

COUNTRY REPORT BANGLADESH

Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB)

1.0 Brief History

Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) was established on February 25th, 1972 in Dhaka, following the independence of the country in 1971. The founder president of the Institute was architect Muzharul Islam. The urbanization trends of the post colonial era and the independence in 1971 brought new challenges in terms of context and economy in the field of architecture.

In 1961 the first school of architecture was established in Dhaka. Presently there are three government and eight private universities producing nearly 500 architects a year. About 1500 architects are currently practicing in the country, who are products of these educational institutions of which 90% are members of IAB. IAB is recognized as the sole professional body of architects in the country. The Institute is run by an eleven-member Executive Committee, elected by the General Members for a two year term.

2.0 Current Office Bearers (for the term 2007-2008)

Office	Name	Reg. Number
President	Ar. Mubasshar Hussain	H-013
Vice-President	Ar. Nahas Ahmed Khalil	K-022
General Secretary	Ar. Kazi Golam Nasir	N-006
Joint Secretary	Ar. Jalal Ahmad	A-036
Treasurer	Ar. Dewan Shamsul Arif	A-079
Member (Education)	Ar. Abu Sayeed M Ahmed	A-035
Member (Publication)	Ar. Albab Ahmed	A-068
Member (Seminar)	Ar. Md. Ishtiaque Zahir	Z-011
Member (Culture)	Ar. Nishat Ara Khondker	K-016
Member (Membership)	Ar. Taher Azad	A-085
Member (Profession)	Ar. Mamnoon Murshed Chowdhury	C-031

3.0 Membership Strength as of December 2007

There are four categories of membership, namely Honorary Member, Member, Candidate Member and Student Member. Only "Members" have voting rights. The current membership strength of the Institute is as follows:

Category	Number
Honorary Member	: 1
Member (Active)	: 426
Member (Inactive)	: 305
Candidate Member (Active)	: 358
Candidate Member (Inactive)	: 262
Student Member	: 100

4.0 Budget of the Institute

Operational funding of IAB is raised from four major sources: -

- (a) Annual subscription of the members.
- (b) Financial Grant from the Government through the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.
- (c) Supportive activities such as competitions, consulting fee, building material exhibitions, publications etc.
- (d) Event based sponsorships.
- (e) Interests from Fixed Deposits and Savings Certificates

5.0 Chapters & Branches

There is provision in the constitution to establish chapters of the Institute in different regions of Bangladesh, where the number of architects is at least 100. We are yet to have such a chapter. But as per the constitution there is also provision for formation of branch offices of IAB at different parts of Bangladesh, where the number of practicing architects is between 10 and 100. At present IAB has one branch office at Chittagong. The branch office operates through a sub-committee. Another branch is planned to be set up in Khulna city very soon.

6.0 General Meetings

The last Biennial General Meeting was held on December 15, 2006 to consider and adopt the yearly accounts and balance sheet and the general reports of the Executive Committee. Election of the subsequent Executive Committee was held as last agenda of this meeting.

The next Biennial General Meeting and Election of the next Executive Committee will be held in December, 2008.

7.0 Legal Status of the Institute in the Country

The institute is registered with the Government as a Society under provision of law.

The Government recognizes the Institute (IAB) as the only organization representing the architects in the country.

8.0 Legal Status of the Architects in Bangladesh

Although the title "architect" is not yet protected by law, but the recent "Dhaka Metropolitan Building (Construction, Development, Conservation & Demolition) Rules 2008", defines "Architect" only those who are members of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh. Therefore, it is mandatory to be a Member of the Institute (IAB) to design any building within the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) region. The same legal provisions are also in the process of being gradually adopted by other large cities of the country.

9.0 Registration Authority of Architects in Bangladesh

A draft "Architect's Act" is under consideration of being enacted by Government. On 18th June 2001 the Cabinet approved this draft. A bill was to be placed in the parliament but stalled at the last moment. However, in the absence of the Architect's Act, currently members of IAB are recognized as "Architect" under the "Dhaka Metropolitan Building (Construction, Development, Conservation & Demolition) Rules 2008"

10.0 International Affiliations

IAB is affiliated with the following International Architectural Bodies:

UIA	:	Union of International Architects
CAA	:	Commonwealth Association of Architects
ARCASIA	:	Architects Regional Council for ASIA
SAARCH	:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation of Architects

10.1 Union of International Architects (UIA): This year, 23rd UIA Congress at Turin was very important for Bangladesh, as our noble laureate Prof. Mohammad Yunus presented the key note speech at the Congress. The President of IAB Ar. Mubasshar Hussain, General Secretary Ar. Kazi Golam Nasir, Treasurer Ar. Dewan Shamsul Arif and a large contingent of IAB members attended the 23rd UIA Congress held in Turin, Italy in June, 2008.

