

COUNTRY REPORT

The 29th ARCASIA Council Meeting, Busan, Korea

The Japan Institute of Architects

October 28-29, 2008

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 2008 (2008/06/01-2009/05/31) 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. YAGI, Rikiya	Auditor
Mr. IKOMA, Yoshinori	Auditor

3. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH (as of September 16, 2008)

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 JIA held its 2008 General Assembly in Tokyo on May 30, 2008.

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 (2007-2008)

- (1) General Assembly : May 30, 2008 in Tokyo.
- (2) The 2008 National Convention: October 16-19, 2008 in Sendai..
- (3) “JIA Young Architect Award” of 2007 (refer to item 13).
- (4) “JIA Sustainable Architecture Award” of 2007 (refer to item 13).
- (5) “JIA 25 Years Award (2007)” (refer to item 13)
- (6) ”JIA Architect of 2007,” “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

The JIA awards the ”JIA Architect of 2007,” “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 (2007)

Winner: Mr. Akihisa Hirata “Showroom H”
Mr. Asashi Yada “ES house”

The JIA Sustainable Architecture Award (2007)

(Category: All facilities)
Winner: None

(Category: Residential)
Winner: Mr. Kenji Kuribayashi “Kameyama Sohya”

The JIA Twenty-Five Year Award (2007)

(Category: Residential)
Winner: Mr. Takefumi Aida “Tsumiki-no-Ie”
Mr. Takamitsu Azuma “Tower House”
Mr. Tsutomu Abe “Gohongi-House”
Mr. Yutaka Izue “House in Sakasedai”
Ms. Itsuko Hasegawa “Matsuyama Kuwabara-no-Jyuutaku”
Mr. Yoshihiro Masuko and Ms. Akiko Masuko “Niiza-no-Ie”
Mr. Shouei You “Hikari-koushi-no-Ie”

(Category: All facilities)

Winner: Masato Ootaka Architect and Associates “Gunma Prefectural Museum of History”
Mr. Kitou Azusa “The Yamaguchi Prefectural Museum of Art”
Nikken Sekkei Ltd. “Hiroshima Museum of Art”

JIA Grand Prix Mr. Sou Fujimoto “Treatment Center for Mentally Disturbed Children”

JIA Award Mr. Susumu Uno, Mr. Kazuhiro Kojima and Ms. Kazuko Akamatsu
“Gunma Kokusai Academy”

Mr. Manabu Chiba “Japan Guide Dog Center - Fuji Harness”

Mr. Katsuhiko Miyamoto “CLOVER House”

JIA Architects 2007

200 JIA members were selected to be published in the “JIA Architects 2007”, 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*,”^{*1} ^{*2} 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

^{*1} 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.

^{*2} Refer to the attached sheet.

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. 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

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, Japan in 2011. Consequently, the Japan Organizing Board of the UIA 2011 Tokyo was established in July 2006, and preparations to host the event have been launched.

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 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 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 was 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.