

COUNTRY REPORT

For the 30th ARCASIA Council Meeting
From August 18 to 19, 2009, Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA



“Architects leading the Culture of Green Architecture”
Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA)

1. History of the institute

Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) was founded in 1965 established pursuant to the Certified Architects Act. KIRA joined the Architects Regional Council ASIA (ARCASIA) as a member organization in 1985 and was admitted as the member section of the International Union of Architects (UIA) as an ad hoc body (FIKA) in 2000. Also KIRA became a member of APEC Architects Central Council in May, 2006 and 261 APEC Architects have been registered for the last two years from 2007 to 2009. KIRA has successfully hosted the 13th Asian Congress of Architects in 2008.

KIRA is a professional organization representing Korea's architectural community. It aims to bolster the competitive edge of the Korean architectural industry by enhancing public understanding of architecture, creating a comfortable urban architectural environment, promoting the advancement of architectural culture and technology and supporting research into the architecture of the future.

October 23, 1965	Inaugural Meeting (Establishment of charter and regulations)
December 3, 1965	Authorization of establishment by the Ministry of Construction
December 3~30, 1965	Establishment of 11 branches in major cities and provinces
November, 1985	Joined the ARCASIA Member Organization
October 20, 1994	Changed the name of sub-branch office to regional chapter office
June, 2000	Admitted to be the UIA Member Section as an ad hoc body (FIKA)
May, 2006	Became a member of APEC Register Architects Central Council
December 8, 2006	Completion of a new building (KIRA Headquarter, Total Area of 124,538 ft2 with five stories below and seven above the ground)
October 27~ November 1, 2008	Organized the 13 th Asian Congress of Architects in Pusan

2. Current office bearers & committees

The board of directors is composed of the president, vice presidents and the board of directors. It deliberates on matters entrusted from the general assembly and matters related to enforcement of duties.

Each committee performs activities to satisfy its goals and operates as funded by its budget. If necessary, sub-committees for the special purposes can be established.

President	Arch. Young-jip CHOI	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
Vice President	Mr. In-kee SHIN	May 2006~May 2010
	Arch. Chang-sup LEE	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Moo-chan DO	Mar.2006~Feb.2010
	Arch. Sung-ik KANG	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Young-soo KIM	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
Directors	Arch. Yong-cheol JEON	Aug.2007~Aug.2009
	Arch. Back-soon KWON	Mar.2008~Feb.2010
	Arch. Sang-boo KIM	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Yong-mi KIM	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Han-jin KIM	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Jong-goo SUK	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Chun Gyu SHIN	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Gag-pyo LEE	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Young-ho LEE	Mar.2008~Feb.2010
	Arch. Jae-lim LEE	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Chang-yool LEE	Mar.2008~Feb.2010
	Arch. Yang-soon CHANG	Mar.2008~Feb.2010
	Arch. Hyun-sook JANG	Mar.2009~Feb.2011
	Arch. Sung-won CHO	Mar.2007~Feb.2011
Arch. Chung-kee CHO	Mar.2008~Feb.2010	
Auditors	Arch. Ki Jong JANG	Mar.2008~Feb.2010
	Arch. Myong-auk CHUNG	Mar.2009~Feb.2011

▷ Committees of KIRA

Central Committee
Urgent Countermeasure Committee
Policy Committee
Administration Committee
Finance and Economy Committee
Mutual-aid Committee
Legal Committee
International Relations Committee
Women Architects Committee
APEC Architect Monitoring Committee
Culture and Promotion Committee
Newspaper Editorial Committee
Journal Publication Committee

3. Membership strength up to 30th June, 2009

3.1 Categories of membership

Memberships are given to persons in the following categories.

1) Regular Member: Those registered architects who reported for architectural design business according to the Architect Law and joined the Institute.

2) Associate Member: An architect whose business operation is not registered, or a person who has acquired an architect's license abroad.

3) Honorary Member: A person who has contributed greatly to KIRA or to the development of architectural culture. He or she should be recommended by the board of directors of KIRA.

- Louise Cox (President of Union of International Architects)
- Marshall E. Purnell (Former President of American Institute of Architects)
- Juhini Katainen (President of the Architects' Council of Europe)

4) Special Member: An individual person or entity that has made a contribution to KIRA.