10.2 Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA): CAA Assembly and Conference was scheduled to be held at Dhaka in April, 2007. But due to prevailing political condition of the country it was cancelled.

Ar. Mubasshar Hussain served as the Vice President (Region 4) of CAA for the period 2006-08.

10.3 Architects Regional Council for ASIA (ARCASIA): Under the Leadership of Ar. Mubasshar Hussain, President IAB and Vice President Zone A and Chairman Elect of ARCASIA a large contingent of architects attended the ARCASIA Forum-14 held at Colombo, Sri Lanka in September, 2007.

10.4 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation of Architects (SAARCH): IAB is a founder member of SAARCH. In 2007-2008, Past President of IAB Ar. Khadem Ali and Past Joint Secretary of IAB Ar. Kazi Muhammad Arif served as the President and General Secretary of SAARCH.

11.0 Major Activities in 2007-08.

- Architectural Competition for the Proposed IAB Center Building: July-September, 2007
- Berger Paint Award for Architectural Excellence: November, 2007
- Publication of CAA Conference Papers titled "Society, Architects & Emerging Issues"
- CAA 7th International Student Design Competition : March 21-23, 2007
- IAB 17th Executive Committee Meets Noble Laureate Prof. Mohammad Yunus on his Birthday 28 June, 2007
- Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture, August-November. 2007
- Annual Get together and Picnic of IAB was held at Bengal Foundation Premises in February, 2008.
- IAB Centre Competition Award Giving Ceremony, Publication Ceremony of "40 Projects, IAB Centre Design Competition" & Cultural Evening held at Dhaka in May 2008
- At the invitation of Ar. Mubasshar Hussain, President IAB, Ar. Gaetan Siew, President of UIA visited Bangladesh and met the IAB EC members and noble laureate Prof. Mohammad Yunus.
- Roundtable jointly organised by IAB, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) and Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) on the draft "Private Sector Real Estate Management Ordinance, 2008" at BIP centre on August, 2008.

12.0 Exhibitions

- Exhibition of the IAB Centre Design Competition Entries at Bengal Gallery, October, 2007
- Exhibition of the Award Winning Projects of Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture, Hotel Radisson, November. 2007
- Exhibition of the CAA 7th International Student Design Competition: March 23-28, 2007
- Exhibition and Award Giving Ceremony of ICE Today Aqua Paint Interior Architecture Held at Hotel Radisson, August, 2007
- Exhibition & Award Giving Ceremony of Islamia Eye Hospital Competition Entries at Bengal Gallery, March, 2008
- Exhibition and Slide Presentation of Works of Bangladeshi Architects at Sidney in September, 2008 was organised by Bangladeshi Architects in Australia (BAA) in association with Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA). During this program Ar. Mubasshar Hussain, President IAB met the officials of RAIA and the current President of UIA at Sydney

13.0 Publications:

During 2007-008 IAB has successfully completed the publication of

- CAA Conference Papers titled “Society, Architects & Emerging Issues” which was scheduled to be held in March, 2007.
- Catalogue of all entries of the IAB head office architectural design competition titled “40 Projects: IAB Centre Design Competition”
- The Institute also publishes “IAB Newsletter” covering national and international news and views on architectural issues.

14.0 Architectural Design Competitions/Awards

Architectural Design Competition is a frequent feature of IAB. In the recent past, IAB has successfully organized two open competitions. The are (i) the long waited IAB HQ architectural design competition at its own premise and (ii) the Islamia Eye Hospital design competition. There were huge participation by the members of IAB in these competitions. More competitions are in the process of being finalized.

IAB Design Award:

The Institute has introduced IAB design Awards since 1996. It is a biennial program. In May 2008, the IAB Awards for the year 2006 have been given to two projects.

Berger Award for Excellence in Architecture 2007

Originally conceived & introduced as Berger Young Architects Awards, Berger Awards for Excellence in Architecture is a very popular and prestigious joint program of Berger Paints Bangladesh and IAB. A total of four projects received the Berger Awards for Excellence in Architecture in 2007.

ICE Today Aqua Paints Awards for Interior Architecture

ICE Today Aqua Paints Awards for Interior Architecture have been launched in association with IAB in 2007 and the 1st award giving ceremony was held in August, 2007.

