

COUNTRY REPORT

FOR THE 29th ARCASIA COUNCIL MEETING



The Architectural Society of China

October 28-29, 2008

Busan, korea

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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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03. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STRENGTH

ASC has totally of over 10,000 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, Group (firm) Member and Student Member.

04. BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

The fund for ASC is from 3 channels, the financial allocation from the Ministry of Construction and 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 chapters in provinces and in some major cities. The sub-institute and local chapters are independent in their activities and they are generally directed 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 construction. 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 accredited 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 license and the certificate. The license is issued from the National or a Provincial Bureau of Industrial and Commercial Administration to a design institute for design operation. The certificate is issued from the Ministry of Construction or the Provincial Construction Commission for undertaking architectural and/or building designs based on the qualification of the institute. There are presently 3 ranks for architectural and/or building design offices. Rank A, B and C. Rank A is unlimited in the projects they can undertake, rank B limited to medium and small projects; and Rank C to small projects. The ranks are 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 rank A office; One class-1 registered architect and/or one class-1 registered structural engineer in a rank B office; and one class-2 registered architect and/or one class-2 registered structural engineer in a rank C office. The certification is re-examined and renewed every two years. No license will be issued without firstly obtaining the certificate.

The scale of design fee is jointly issued from the State Planning Commission and the Ministry of Construction. 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 15,522 class-1 and 23,652 class-2 architects have been registered.

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.

Prof. Zhou Yongxin	UIA Council Member	1955-1957
Prof. Yang Tingbao	UIA Vice President	1957-1963
Mr. He Guangqian	UIA Council Member	1978-1984
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) ASC and the National Board of Architectural Accreditation of China (NABB) sent a delegation to take part in the 3rd International Architectural Accreditation /Validation Roundtable held in Canberra, Australia on April 7-9, 2008. The Canberra Accord on Architectural Education was signed on April 9, 2008.
- (2) A heavy earthquake happened last May in Sichuan Province in China, ASC had organized a symposium on July 3rd, 2008. Over 40 Chinese architects attended and offered their consulting advice on the planning and reconstruction of the earthquake affected region.
- (3) ASC delegation attended UIA 24th General Assembly held in Turino, Italy on July 3-6th, 2008. ASC Secretary General Mr. Zhou Chang was elected as the UIA Council Member for the term of 2008-2011.
- (4) ASC representative attended the 3rd Meeting of the APEC Architect Central Council Was held in Vancouver, Canada on august 7-8, 2008.
- (5) ASC jury meeting was held on August 26-27, 2008 and 30 young architects are selected for 2008 ASC Award for Young Architects.
- (6) Co-organized by AIJ, AIK and ASC, the 7th International Symposium on Architectural Interchanges in Asia was held on October 15-17, 2008 in Beijing, China. Over 400 participants attended, and the conference proceedings composed of over 200 papers is published.

12. OUTREACH PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTE

ASC General Secretariat publishes 3 professional journals:

<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, one architect is awarded with 100,000 Yuan RMB (about 12,000 USD) for their life time achievements and contributions in architecture.
- (4) ASC Award of Architecture Education, the award is honored to educators in the school of architecture for their 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) Co-organized by the UN-HABITAT and the Ministry of Construction of China, the World Urban Forum 4 will be held in Nanjing, China on November 3-6, 2008. ASC as a partner of the event, will organize a forum on Energy Efficiency in Contemporary Architecture.
- (2) ASC will hold its Congress and General Assembly in Beijing, China by the fall of 2009.