

COUNTRY REPORT

FOR THE 30th ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING



The Architectural Society of China

August 18-19, 2009

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

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01. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

The Architectural Society of China (ASC) was founded in 1953. ASC was admitted as the national section of the International Union of Architects (UIA) in 1955 and ASC became a national member institute of the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA) in 1989.

The objectives and tasks of the ASC are promoting various academic exchanges, publishing periodicals in architecture and engineering, organizing international conferences, symposia and study tours in order to enhance the prosperity of architectural creation and technological progress.

Being the bridge and tie linking between members and with the government sectors and other professional organizations, the ASC protects the rights of its members by recommending talents and giving commendations to advanced so as to initiate good professional morals and excellent style of study.

02. CURRENT OFFICE BEARERS

The current office bearers were elected at ASC National General Assembly in March 2005 for a term of 4 years (2005-April 2009).

Honorary President: Ye Rutang

President: Song Chunhua

Vice Presidents: Ma Guoxin, He Jingtang, Cui Kai,
Xu Anzhi, Dou Yide, Li Xiankui,
Luo Deqi, Wu Zhiguang, Liu Jingliang,
Ou Jingping.

Secretary General: Zhou Chang

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<http://www.chinaasc.org>

03. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH

ASC has totally of over 100,000 members (including architects, structural engineers,

urban planners, interior designers, etc. most of the members are registered at ASC local chapters and sub-institutes), about 30,000 of which are architects. The ASC members are including Fellow Member, Member, Associate Member, Corporate Member and Student Member.

04. BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

The fund for ASC is from 3 channels, the financial allocation from the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development and the China Association of Science and Technology, part of the fund is collected by ASC General Secretariat from consulting services. The Secretary General is the legal person of the General Secretariat and authorizes the spending.

05. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

ASC is a big family. It has 20 sub-institutes (Institute of Architects, Institute of Interior Designers etc.) and has local chapters in provinces and in some major cities. The sub-institute and local chapters are independent in their activities and they are generally guided by the ASC. The fund for sub-institutes and local chapters is raised by themselves and the Secretary General of the chapters authorizes the spending.

06. CONGRESS OF THE INSTITUTE

ASC National Congress and General Assembly are held every 4 years. The new council and office bearers are elected at the Assembly. Lectures and exhibitions are also organized at the congress. In the years between the congresses, the ASC organizes annual conventions, symposia, exhibitions and other activities each year.

07. LEGAL STATUS OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY

ASC is the only architectural organization representing architects in the country. The ASC is recognized by the government and is registered by the Ministry of Civil Affairs as a juridical association. The ASC is a multi-disciplinary institute including architects, engineers and other professionals in the field of building industry. There is no other architects group in the country at present.

08. LEGAL STATUS OF THE ARCHITECTS IN THE COUNTRY

The architects registration system in China has been put into practice from 1995, and those who graduated from the schools of architecture can take part in the national examination for registration. By passing the examination, candidate is qualified for registration. After registration, the architect holds the title of Registered Architect. Now in China there are only a few firms for private practice. Most of the firms are

government owned design institutes (offices). But there is a trend of transforming from government owned design institute into partnership or joint-stock company.

For practice in China, there is double-control on the “license”, the business license and the qualification license. The business license is issued by the National or Provincial Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Administration to a design institute for commercial operation. The qualification license is issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development or the Provincial Construction Commission for undertaking architectural and/or building designs. There are presently 3 classes for architectural design offices, namely Class A, B and C. Class A is unlimited in the projects they can undertake, Class B limited to medium and small projects; and Class C to small projects. The qualification is based on the number of registered architects and/or registered structural engineers employed in the said office. For example, there should be no less than 3 Class-1 registered architects and/or 3 Class-1 registered structural engineers in a Class A office; One Class-1 registered architect and/or one Class-1 registered structural engineer in a Class B office; and one Class-2 registered architect and/or one Class-2 registered structural engineer in a Class C office. The qualification is re-examined and renewed every two years. No business license will be issued without firstly obtaining the qualification license.

The scale of design fee is jointly published by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Housing and Urban & Rural Development. It is more or less a guidance scale, and the client can still negotiate with the design offices for higher or lower rates.

