

Meeting	: Emergency Council Meeting	Next Meeting	:
Date	: 11 August 2024, Sun	Date	:
Time	: 2.00-3.00pm KL time	Time	:
Venue	: Zoom	Venue	:
Notes by	: DK		

NOTE: Only delegates and observers registered by Member Institutes will be admitted into the meeting room. Please enter your name and institute when joining the Zoom meeting so that you can be identified.

ATTENDEES: (26 Attendees from 17 Member Institutes)

Zone	Member Institutes	ARCASIA Council Official Delegates
		President* (or Representatives)
A	IIA The Indian Institute of Architects	Ar. Vilas Vasant Avachat*
	IAP Institute of Architects Pakistan	Ar. Zulfiqar Ali*
	SLIA Sri Lanka Institute of Architects	Archt. Rohana Bandara Herath* (RBH) Archt. Russell Dandeniya (Immediate Past President & FORUM22 Convenor)
	SONA Society of Nepalese Architects	Ar. Iswar Lal Joshi*
B	ALACE Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers	Ar. Vongchai Bounmanee* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Saykham Thammanosouth (Vice President)
	ASA The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage	Ar. Asae Sukhyanga* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Chutayaves Sinthuphan (Vice President) Ar. Rattapong Angkasith (Executive Committee) Ms. Leena Duanggate (Foreign Affairs)
	IAI Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia	Ar. Georgius Budi Yulianto* <i>represented by:</i> Ms. Yaseri D. Apritasari (Department of International Relations)
	PAM Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia	Ar. Adrianta Aziz* Ar. Zarim Abu Bakar (Immediate Past President)
	PUJA(B) Institute of Architects (PUJA) Brunei	Ar. Amiruddin Abdul Aziz* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Alvin Foo (Honorary Secretary)
	SIA Singapore Institute of Architects	Ar. Melvin HJ Tan* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Tiah Nan Chyuan (1 st Vice President)
	UAP United Architects of the Philippines	Ar. Donato B. Magcale* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Vanessa Ledesma (Chief of Staff)
	VAA Vietnam Association of Architects	Dr. Ar. Phan Dang Son* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Phong Nguyen Thu (Vice-President) Mr. Hoang Vuong Dao (Executive Committee)
C	AAM Architects Association of Macau	Ar. Choi Wan Sun, Christine*
	ASC Architectural Society of China	Ar. Xiu Long* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Xiaojing Wang (Deputy Secretary-General) Ms. Liu Yuting (Director Asst, International Department)
	HKIA The Hong Kong Institute of Architects	Ar. Chan Chak Bun, Benny*
	JIA The Japan Institute of Architects	Ar. Naomi Sato* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Daiji Chikuba (Chair, International Relations) Ar. Shin Sakurai (Committee, International Relations) Ar. Yuki Ito (Committee, International Relations) Ar. Terakazu Nii (Committee, International Relations) Ar. George Kunihiro (ARCASIA Past President)
	KIRA Korea Institute of Registered Architects	Ar. Jaerok Kim* <i>represented by:</i> Ar. Gibson G. Rhie (Chair, International Relations Committee)

MATTERS

ACTION BY:

(Did not attend)

BIA	<i>Bhutan Institute of Architects</i>	
IAB	<i>Institute of Architects Bangladesh</i>	
AMA	<i>Association of Myanmar Architects</i>	<i>(uncontactable)</i>
KAU	<i>Architects Union of Korea (DPRK)</i>	<i>(uncontactable)</i>
UMA	<i>Union of Mongolian Architects</i>	

ARCASIA Office Bearers & Committee Chairs (11 Attendees)

Office Bearers	President	Ar. Saifuddin Ahmad	(SA)
	Vice President Zone A	Ar. Devendra Nath Gongal	(DNG)
	Vice President Zone B	Ar. Saykham Thammanosouth	(ST)
	Vice President Zone C	Ar. Thomas Cheung	(TC)
	Immediate Past President	Ar. Abu Sayeed M Ahmed	(ASA)
	Honorary Secretary	Ar. Dexter Y.P. Koh	(DK)
	Advisor	Ar. Tan Pei Ing	(TPI)
Committee Chairs	ACAE Chair	Arch. Jonathan V. Manalad	(JVM)
	ACPP Chair	Ar. Zhang Wei	(ZW)
	ACYA Chair	Ar. Denny Setiawan	(DSE)
Fellowship Chair		Ar. Debatosh Sahu	(DSA)

