

COUNTRY REPORT BANGLADESH
Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB)
2009

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.

About 1500 architects are currently practicing in the countries, 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 Office Bearers (for the term 2009-2010)

Office	Name	Reg. Number
President	Ar. Mubasshar Hussain	H-013
Vice-President	Ar. Abu Sayeed M Ahmed	A-035
General Secretary	Ar. Kazi Golam Nasir	N-006
Joint Secretary	Ar. Md. Ishtiaque Zahir	Z-011
Treasurer	Ar. Dewan Shamsul Arif	A-079
Member (Education)	Ar. Md. Zakiul Islam	I-038
Member (Publication)	Ar. Sultana Zakia Rahman	R-056
Member (Seminar)	Ar.M Taufiqur Rahman Khan	K-074
Member (Culture)	Ar. Tamanna Rahman	R-086
Member (Membership)	Ar. Taher Azad	A-085
Member (Profession)	Ar. Mamnoon Murshed Chowdhury	C-031

3.0 Membership Strength as of JUNE 2009

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)	: 426
Member (Inactive)	: 305
Candidate Member (Active)	: 358
Candidate Member (Inactive)	: 262
Student Member	: 100

4.0 Budget of the Institute

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

- (a) Annual subscription of the members.
- (b) Financial Grant from the Government through the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.
- (c) Supportive activities such as competitions, consulting fee, building material exhibitions, publications etc.
- (d) Event based sponsorships.
- (e) 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. April 2009 a new sub committee is selected and is headed by Ar Taslimuddin Chaowdhury and Ar. Nazmul Latif. Next branch will be set up in Khulna city.

6.0 General Meetings

17th Biennial General Meeting (2007-2008) was held on January 30 2009 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel to consider and adopt the yearly accounts and balance sheet and the general reports of the Executive Committee. Due to some unavoidable circumstances the meeting continued on February 23rd 2009 Election of the subsequent new 18th Executive Committee was elected as last agenda of this meeting. The next Biennial General Meeting and Election of the next Executive Committee will be held in December, 2010.

7.0 Legal Status of the Institute

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

The Government recognizes the Institute (IAB) as the only organization representing the architects in the country.

Although the title "architect" is not yet protected by law, but the recent "Dhaka Metropolitan Building (Construction, Development, Conservation & Demolition) Rules 2008", defines "Architect" only those who are members of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh. Therefore, it is mandatory to be a Member of the Institute (IAB) to design any building within the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) region. The same legal provisions are also in the process of being gradually adopted by other large cities of the country.

8.0 Registration Authority of Architects in Bangladesh

A draft "Architect's Act" is under consideration of being enacted by Government. On 18th June 2001 the Cabinet approved this draft. A bill was to be placed in the parliament but stalled at the last moment. However, in the absence of the Architect's Act, currently members of IAB are recognized as "Architect" under the "Dhaka Metropolitan Building (Construction, Development, Conservation & Demolition) Rules 2008". In 2009 Same also for port city Chittagong

9.0 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

10.0 Major Activities in 2009

- **October 27 –Nov1 2008 - Architects Regional Council for ASIA (ARCASIA):** Under the Leadership of Ar. Mubasshar Hussain, President IAB and Vice President Zone A and Chairman Elect of ARCASIA a large contingent of architects attended the ARCASIA Forum-14 held at Busan, Korea.
- **January 30 the 2009** – IAB gives Reception to Ar Yafesh Osman, the founder General Secretary of IAB on the occasion of becoming the 1st Architect to be the honorable state Minister for the Ministry of Science, information & Communication Technology
- **January 30 the 2009** – The 17" Biennial General Meeting (2007-2008) and election for 18" Executive Committee in Dhaka Sheraton Hotel..
- **February 18-20, 2009** – The ARCASIA Office Bearers Meeting was Held at Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka. Office Bearers and Conveners of different committees of ARCASIA attended. It was the 1st ARCASIA Office Bearer's meeting under the Chairmanship of Ar. Mubasshar Hussain. Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) hosted the ARCASIA Office Bearers at Dhaka.
- **February 22nd 2009** – SLIA & IAB signed an MOU to have teacher student exchange program between the two countries.
- **February 20-23rd 2009** – UIA president Ar. Louise Cox Visited Bangladesh for the first time. She meet IAB official and also the ARASIA office bearers. She also meet Professor Yunus
- **February 17-25 2009** – A hands-on workshop on Rammed Earth Structure and Architecture was organized jointly by the BASE habitat project studio of the -University of Art, Linz, Austria, Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI) and, Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) at the Eco-Housing Project of HBRI premises in Mirpur, Dhaka.
- **February 21 2009** - 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. The presence of UIA President, Ar. Louise Cox along with the IAB members marked the occasion.
- **March 7, 2009 SAARCH 2009** (SAARC Association of Architects) was held in Colombo. The 5 day event was attended By IAB members. Ar. Qazi m Arif and Ar. Rezaul karim attended the council meeting on behalf of IAB.
- **March 30, 2009** - a roundtable discussion on "Fire & Safety in our Buildings' had been held which was jointly organized by IAB and The Daily Star at Dhaka.
- **March 2009** - A preliminary list has been made to identify 93 heritage buildings and four sites for preservation in this 400-year old capital city of Dhaka.

