

ACAE REPORT

The 29th ARCASIA Council Meeting, Busan, Korea
The Japan Institute of Architects
October 28-29, 2008

1. BRIEF HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN :

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. Founded in May 1987, the JIA unified two formerly separate associations that shared the same ideology: The Japan Architects Association (JAA) and The Japan Federation of Professional Architects Association (JFPAA). Accordingly, the JIA Education Committee was organized to oversee educational matters relating to the profession.

2. ROLE OF THE JIA IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN :

The JIA is a corporate juridical organization that was chartered by the Ministry of Construction (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation, at present) in 1987. The JIA plays an influential role in establishing both local and foreign architectural qualifications, as well as professional examinations. However, it is the Japan Architectural Education and Information Center (JAEIC), under the authority of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation (MLIT), that administers the formal "KENCHIKUSHI" (Architect & Building Engineer) examination, as well as other qualifications and professional examinations.

3. CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE JIA EDUCATION COMMITTEE FOR 2007:

Mr. Nobuaki FURUYA, Chairman
Mr. Akira KURYU, Member
Ms Satoko SHINOHARA, Member
Mr. Nobuo MORI, Member
Mr. Yoshimitsu NOUSU, Member
Mr. Hiroyuki MITOBE, Member
Mr. Makoto WATANABE, Member
Mr. Ryo TOGASHI, Member

The chairman and members of the JIA Education Committee are appointed for a term of two years by the President of the JIA.

4. FUNDING OF JIA ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION :

No annual budget has been specifically established to support the Education Committee's activities. However, the committee manages several educational programs, and operating expenses are allotted from the JIA general funding. In addition, certain events receive special funding from the "JIA Architects International Funds."

5. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF THE JIA RELATED TO ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION :

- (1) The JIA's Open Desk System 2008: 407 students have applied to participate in this program. Participating students gain practical experience in JIA members' architectural offices.
- (2) Professional School 2007: This program supports practical training for young architects (including interns) working at JIA members' offices. In 2007, 77 young architects participated in seminars held in Tokyo, Sendai and Osaka.
- (3) Open School 2008: This is a practical education course for master degree students sponsored by JIA member offices. 67 Students participated in this course during the summer of 2008.

6. REGULAR STUDENT COMPETITIONS SPONSORED BY THE JIA

The JIA now annually sponsors the National Student Thesis Competition. The competition,, which is judged by prominent architects, is two-tiered. A candidate must first be nominated by a local chapter. Then, finalists must compete in an open jury at the national convention.

7. REGULAR LIAISON PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS OF ARCHITECTURE :

There are approximately 100 JIA members who are also faculty members at a school of architecture. Although there are no regular programs in liaison with the over 160 schools of architecture nationwide, these JIA associated faculty members act as ambassadors to the academic community. During the past year, the JIA has now also begun establishing student memberships for students enrolled in graduate schools of architecture.

8. LOCAL PUBLICATIONS OR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The JIA has regularly supported a variety of architectural-related conferences. During the past year, the JIA has been associated with the following events that published conference proceedings:

1. SB05 (The 2005 World Sustainable Building Conference)
2. The JIA has also been involved in the publication of "Asian Breeze," a compilation of buildings of sustainable design in Asia.
3. The JIA has published "Japan Architect 2007," which introduces 200 JIA members and their works. The JIA Grand Prix and JIA Awards were selected from the works published in this book.

9. KEY ISSUES REGARDING ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION :

The JIA established the Qualification System for Registered Architects as a certification system that meets or exceeds the standards stipulated by the UIA Accord. It consists of four major components: (1) Professional Education; (2) Practical Training; (3) Qualifications; and (4) Professional Continuing Education.

Additionally, due to problematic issues resulting from 1st class Kenchikushi in 2005, both the Japanese Government and the National Assembly are considering the amendments to the Kenchikushi Law. One of the primary goals of these amendments is to formally review the educational requirements for Kenchikushi. Consequently, it is anticipated that university educational requirements may change.

In January, 2007, the Kenchikushi Law was amended, and details of the law were announced to be amended in August, 2008. (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.

One of the key issues of the current amendment is the requirement for the "internship" whereby completion of the graduate school education previously qualified as equivalent to two years of practical training, will no longer apply. It will be the responsibility of the graduate

programs to structure the curriculum to satisfy the certain requirements set by the Kenchikushi Law. This amendment will be put into effect, April 2009. The Ministry, Professional, academic communities and the construction industry are preparing, rather blindly, to accommodate for this change.

10.PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The JIA has established a cooperative relationship with the Japan Accreditation Board for Engineering Education (JABEE), which is an independent accreditation board for engineering education. The purpose of the JABEE is to ensure the level of education meets international standards, especially with regard to the Washington Accord and the Bologna Declaration. The JIA is represented in the JABEE in various committees and in the visiting teams to universities. The JABEE is currently in the process of establishing a two year graduate program that will satisfy the five year program requirement of the UIA/UNESCO Validation.

The JIA also maintains a cooperative relationship with the Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ), whose member mainly consist of researchers and university faculty. For the UIA/UNESCO Validation, the AIJ regularly sends observers to the committee meetings and relevant conferences. These two organizations implement a mutual sharing of information regarding issues relating to professional education.

11.OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUE OF INTEREST

Student thesis exhibitions are popular events in Japan. In addition to JIA student competitions and thesis exhibition activities, the Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ) sponsors a graduate thesis exhibition which tours nationally. Another popular exhibition for graduates is sponsored by Lemon Gasui, an art supply store that has organized a graduate thesis design exhibition for the past 28 years. In support of continuing design education, the JIA sends representatives to attend the AIJ's "Special Committee on the Design Education for the Twenty-first Century."