5) Participating Member: A person involved in architecture or an assistant architect.

6) Student Member: A Student who has completed at least two year of a college architectural program.

3.2 Annual membership fees

An architect, to be a regular member of KIRA should pay a ₩2,000,000 (approximately USD 2,000) of admission fee with monthly dues of ₩25,000 (approximately USD 25).

3.3 Current membership strength of KIRA

As of June, 2009

Category of membership	No. of members	No. of firms
Regular Member	7,957	7,173
Associate Member	16	-
Honorary Member	3	-
Special Member	-	-
Participating Member	-	-
Student Member	224	-
TOTAL	8,200	7,173

4. Budget

The budget of USD 23 Million for the 2009 fiscal year was accepted by the 43th General Assembly taken place in February, 2009. The budget and expenditure consists of general and special accounts respectively. The main source of revenue is from membership dues from registered architects and architectural technicians, advertisement in publications, research funds from the government etc. Any remaining funds will be retained for the membership pension and any other purposes as per congressional approval.

5. Headquarter & regional chapters

KIRA comprises HQ office in Seoul and sixteen Chapters in cities and provinces, with a total of 7,957 members. Status of the Chapters is as below.

<No. of members and firms of each KIRA chapter>

As of June, 2009

Division of Chapters	No. of members	No. of Firms
Seoul	2,389	1,979
Busan Metropolitan City	667	595
Daegu Metropolitan City	592	519
Incheon Metropolitan City	325	315
Gwangju Metropolitan City	265	243
Daejeon Metropolitan City	338	289
Ulsan Metropolitan City	215	204
Gyeonggi-do	996	956
Gangwon-do	206	198
Chungcheongbuk-do	264	238
Chungcheongnam-do	280	264
Jeollabuk-do	275	261
Jeollanam-do	201	194
Gyeongsangbuk-do	387	378
Gyeongsangnam-do	438	424
Jeju Special Self-Governing Province	119	116
Total	7,957	7,173

5.1 Role and activity of headquarter (HQ)

Roles and Activities of the HQ office are as below.

- Research and evaluation on construction
- Guidance for improvement of quality for structures and improvement of construction technology

- Improvement and development of architectural business
- Insurance of member credentials and establishment of ethical standards
- Training architects and their assistants
- Promotion of member welfare and related business
- Research on architecture related laws and systems
- International activities and exchange of architectural information with overseas organizations
- Issuance of various publications
- Operation of the Architecture Information Center
- Conducting career management programs for architectural technicians as well as managing qualifications exams for architects commissioned by the government
- Recommendation and consultation on governmental issues
- Encouragement talented young architects, provides scholarships to selected students
- Other projects that correspond to the founding objectives

5. 2 Roles and activities of chapters

The role of the chapter is similar to that of the HQ office. A Chapter's duties include the research and investigation of building surveys and architects' business practices; the review of architectural construction techniques; the supervision of members' ethical practices; the improvement of morale and welfare of its members; the management of membership and other necessary duties.

6. General meeting

The General Assembly of KIRA divides into regular meeting and provisional meetings, deliberates on important matters including drafting of the charter, establishment of regulations and their amendment, business plans, and approval of budgets and settlements of the year.

At the 43th General Assembly taken place in February 25, 2009, KIRA has agreed to join the integration of three architectural organizations (Korea Institute of Registered Architects, Korean Institute of Architects, Korea Architects Institute) into newly built organization. We expect to hold an inauguration ceremony in October 2009 launching a new organization. KIRA has also confirmed 5 years' business plan and established each year's working plan. Budgets of the year of 2009 and the settlements of the year 2008 have been approved by the 2009 General Assembly.

7. Legal status of the institute

KIRA was established on October 23, 1965, in accordance with the Architect Law, enforced since December 16, 1963. The members of KIRA consist of the registered Architects.

Architectural Law stipulates the qualifications of Registered Architects and their scope of work as below.

- 1) Registered Architects are persons who obtain architecture licenses as issued by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM).
- 2) Design and Supervision during construction.