09. REGISTRATION AUTHORITY FOR ARCHITECTS IN THE COUNTRY

According to the law issued by the central government, architects registration is undertaken by NABAR (National Administration Board of Architectural Registration). The latest edition of Registered Architects Ordinance of China was issued on January 29, 2008 and the Bylaws of the Registered Architects were implemented from 1st July 1996. At present, about 19725 Class-1 Registered Architects are registered by NABAR. Class-2 Registered Architects are registered by Provincial or Municipal Administration Board of Architectural Registration.

10. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

ASC joined UIA (International Union of Architects) in 1955 as a national section and several ASC members held posts in UIA.

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| Prof. Zhou Yongxin | UIA Council Member | 1955-1957 |
| Prof. Yang Tingbao | UIA Vice President | 1957-1963 |
| Mr. He Guangqian | UIA Council Member | 1978-1984 |

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| Prof. Wu Liangyong | UIA Council Member | 1985-1987 |
| | UIA Vice President | 1987-1990 |
| Mr. Zhou Ganchi | UIA Council Member | 1990-1996 |
| Mr. Ye Rutang | UIA Council Member | 1996-2002 |
| Mr. Song Chunhua | UIA Council Member | 2002-2008 |
| Mr. Zhou Chang | UIA Council Member | 2008-2011 |

11. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE INSTITUTE IN THE PAST YEAR

- (1) To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, ASC organized a competition for the ASC Great Award of Architectural Creation. All the winning architects will be awarded with a medal and the winning projects will be awarded with a plaque which could be appended to the prominent position of the building.
- (2) ASC widely promoted the "Celebration of Cities 3" among the Chinese architects and students, which is an international competition organized by the International Union of Architects. Chinese students are most active in the competition. In the total 129 student entries for the competition, 59 entries come from the Chinese students.
- (3) Cooperating with the International Union of Architects, ASC launched the "International Conceptual Planning Competition for Shanghai Pudong Huaxia Culture Tourist Resort" in June 2009 under the UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning.
- (4) ASC organized the national selection of the candidate entries for the ARCASIA Award 2009/2010 and submitted 16 entries to the ARCASIA Award Convenor.
- (5) Cooperating with the China Architecture and Building Press, ASC published *2008 Beijing Olympic Building Series*.
- (6) ASC participated in the consultation and discussion meeting for the reconstruction of Beichuan County which is heavily struck in the devastating earthquake of last year. ASC presided the examination of the principal construction projects.

12. OUTREACH PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTE

ASC General Secretariat publishes 3 professional journals:

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| <i>Architectural Journal</i> | monthly | circulation: 360,000 copies/year |
| <i>Journal of Building Structures</i> | bi-monthly | circulation: 60,000 copies/year |
| <i>Architectural Knowledge</i> | bi-monthly | circulation: 90,000 copies/year |

These 3 journals are published in Chinese with an English abstract and are distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian, P.O.Box 399, Beijing, China). The ASC journals welcome for exchange.

ASC together with AIJ (Architectural Institute of Japan) and AIK (Architectural Institute of Korea) publishes the *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering* in English language. At present this journal is published 2 issues a year.

ASC' web site: www.chinaasc.org

13. ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS/AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

- (1) ASC Awards for Architectural Creation are issued every 3 years to ASC members for built works of excellent design.
- (2) ASC Awards for Young Architects are issued every 2 years to young architects under the age of 35.
- (3) LIANG SICHENG Architecture Award, a joint award founded by ASC and MOC (Ministry of Construction) in 2000. The honored architect will be awarded with 100,000 Yuan RMB (about 12,000 USD) for his/her life time achievements and contributions in architecture.
- (4) ASC Award of Architecture Education, the award is to honor educators in the school of architecture for his/her contribution to the architectural education.

14. KEY ISSUES FACING THE ARCHITECTS/ARCHITECTURE PROFESSION /INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY

15. SOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

The ASC has moved to the new office building of China Architectural Culture Center (just by the side of the old office building) in March 2001. The ASC has the property of 1,000 m² in the culture center for the expansion of its office space. The ASC's mailing address remains no change.

16. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- (1) As part of the celebration activities for the World Habitat Day and the World Architecture Day of 2009, ASC will co-organize with Weihai Municipal Government of Shandong Province the Fifth China Weihai International Habitat Festival on September 5 to 6, 2009.
- (2) ASC will hold its national convention and the national assembly in the spring of 2010. .
- (3) Prepare an academic seminar on the architectural design for the 2010 Shanghai World Expo.
- (4) Publish the Album of the winning projects of the ASC Great Architecture Creation

Award.