ATTACHMENTS:

- ATT.1 240802 SLIA President Letter to ARCASIA President
ATT.2 240807 SLIA President Letter to ARCASIA President

MATTERS

ACTION

1.0 Convening of the Emergency Council Meeting

HonSec verified attendance of Presidents/Representatives of Member Institutes; upon quorum (15 at 3.00pm, minimum 11) being present, the Meeting was called to order.

1.1 Welcome Remarks – ARCASIA President, Ar. Saifuddin Ahmad

Pres welcomed everyone to the meeting on a Sunday and thanked them for their attendance. This Emergency Council Meeting is held to discuss on FORUM22 which was supposed to be held from 23-28 September 2024 in Kandalama, Sri Lanka.

In accordance to the Constitution the host of the Forum is to be decided 2 years ahead, unfortunately during Forum21 in Ulaanbaatar in September 2022, no country offered to host the Forum. The host was only decided during ACA20 in Boracay in Sept 2023 and the hosting went to SLIA. At that point no date or venue was decided. Subsequently SLIA proposed Kandalama to be the venue, and the date fixed on 23-28 September 2024, after much deliberation and consideration of events and festivals especially in Oct and Nov.

Subsequently after SLIA confirmed the venue, there were some concerns on the national presidential elections, and it was then assumed it will be held in October; the Forum was then decided to be held in September. Between then and the present there had been many meetings with SLIA both with the President and the Convenor on the venue and event.

Unfortunately, on 2 August, SLIA President wrote to him to inform that the national presidential elections has been decided on 21st September, a few days before the scheduled forum. Taking this into account the various in anticipation, SLIA proposed to postpone the event. Reasons given: impact on attendance and logistics, security and disruption, and sponsors' concerns as outlined in the letter of 2 August. At the same time Pres had many meetings with SLIA President and also the Convenor, especially considering the short notice and that some delegates have made arrangements to be in Kandalama in Sept. A special OB Meeting was also held to discuss the issues.

MATTERS**ACTION BY:**

On 7 August SLIA President sent another letter proposing the alternative dates and venue of the Forum.

Pres hoped Council takes note that SLIA has not indicated they are withdrawing from hosting the Forum but just postponing the dates. There are various issue to be considered especially the date proposed is in 2025; therefore there will be 2 events in 2025.

Pres then invited SLIA President RBH to explain further the issue, before Council deliberates.

2.0 Matter for Deliberation**2.1 Postponement of FORUM22****2.1.1 SLIA President's remarks & justification**

RBH thanked Pres for his welcome remarks and stated it was his duty to explain to the ARCASIA President and Council/Presidents of Member Institutes.

The Forum was originally planned to be held at the Heritance Hotel in Kandalama from 23-29 September 2024. Suddenly it was announced that the presidential elections were scheduled to be held on 21 September 2024. There was much uncertainty due the instability of the political situation in the country as well as the poor economic conditions. SLIA Council Meeting was called and discussed the situation in detail - after understanding past experiences happening in Sri Lanka in the past few years with riots, unstable situations as well as incidents especially during elections; and after elections they experienced curfew, riots and several unwanted situations.

As a responsible institution, it is the duty of SLIA to look into the security and comfort of foreign delegates. Under these circumstances it does not wish to take any risks and wish to guarantee delegates' safety and comfort, especially since the venue in Kandalama is far away from Colombo.

After much deliberation, SLIA Council focused on several areas especially since after the presidential elections the general elections will take place, and more uncertainties will arise after that. Declarations of holidays by the government as had happened before will also affect the event.

Consideration of sponsorships: many have spoken to SLIA and expressed their concerns and of reserving their sponsorships during this period and were not keen to sponsor if the event was to be held as originally proposed.