Only registered architects are authorized to design buildings which require government permits. Also, only registered architects are authorized to supervise the construction of buildings either designed by themselves or other registered architects.

- 1) Any person who has undergone approved courses of study is eligible to obtain an architectural license upon passing the KIRA licensing examination.
- 2) Registered architects shall register their office at the MLTM prior to commencement of business. To register his/her office, the architect must associate or hire a recommended number of architects, as required by the law.

8. Registration authority of architects

Official registration at the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM) is essential prior to commencement of practice.

8. 1 Procedure for enrollment

- 1) Submit an enrollment application to the MLTM with proper identification, a license, a register of associate architects, office status, a guide map, and other data as required.
- 2) The MLTM reviews the submitted documents and verifies them on site. If everything has been prepared properly, the MLTM will issue a certification of enrollment.

8. 2 Relations of membership with the KIRA

- When an architectural office has been authorized, it has the option to enroll as a KIRA member.
- The regular and/or associate KIRA member shall pay membership dues.
- When an architecture office closes or when an architect's license registration has lapsed, membership to KIRA shall be forfeited accordingly.

- KIRA supports all of its members and tries to maintain a current file of all of its member careers.

9. International affiliations of the institutes

KIRA has been a member organization of Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) since 1985 and a member section of the International Union of Architects (UIA) as Ad hoc body with Korean Institute of Architects (KIA) and Architectural Institute of Korea (AIK) since 2000. And KIRA exchanged a “Mutual Agreement” with Japan Federation of Architects & Building Engineers Associations (JFABEA) in 1985 and the Union of Mongolian Architects (UMA) in 1995 and “Accord on Professionalism in Architecture” with the Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) in 2003.

The Korea China Japan Registered Architects Organization Meeting has been organized since 1997, consisting of Chinese National Administration Board of Architectural Registration (NABAR) and Japan Federation of Architects & Building Engineers Associations (JFABEA).

KIRA has signed “Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications with the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) during the meeting in Turin, Italy on June 30, 2008 and “Mutual Agreement” with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) on October 30, 2008 for the continuous discussion and cooperation concerning the continuing education and practice-based apprenticeship of architects as well as improvement of examination systems.

KIRA is making continuous efforts to promote good relationships with overseas organizations to exchange good knowledge on architecture and corporative works.

10. Major activities during the last one year

10.1 Integration of three architectural organizations

KIRA is leading the integration of three architectural organizations (Korea Institute of Registered Architects, Korean Institute of Architects, Korea Architects Institute) into one body to cope with the change of architectural environment; legislation of Architectural laws, revision of Architect law and the contract of Korea-USA FTA etc. We suppose to hold the inauguration ceremony in October, 2009.

10.2 Establishment of regulations on education and recognition of membership

KIRA established regulations on education of architects and recognition of membership to develop member’s ability and insure member credentials. Members should take a 72 hour course (36 hours for the required subjects, 36 hours for the optional subjects) in 2 years.

10.3 Foundation of Sustainable Architecture Academy

KIRA has founded Sustainable Architecture Academy to foster design professionals on green architecture. It will be co-organized by three architectural organizations commissioned by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs for five years from 2009 to 2013.

10.4 Contract MOU with RIST to research on high-rise complex buildings

KIRA has signed MOU with Research Institute of Industrial Science and Technology (RIST) in Pohang to conduct the research on high-rise complex buildings in March, 2009 commissioned by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs.

10.5 Research project on systems and operation manual to manage a life cycle of buildings

KIRA is conducting the research project to build information systems and an operation manual to manage the entire life cycle of buildings commissioned by Seoul Metropolitan City. The research period will be from April to November, 2009 for 7 months.

10.6 Research on architectural master plan for Seoul Metropolitan City

KIRA is conducting the research on architectural master plans for the Seoul Metropolitan City from May, 2009 to August, 2010 for 15 months. KIRA will carry out the fundamental inspection on the trend of architectural industries and provide guidelines of the future police to promote architecture and architectural culture and environment of Seoul Metropolitan City.

