



ACAE REPORT

The 32nd ARCASIA Council Meeting, Da Nang, Vietnam

The Japan Institute of Architects

August 16-17, 2011

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.

The JIA is supporting to send Mr. Nobuo Hozumi since 2000, and substituted by Mr. Nobuaki FURUYA since 2001, to the UNESCO-UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education as a co-representative for the Region IV.

3. CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE JIA RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2011:

Mr. Makoto WATANABE, Chairman
Mr. Hidetsugu HORIKOSHI, Director of JIA
Mr. Tsutomu KOJIMA, Director of JIA
Mr. Yoshimitsu NOUSE, Member
Mr. Akira Kuryu, Member
Ms. Ryoko OKADA, Member
Mr. Satoshi MAEDA, Member
Mr. Toshiya YASUDA, Member

The chairman and members of the JIA Research and 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 2011: 210 students have applied to participate in this program. Participating students gain practical experience in JIA members’ architectural offices.
- (2) Professional School 2010: This program supports practical training for young architects (including interns) working at JIA members’ offices. In 2010, 29 young architects participated in seminars held in Tokyo.
- (3) Open School 2010: This is a practical education course for master degree students sponsored by JIA member offices. 60 students participated in this course during the summer of 2010.

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 2009,” 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.

In January, 2007, the Kenchikushi Law was amended, and details of the law were announced to be amended in August, 2008. 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 was put into effect in April 2009.

10. ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

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 school programs. The JABEE has established an additional system for Master Degree programs that satisfied the five year program requirement of the UIA/UNESCO Charter for Architectural Education in 2007.

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

In December 2008, JABEE invited the international visiting panel from the UIA and the RIBA to recognize its validation system for Architectural Education Programs in Japan. The panel visited three representative Schools, Waseda University, Chiba University and Japan women's University, in three days. The whole visitation was successfully finished, and the latest UNESCO-UIA Validation Council for Architectural Education on the 27th May 2009 in Paris adopted the final report on it to accredit the JABEE as a sufficient system.

This year the JABEE is revising its major criterions to correspond to the UNESCO-UIA conditions those were given by the Visiting Panel last time, and is now preparing for the internal review by the UNESCO-UIA Validation Council in coming September 2011.

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 30 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."