- **April 16, 2009** – Bengali new year Celebration and the installation ceremony of 18th Executive committee of IAB
- **April 4, 2009**. ICE Today-Aqua Paints Interior Design Awards 2009 was organized in association with IAB at the Westin, Dhaka.
- **May 02, 2009** - The International Presidents' Forum (AIANational Convention and Expo) was held in San Francisco, USA. IAB President and ARCASIA Chairman, Ar. Mubasshar Hussain attended this auspicious event to represent Bangladesh.
- **In Mid May** . IAB President and ARCASIA Chairman, Ar. Mubasshar Hussain also had a meeting with executive committee members of **Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)** in London .
- **May 30, 2009** - Two workshops have been organized by IAB on Bidhimala 2008. The first of these one-day long workshops while the second was on. This was a part of IAB's continuing professional development activity.
- **Seminars and Lectures**

The Institute is organizing lecture series on a regular basis by inviting distinguished architects and relevant professionals from home and abroad. So far 3 lectures has been arranged till June 2009

11.0 Publications & Exhibitions

- Exhibition and Award Giving Ceremony of ICE Today Aqua Paint Interior Architecture Held at Hotel Westin, Dhaka.
- The Institute also publishes "IAB Newsletter" covering national and international news and views on architectural issues.

12.0 Award & Architectural Design Competitions

Architectural Design Competition is a frequent feature of IAB. In the recent past, IAB has successfully organized two open competitions. This moment, two design competitions are in the final stages. The first one is the design competition for Corporate Head Office of Jamuna Bank Ltd. The second one is the design competition for Liberation War Museum.

IAB is also active in monitoring that selection of architects is done as per IAB guidelines. Recently, it has asked its members to refrain from participating two design competitions that were not upholding the guidelines and all the members complied.

AIA President Medal

IAB President and Chairman of ARCASIA, Ar. Mubasshar Hussain, has been awarded the American Institute of Architects' President's Medal during the annual AIA convention in San Francisco at a ceremony on May 2, 2009. He has also been named an honorary member of the AIA in recognition of his work in favor of architects in Asia and around the world.

BANGLADESH WINS THE FIRST PRIZE "THE DESIGN FOR THE CHILDREN"

Ar. Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, BUET with his team members, Dilruba Ferdous Shuvra Asifur Rahman, Dr. Sharmina, won the 1st prize in the "Design for the Children" an international design competition challenging architects. To develop an adaptable, sustainable, culturally responsive Pediatric clinic in EAST AFRICA. Organized by American institute of Architects, Seattle

IAB Design Award:

The Institute has introduced IAB design Awards since 1996. It is a biennial program. Jury process for the 2008 Award is on-going and results will be announced shortly..

Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture 2009

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 2009 Award have been invited recently and a wide participation is expected.

ICE Today Aqua Paints Awards for Interior Architecture

ICE Today Aqua Paints Awards for Interior Architecture have been launched in association with IAB in 2007 and the 2nd award giving ceremony was held in April 4 2009

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.

Currently, there are eleven schools that offer Bachelor in Architecture in Bangladesh. Among these four programmes are recognized by IAB.

In absence of an Architect's Council in Bangladesh, the Institute of Architects Bangladesh has taken the initiative and responsibility to form the Board of Architectural Education Bangladesh (BAEB). IAB has completed preparing the document for Validation and Accreditation Criteria for Board of Architectural Education Bangladesh

Other Issues

- a) Overall difficulty in achieving a truly appropriate contemporary architecture due to the forces of globalization.
- b) Re-invigorating architecture based on regional cultural values and geography.
- c) Lack of control over unauthorized construction.
- d) Design competitions and selection of architectural consultants by public agencies are not transparent.
- e) 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.
- (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) Formulate a Board of Architectural Education and set up of an accreditation board for Architectural Education of the country.
- (g) Setting up a Heritage Center.
- (h) Publish representational Book on Architecture of Bangladesh.
- (i) Develop the Institute as a professional body aligned with sustainable environmental issues.

46.0 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.

We have succeeded in registering professional architects for practicing the profession in the Metropolitan Dhaka through the Building By-laws. This was the first step towards formal recognition of the profession which has started replicating all over the country by adding another City Chittagong.

The barrier, which is of concern to us here, is architects from the Asian region, with few exceptions, are prevented from trans-national practice. Architects in the entire Asian region need to bear out each other's academic equivalency and professional competence with which ARCASIA may be able to pursue a common goal.

Kazi Golam Nasir

Mubasshar Hussain

General Secretary

President

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