10.7 The 4th Korea-China-Japan Architects Soccer tournament

The 4th Korea-China-Japan Architects Soccer tournament has been held in Ulsan Korea on June 27, 2009. This soccer tournament aims to promote friendship and to exchange architectural culture between three neighboring countries. During this event, participants enjoyed the architectural tour to “Ragung”, the first Hanok (Korean traditional housing) Hotel. Holding the Architects World Cup in 2011 has been discussed to take place in Tokyo, Japan during the period of General Assembly of UIA.

Publications & exhibitions

11.1 Publications

KIRA has been publishing monthly magazine ‘Architect’ since 1966. 10,500 copies are distributed to KIRA members and governmental organizations. KIRA also publishes a newspaper ‘the Architectural Culture News’ in every two weeks from the year of 2006 (11,000 circulations).

KIRA has published a book ‘Guidance of Architectural Administration’ in 2009. It aims to help understand the Architectural Laws and contains Q&A on precedents.

11.2 Exhibition

KIRA organizes the professional architectural exhibition in Korea 'Korea Architecture Fair and Festival (KAFF)' in October every year. 2009 KAFF will be taken place at COEX Convention Center from October 7 to 11, 2009 with the title 'Zero revolution: Design Green Architecture'.



The exhibition 2009 focuses on Green Architecture, Green Architectural materials and landscape, new and renewable energy, and green IT. Exhibitors are invited to join the Exhibition including architectural firms, construction companies and building materials companies.



11.3 Awards and design competitions

KIRA holds 'Korean Architecture Awards' annually. The awards aim at discovering talented and promising architects to inspire creativity of KIRA members. The works can be submitted for two categories; built and un-built architecture and 'built' category has four small categories – public sector, private sector, apartment housing and residential housing projects. Their works are exhibited for local viewers and published every year.



12. Key issues faced by the profession and architects

12.1 Revision of the Architect Laws

KIRA is leading the process of revising the Architect Laws including architectural education and Intern Development Program (IDP), examination systems, and the registration and continuing education programs for the registered architects to comply with international standards.

12.2 Establish standards of compensation and scope of architectural works

The law has been established under the Article 31 of the Architect Law to set up standards of compensation and scope of architectural works in December, 2008. It aims to foster qualified registered architects and to make improvement of the quality of construction supervision.

12.3 Reformed the unfair agreement to protect the copy right of the architectural works

KIRA has requested the examination of Fair Trade Commission of the Republic of Korea to reform the unfair agreement to protect the copy right of the architectural works in December, 2008. As a result, the Office of Supply and a few local governments states that the copy right of works submitted for the national competitions should be involved in applicants (architects) rather than the hosting organizations.

12.4 Construction companies request of the right for the architectural design and supervision

Construction companies are calling for a change in the system to allow them to handle architectural works including architectural design and supervision. They insist that the architects employed in construction companies should be given the right to design and supervise their own constructed buildings so that they can apply their construction technology to the architectural design. They argue that this system enables customers to have more choices. However, architects claim that this will lead to the loss of an important audit function and faulty construction.

13.Plans for the future

13.1 Establishment of national architectural policies of the future

Under the Article 13 of the Fundamental Laws of Architecture, the National Architectural Policies Committee has been inaugurated in December, 2008 to review the significant architectural polices and to regulate the policies with related parties of the Government. The Committee will be contributed to promoting architectural arts and environmental design of the Land. The Committee is under direct control of the President of Republic of Korea. KIRA fully supports and participate in activities of the Committee by providing technical advice and suggestions or opinions on architectural policies.

13.2 Strengthening the identity as the professional architectural organization

As integrated into one organization, KIRA, as the professional architectural organization will contribute to enhancing the international standing of Korean architecture and architects.

Contents	Before Integration			After Integration
Name of the Organization	Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA)	Korean Institute of Architects (KIA)	Korea Architects Institute (KAI)	Korean Institute of Architects (KIA)
Organization	Headquarter 16 Chapters 107 Regional Chapter Offices	Headquarter 10 Chapters 2 Overseas Chapters	Headquarter 3 Chapters -	
Category of the membership	7,957 Regular Members (All members are registered Architects)	2,940 Regular Members (1,458 Architects)	910 Regular Members (900 Architects)	
No. of employees (Full-time)	51	8	3	