”

### The JIA Sustainable Architecture Award (2010)

(Category: All facilities)

Winner: None

(Category: Residential)

Winner: Mr. Toshihiko Sasaki “House in Gotanda”

### The JIA Twenty-Five Year Award (2010)

Winner: Mr. Seizo Sakata and Mr. Yoshiya Yamaoka “Higashiyamato City Public Library”

Mr. Taisuke Tabei, Mr. Toyoaki Amagai and Mr. Tatsuro Shiobara “Koto-ku Education Center, Toyo Library”

Mr. Koichi Nagashima “St. Columban’s Foreign Missions Society Tokyo Central House”

Mr. Kunihiko Hayakawa “House at a Crossroad in Seijo”

Atelier Zo + Atelier Mobil “Nago City Hall”

Building Division of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (JAPA POST HOLDINGS Resistered Architect Office) “Nakagyo Post Office”

Mr. Shoji Hayashi, Mr. Yoshiaki Ogura and Mr. Mitsutane Hara “Mitsui & Co., Ltd Headquarters”

Mr. Tokuichi Yoshimura “Tairyudo Book Store”

Mr. Fumihiko Maki “Iwasaki Museum of Art”

Mr. Togo Murano “The Prince Hakone (Hakone Prince Hotel)”

Mr. Togo Murano “Yatsugatake Museum of Art”

Mr. Tadanaga Miyamoto “Nagano City Museum”

JIA Grand Prix Mr. Hiroshi Sambuichi “Inujima Art Project: SEIRENSHO”

JIA Award Mr. Hideyuki Yamashita “Nagaoka City Child-Rearing Support Facility : TEKU-TEKU + Seshugahara-Minami Park + River Shinano Cherry Linea Bank Walk”

Mr. Mitsuru Senda, Mr. Minoru Okuda and Mr. Yoshiharu Kanebako “Hiroshima Municipal Baseball Stadium”

Mr. Tomohiko Yamanashi and Mr. Takeyuki Katsuya “Mokuzai Kaikan (Wood Wholesalers Association of Tokyo)”

### JIA Architects 2010

100 JIA members were selected to be published in the “JIA Architects 2010”, 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 a new system know as the Qualification System of Architects in Japan, which was realized in December 2003. 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**

Japan’s “*Kenchikushi System*,”<sup>\*1</sup><sup>\*2</sup> which governs the certification of architects and building engineers, currently does not meet the standards outlined by the UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards of Professionalism in Architectural Practice. Consequently, the establishment of a new Qualification System for Registered Architects has been anxiously anticipated.

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<sup>\*1</sup> A “*Kenchikushi*” is a person who has attained certification under *Kenchikushi Law* as being qualified to provide building design and construction work supervision services. Also refer to the attached sheet.

<sup>\*2</sup> Refer to the attached sheet.

At its general assembly in May 2003, the Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) approved the establishment of the Qualification System for Registered Architects as a certification system that meets or exceeds the standards stipulated by the UIA Accord. The Council of Architect Certification was established soon afterward. Applications from JIA members have been accepted since in December 2003, with the goal of all members becoming registered architects under the new standard by 2006 (first step). Subsequently, the JIA will also accept applications from non-JIA members who desire to attain the status of registered architect (second step).

To be certified as a registered architect under the new 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 will be 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. Although only JIA CPD credits will be recognized initially, CPD credits from other bona fide architectural institutions are to be recognized in the future. In Japan, there are several 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. FUTURE PLAN: "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, and preparations to host the event have been launched.

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.**

We expect many people all over the world will join us!

(For more information, please refer to the URL; [www.uia2011tokyo.com](http://www.uia2011tokyo.com))

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

### **18-1. 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.

### **18-2. 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.

### **18-3. 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.

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