Consideration of UIAForum, to be held 15-19 November 2024. Therefore, postponement of Forum22 to November is also not possible.

As for the month of December, many are planning their vacations and with Christmas ahead, it is difficult to organise an event in places like Kandalama.

Finally, it was agreed by SLIA Council to postpone the Forum to January 2025. After the elections etc, the country will be back to normalcy. This was conveyed to ARCASIA President on 2 August who then responded via letter on 5 August. ON 7 August the suggested dates were conveyed to ARCASIA President: 20-26 January 2024, to be held in Colombo.

RBH humbly requested all Member Institute Presidents to understand SLIA's situation, the provided solution considering the country's situation, as well as the long-standing relationship SLIA has maintained as a Member Institute of ARCASIA.

MATTERS

ACTION BY:

2.1.2 Deliberation by ARCASIA Council Members

Pres opened the floor for deliberation:

- i. KIRA: (Gibson)
 - The turn of events have put ARCASIA in a unique situation where there will be two events in a single year, Forum in January and Congress in September, and wondered how the other Member Institutes viewed this.
- ii. JIA: (Daiji)
 - JIA is supporting its members for the travel expenses. Most of its members have paid for airfares and hotels a day before the Forum, which is not changeable or refundable. It will be a great loss to JIA's account, and enquired whether other institutes face the same problem.
 - If the Forum is postponed to January, flights and hotels will have to be rebooked, and cause additional expenses to JIA and issues on internal funding and difficulty in supporting it.
 - January is a busy month in Japan, many have made appointments.
 - During Covid the Congress was held online by ASC, perhaps this can be considered for Forum, to resolve travelling cost issues.
- iii. IIA: (Vilas)
 - IIA agreed with RBH/SLIA on the postponement
 - 15-17 pax from IIA have already paid for flight tickets and booked/registered for Forum and was unsure the next course of action.
 - In Jan 2025, there are other programmes by IIA happening eg. IIA PA.
 - Therefore those who have booked for Forum in September will not be able to attend Forum in January, and there should be consideration of refund for those unable to attend in January.
- iv. SONA: (Iswar)
 - SONA concurred with IIA's views and it is not a problem with official delegates.
 - Members who have registered, depending on the rescheduled date, will decide whether they will be able to attend as they may already have future commitments.
 - There are 11 SONA members participating in the FORUM; they have enquired whether they will need to re-register for the new date or it will be carried forward.
 - 5 have already purchased tickets from Sri Lankan Airlines and booked hotels, they have enquired if the bookings can be changed to the new dates at no cost; if cancellation charges are imposed they may rethink about attending.
 - Whereas there are those who may not be able to attend at the rescheduled date, will they be refunded on the air tickets, hotel costs, and registration fees?
- v. UAP: (Vanessa)
 - UAP agrees with RBH as sometimes the Philippines has faced similar situations with elections.
 - UAP sought clarification on whether the registration and hotel bookings which had been paid for, will be carried over to the rescheduled dates
 - Since the rescheduled Forum will be in Colombo, will there be a refund on the transportation fees of USD150 already paid for the Colombo-Kandalama transfer.
 - Flights have been purchased very early on to take advantage of low fares as they were keen to attend the Forum. Now that the Forum is rescheduled to Jan 2025, rebooking it will cost the same as purchasing a new ticket. Because of that the cost is now about USD1000/pax.
 - UAP suggested SLIA or ARCASIA can issue a letter on postponement to assist UAP to appeal to AirAsia to consider rebooking without penalty.

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ACTION BY:

- vi. AAM: (Christine)
 - AAM understand the situation and is agreeable to the postponement and is cognizant of the difficult decision that had to be made.
 - For AAM, the ARCASIA event is funded by the government and a grant was applied for and approved. If the rescheduling of Forum is in 2025, the funding will not be continued and cancelled, and will have implication on the institute level. If the Forum is held within 2024, the funding can still be utilised, and the government can be notified. There will be no funding for the forum if held in 2025 as application is already closed,
 - Jan 20-26 rescheduled date: Jan 29 is Chinese New Year (CNY), and the weekend is 25 & 26 Jan and members may already have made plans ahead.

