



COUNTRY REPORT

The Japan Institute of Architects

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The 30th ARCASIA Council Meeting, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
August 18-19, 2009

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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 2009 (2009/06/22-2010/05/31) are:

Mr. IZUE, Yutaka	President
Mr. MATSUMOTO, Toshio	First Vice President
Mr. YOSANO, Hisashi	Vice President
Mr. MATSUMOTO, Jun-ichiro	Vice President
Mr. NONOSE, Toru	Vice President
Mr. MORITA, Yoshihisa	Executive Director
Mr. IKOMA, Yoshinori	Auditor
Mr. KAWAGISHI, Umekazu	Auditor

3. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH (as of July XX, 2009)

TYPE	NUMBER	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	(1,000 Japanese Yen)
Architect	4,791	36,000	172,476
Retired Architect	0	18,000	0
Life Member	23	0	0
Honorary Member	87	0	0
Affiliated Member	6	18,000	108
TOTAL	4,907	—	172,584

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.

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 2008 National Convention was organized in Sendai on October 16-19.

The 2009 National Convention will be held in Kyoto on October 1-4.

The JIA held its 2009 General Assembly in Osaka on June 22, 2009.

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 1st 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 and the Union of Mongolian Architects (UMA).

In 2003, The JIA exchanged an “Accord on Professionalism” with the KIA and the KIRA separately. Last September in 2008, The JIA exchanged an “Accord on Professionalism in Architecture” with the Union of Mongolian Architects.

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

11. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE JIA (2008-2009)

- (1) General Assembly : June 22, 2009 in Osaka.
- (2) The 2009 National Convention: October 1-4, 2009 in Kyoto.
- (3) “JIA Young Architect Award” of 2008 (refer to item 13).
- (4) “JIA Sustainable Architecture Award” of 2008 (refer to item 13).
- (5) “JIA 25 Years Award (2008)” (refer to item 13)
- (6) “JIA Architect of 2008,” “JIA Grand Prix” and “JIA Award” (refer to item 13).

12. OUTREACH PROGRAM OF THE JIA

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

13. ARCHITETURAL COMPETITIONS / AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

*Refer to the attachment 1.

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*,” 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.

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 36 CPD credits every year. 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. OBS (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

At the UIA General Assembly (held in Istanbul in July 2005), the JIA was selected to host the UIA XXIV Congress and the UIA XXV Assembly in 2011 in Tokyo, Japan. At this important event, the JIA, in concert with the Japan Organizing Board for UIA 2011 Tokyo (JOB), the Japanese government, Tokyo Prefecture and other relevant institutes, is preparing for an expected attendance of 7,000 participants- 3,000 of whom are expected to attend from overseas.

18. ANY OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

18-1. DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

The Japanese economy was severely undermined by the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers last year. More than a few economists noted that the Japanese economy has experienced its worst deterioration to date, and that any trend for improvement is yet to be seen. Consequently, the JIA made significant steps to address the situation by having meaningful talks with the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications regarding better architectural practices. Moreover, it remains critical that architects continue to devote themselves to their profession in order to maintain society's fullest confidence in their abilities.

18-2. ACTIVITIES FOR THE AMENDMENT OF KENCHIKUSHI LAW

Due to the problematic issues resulting from 1st 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 a round table discussion (Fundamental System Work Program of the Architecture Department of the Social Infrastructure Council). At this discussion, the JIA insisted the current "Kenchikushi Law" should be amended to better satisfy the needs of society and assure the quality and safety of architecture.

The Kenchikushi Law, which defines qualifications for both architects and building engineers, was revised and became effective in November 2007. Since then, the JIA has supported an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of ethical viewpoints on behalf of architects.

Amendment clauses to the Kenchikushi Law are expected to abolish the current examination system and introduce a new three-year license renewal procedure. Additionally, these clauses specify an advanced level of structural and M&E licensing procedures, as well as a system of accountability for key pre-contractual issues.

*Attachment 1 – The JIA Awards

The JIA awards the "JIA Architect of 2008," "JIA Grand Prix," "JIA Award," "JIA Young Architect Award" and the "JIA Sustainable Architecture Award" annually, as well as the semi-annual "JIA Twenty-Five Year Award".

The JIA Young Architect Award (2008)

Winner:	Mr. Hiroshi Iguchi	"Camouflaged House 3"
	Mr. Tomohiko Yamanashi and Mr. Tatsuya Hatori	"Jimbo-cho Theater Building"

The JIA Sustainable Architecture Award (2008)

Winner:	Ms. Andrea Hikone	"IDIC"
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The JIA Twenty-Five Year Award (2008)

Winner:	Nikken Sekkei	"Bank of Mitsubishi-Tokyo UFJ Otemachi Bldg."
	Atelier Zo	"Shinsyukan"
	Mr. Michio Gomi	"Nakano Hachioji Junior and Senior High School Attached to Meiji University"
	Mr. Kenzo Tange	"The Sogetsu Kaikan"
	Mr. Tsutomu Abe	"Kagawa Archives and Resource Center"
	Mr. Isamu Kujirai	"Poulailler"
	Mr. Tei-ichi Takahashi	"The Art Center"

JIA Grand Prix

Winner:	Mr. Atsushi Kitagawara	"Nakamura Keith Haring Collection"
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JIA Award

Winner:	Mr. Takaharu Tezuka and Ms. Yui Tezuka	"Fuji Kindergarten"
	Mr. Hiroshi Nakamura	"Dancing trees, Singing birds"
	Mr. Shuji Nose	"Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum"

200 Selected Works

200 JIA works were selected to be published in the "JIA Architects of the Year 2008", which is the year book of the JIA. The JIA Grand Prix and JIA Awards were selected from the works published in this book