



ARCASIA EMERGENCY ARCHITECTS

ACSR & ARCASIA Council UPDATE

January 2025

What does AEA do?

Scope of ARCASIA Emergency Architects, as prescribed in the AEA Pledge, can be summarized as follows:

1. Building Knowledge of Emergency Management (preparedness and response) for the built environment;
2. Training professionals to deliver Emergency Management;
3. Forming a Team of architects and related professionals to deliver Emergency Management services;
4. Promoting the concept and knowhow of Emergency Management;

How it all began

1. When ACSR was formed in 2011, “Natural Disasters” and “Disaster Prevention, Preparedness & Risk Reduction” were 2 out of the 8 topics proposed.
2. MOU signed with ADPC (Asia Disaster Prevention Centre) in 2015 on training Architects on Emergency Management.
3. Conducted 2 international training for Region A and B since.
4. As per ARCASIA Council’s decision. AEA was set up and officially launched in ACSR Roundtable in Sep. 2019.
5. AEA Charter and Pledge signed by all Member Institute in Nov. 2019.

AEA Organization

The legal entity of ARCASIA Emergency Architects Limited was set up in 2019 with a view to kick start the initiative and eventually pass on the baton to the rest of the ARCASIA countries. The current organization is as follows:

Chairman : Ar. Joseph Kwan

Directors : Ar. Marvin Chen (replacing Ar. Barry Will in 2020)
Ar. Tony Wong

CEO : Ar. Thomas Cheung

The following ad hoc Task Force / Collaboration Platform were set up, with wide representation from across ARCASIA member institutes:

1. ARCASIA COVID-19 Workforce (since April 2020)
2. AEA Flood Disaster Group (since September 2022)
3. AEA Expert Core Team (since March 2023)

Achievement 2019-2024

1. Business Plan established and approved by ARCASIA Council
2. Legal Entity Setup in Hong Kong
3. Collaborated with ACSR and formed ARCASIA COVID19 Taskforce.
4. Completed the ARCASIA COVID-19 Guidelines (13 ACGs) - including Member Institute Survey, 3 meeting/workshop/seminar, and launched the implementation.
5. Assisted UIA AfA (Architecture for All) Workgroup and launched their Inclusive Design Guidelines responding to Natural Disaster and Emergencies in the UIA Congress in Brazil.
6. Cross-Border Collaboration, and AEA Expert Core - Started in Q4 2022
7. ARCASIA's response to UN World Habitat Day and International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction - October 2023

Action Plan & Status 2025

- Sponsorship for AEA operating costs (current estimation at US\$4k per annum) - Secured in May 2023 but facing challenges to finalize due to sponsorship leadership change
- Zone C Training Programme - Delayed to coincide with ACA in Seoul 2025
- Continue individual development by Country.

Sponsorship to AEA

- Sponsorship had been agreed with a property developer, the Chinachem Group (CCG) of HK\$250,000 (approx. US\$32,000) over 5 years (2023 - 2028).
- This is to support only the basic operations of AEA (current estimation at US\$4K per annum in keeping the legal entity, financial account and basic secretarial support). Other events or projects (such as training, research or symposium...etc.) would require separate funding or sponsorship.
- Finalization of the contract with the sponsor had been delayed by the sponsor as their senior leadership had changed. We are continuing with the effort but there is a chance that this may fall through.

Zone C Training Programme

- Due to budget, timing conflicts and logistic issues, the training is further delayed;
- Due to budget reasons, we will not engage the service of Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre but will partner with them on a remote basis.
- Currently tentatively planned to coincide with ACA 2025 in Seoul.
- Initial thoughts is to hold it on Day 5-7 of ACA.
- Training will also be open to members outside of Zone C.

Individual Development by Country

- The advent of Emergency Management has been developing in each country to different extent. The 13 ACG's acted as a catalyst for some countries to further develop their emergency planning effort.
- AEA intends to collect input from each country on their respective development.
- For example, HKIA has translated the 13ACG's into Chinese, and have organized a Design Charrette on application of 13 ACGs in Nov. 2022, and on Resilience Community in Dec. 2023 for secondary school students to have a hands on workshop on the topic.

Immediate Requests

- Provide name and contact of representative and alternate for AEA.
- Participate in survey to update status of AEA or similar organization in your Institute.
- Consider in the long term playing a more active role and running the AEA by turn.

Thank You