World Architecture Awards (1st cycle) 2008

It is indeed a great honor for Bangladesh that 2 building projects by two Bangladeshi architects have been selected among the top twenty projects from among approximately three thousands projects submitted from all over the world.

JK Cement Awards 2008

In the recently concluded current cycle of JK Cement Awards 2008, projects by two members of IAB have received commendations. Also in all previous award cycles members of IAB have received awards in JK Cement Awards.

Representation in Public Bodies, Participation in Social Activism

IAB believes in the betterment of the society and the profession by addressing the key issues of the time like better environment, sustainability, protection of heritage sites etc. by generating awareness among the public.

It is also closely and actively perusing public interest issues and also engaged in mobilization of public opinion on different civic issues.

- IAB has formal representation in the Urban Development Committee of Capital Development Authority (RajUK), by law.
- IAB is also invited to send representatives in evaluation committees for selection of architectural consultants of different public, semi autonomous and autonomous agencies like National Housing Authority, City Corporations and so on.
- IAB is also regularly invited to send delegates and present papers in seminars and workshops of different public and autonomous agencies related to Architecture, Planning and Environment.

16.0 Outreach Program

In general events of IAB, ministers, high government officials, members of civil society and important personalities are invited as guests with the objective sensitizing the decision-makers on issues relating to the profession.

IAB Executive Committee members and general members also attend public interest seminars, roundtables, TV & Radio talk shows pertaining to architecture, planning and environmental issues and to uphold the issues relating to the profession .

Seminars and Lectures

The Institute is organizing lecture series on a regular basis by inviting distinguished architects and relevant professionals from home and abroad. During 2007-08 IAB has arranged 52 lectures where foreign and local architects and members of the academia have presented their works and researches. It is a very popular program among architects and students of architecture.

Jointly with other civic, environmental activist organizations, the Institute organizes seminars, roundtables, workshops on architecture, planning, conservation and environmental issues.

17.0 Key Issues Facing the Architects

Architectural Practice

- (a) Difficulty in charging and realizing the minimum fees that IAB prescribes; and
- (b) Selection of architects particularly in the public sector is often not on the basis of design excellence but on the basis of lowest bids.

Architectural Education

- (a) Scarcity of competent teachers to cope with the rapid growth of architectural school
- (b) Books and magazines are expensive and difficult to procure; and
- (c) Difficulty in implementing a uniform curriculum ideally suited for us.

18.0 Resources of the institute

- (a) The institute has an acre of land allocated by the Government near Parliament Complex in Dhaka.
- (b) The Institute has a small library; and
- (c) The Institute has Computer, Photocopier, Telephone, Facsimile and E-mail facilities with other required logistics.

19.0 Plans for the Future

- (a) Build its own building and locate its current activities in its own premises.
- (b) Create IAB Design Vetting Committee to assist the Capital Development Authority (RajUK), in approving the plans on the basis of newly enacted building rules.
- (c) Bringing amendments in the IAB Constitution to deal with changing scenario of the profession in the country.
- (d) Open new branches in other cities of the country and also in other countries.
- (e) Formulate a Board of Architectural Education and set up of an accreditation board for Architectural Education of the country.
- (f) Setting up a Heritage Center.
- (g) Publish representational Book on Architecture of Bangladesh.

- (h) Develop the Institute as a professional body aligned with sustainable environmental issues.

18.0 Other Important Issues

- a) Overall difficulty in achieving a truly appropriate contemporary architecture due to the forces of globalization.
- b) Re-invigorating architecture based on regional cultural values and geography.
- c) Lack of control over unauthorized construction.
- d) Design competitions and selection of architectural consultants by public agencies are not transparent.
- e) Problems faced by architects abroad due to non-validation of educational and professional credentials in many countries.

The transition to modern architecture for us was not smooth and still same obstacles remain. Some relate to our own capacity for change and few require cooperation from International and Regional bodies like ARCASIA which are of our common interest. The constraints today reside in regulatory framework and the absence of it.

We have succeeded in registering professional architects for practicing the profession in the Metropolitan Dhaka through the Building By-laws. This is a first step towards formal recognition of the profession which we hope will be replicated all over the country.

The barrier, which is of concern to us here, is architects from the Asian region, with few exceptions, are prevented from trans-national practice. Architects in the entire Asian region need to bear out each other's academic equivalency and professional competence with which ARCASIA may be able to pursue a common goal.

Kazi Golam Nasir

Honorary General Secretary

Mubasshar Hussain

President

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