- vii. HKIA: (Benny)
 - HKIA respects SLIA’s decision which is cautious and in consideration of all the factors to defer the event.
 - Concurring with AAM, in Asia and many other countries, CNY will be celebrated. The President will not have problems attending but the other members may not be able to commit. Therefore, perhaps some consideration for the rescheduled date not to be too close to CNY.
 - HKIA is unsure whether any members have made flight, hotel and registration bookings but he will need to inform members soonest on the rescheduling

- viii. VAA: (response via email was shown at the meeting)
 VAA objects the postponement of the Council meeting and Forum22 to January 2025 because:
 - VAA’s activities plan of 2024 (including foreign affairs plan) has been approved by the Government authorities. If we postpone the event to 2025, there will be 2 ARCASIA Council meetings in the same year (The 2025 Foreign Affairs Plan with the ARCASIA Congress in Korea was also submitted for authorities’ approval in July, 2024), so VAA can’t be given a budget or send delegates to attend the Sri Lankan Forum in January, 2025.
 - January 21-26 2025 is close to Lunar New Year (December 22-27 of the lunar calendar), that’s a traditional New Year of Viet Nam and many countries in the region, so it is very difficult to attend the Forum.
 - VAA has booked air tickets for delegates; tickets are non-refundable and can only be exchanged with extra fees during this year only.
 - VAA suggests that if the Forum has to be postponed, we should hold the Forum during the first 2 weeks of December 2024.

2.1.3 President’s comments

Pres summarised the comments from Member Institutes, concluded that the majority understood the situation SLIA is facing, sympathised with the predicament faced but also noted other concerns raised.

Majority were agreeable to the rescheduled dates, but there were concerns on the dates being too close to CNY on 29 Jan.

The other concern was the cost of flights, hotel reservations and event registrations which have been made to which Pres requested RBH to respond.

RBH took cognizance of the comments made by the institute representatives and thanked them for their understanding. SLIA had discussed with the Heritage Hotel on the cancellation and announced that there will not be any loss incurred by participants as they will be discussing on a fair resolution with the hotel. Pres reminded RBH that his letter had stated that the venue in Colombo will be at one owned by the same hotel.

As for the Colombo-Kandalama transfer, there must be some cost transfer or reduction as the venue is now nearer from the airport.

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ACTION BY:

Pres suggested SLIA issues the letter for institutes to use to appeal to the airlines, as SLIA is not likely in a position to compensate the travel cost.

Also, SLIA to consider a hybrid mode option to alleviate the cost of travel.

2.1.4 Decision and way forward

- i. Pres requested HonSec to launch the Zoom poll, TPI suggested Member Institutes to reply vide email on the decision. Pres decided that since majority have been given mandate by their institutes to decide at the meeting, the poll will be held, with the exception of IAP, PUJA(B) and JIA who abstained as they need to seek Council decision.
- ii. The poll was launched and the results were as follows:
 Postponement of FORUM22 to Jan 2025:
 Agree, will attend physically : 10
 Agree, will attend virtually : 3
 Disagree : 0
 Abstentions : 3 (IAP, PUJA(B), JIA)
 Did not vote : 1
- iii. Although the vote was carried, Pres then instructed HonSec to send email to all the 22 Member Institutes (including those who did not attend) after the meeting to request their official, written response in order to obtain the final result, to be responded by member Institutes by the end of Monday 12 August.

3.0 Other Matters Arising

SONA announced that it will be holding a 3-day International Architectural Summit and Exposition from 18-20 October 2024, the first such event organised by SONA and proposed to host the ARCASIA Office Bearers Meeting and Zone A Presidents' Meeting a day before the event. Pres replied for SONA to write in officially to the Secretariat for circulation and decision.

4.0 Conclusion & Next Meeting

4.1 Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 3.05pm, Pres thanked everyone for attending the Emergency Council Meeting.

Ar. DEXTER Y.P. KOH
Honorary Secretary 2024-2025

