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ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION KHMER (AAK)

COUNTRY REPORT

2025

THE 21st ASIAN CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS
INCHEON, KOREA
SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2025

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1. History of the Association

The Architects Association of Khmer (AAK) is the professional organization dedicated to advancing architecture education and practice in Cambodia. It was originally established as the Cambodian Society of Architects (CSA) in 2006, and in 2022 it was renamed to the Architects Association of Khmer (AAK). AAK plays an important role in supporting its members, maintaining the code of professional conduct, and advocating for the advancement of the architectural profession in Cambodia.

2. Current Office Bearers

Chairman: Ar. Sin Sochiet

Vice Chairman: Ar. Tain Sochetvitou

Vice Chairman: Ar. Hun Chansan

President: Ar. U.P. Puth Visal

Members: Ar. Nom Sotheary, Ar. So Sokunthery, Ar. Chea Bunseang, Ar. Chea Sarin, Ar. Aerne Martin, Ar. Hok Sokol, Ar. Meas Borarithy, Ar. Chhorn Setha

Executive Committee includes Directors of seven commissions: Administrative and Financial Accounting, Architecture Education, Continuing Professional Development, Architecture and Construction Research, International Relations and Cooperation, Media IT and Dissemination, Architectural Expo and Competition Organization.

3. Current Membership Strength

As of July 2025:

- AAK Licensed Architects: 114
- AAK International Architects: 3
- AAK Associate Members: 435
- AAK Professional Cooperative: 25
- AAK Architecture Students: 568
- AAK Honorary Member: 3

Total: 580 registered members, excluding student members.

4. Budget of the Association

The budget of AAK is derived from:

- Membership fees
- Donations and contributions from individuals and entities
- Income from legally recognized sources
- Personal resources and properties

5. Number of Chapters

AAK currently operates as a single national chapter.

6. Annual General Meeting

The Architects Association of Khmer (AAK) held its 2024 Annual General Meeting and Dinner Reception as the New Year approached. The event brought together the Board, members, and associates to celebrate the achievements of the past year, foster stronger relationships, and reaffirm their shared commitment to greater success in the years ahead.

7. Legal Status of the Association in the Country

AAK is officially registered as a non-political, non-profit, law-abiding association under the laws of the Kingdom of Cambodia. It operates under Prakas 275 PK-MOI and Prakas 1428 PK-MOI.

8. Legal Status of the Architects in the Country

Architects in Cambodia are regulated by the Board of Architects Cambodia (BAC), the Professional Regulatory Authority under the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction. Registration categories include Category 1, 2, and 3 Architects based on years of experience.

9. Registration Authority for Architects in the Country

The Board of Architects Cambodia (BAC) is the sole authority responsible for the registration and regulation of architects in Cambodia.

10. International Affiliation of the Association

AAK is proudly a member of the Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA). It has participated in regional events and collaborated with international architectural bodies.

11. Major Programs of the Association in the Past Years

Recent major activities include:

1. Cambodia Architecture Gallery
2. Design Competition: 'Breath of the City'
3. Coastal Development Design Competition
4. ASEAN 47th Council Meeting (co-hosted with BAC)
5. Seminar: 'Green Building in Cambodia'
6. Seminar: 'The Hydraulic City of Angkor'

12. Architectural Competitions/Awards

AAK regularly organizes architectural competitions, such as 'Breath of the City' and 'Development of Coastal Zones in Cambodia'. Awards are presented to outstanding design proposals.

13. Key Issues Facing the Profession

- Outdated regulations that hinder collaboration between BAC and AAK, particularly in CPD implementation
- Weak enforcement of standards and building codes
- Limited international exposure for Cambodian architects

14. Resources of the Association

AAK's resources include its membership network, organizational commissions, collaborations with BAC and government agencies, and support from local and international partners.

15. Efforts to Implement ARCASIA Resolutions

The Architects Association of Khmer (AAK) reaffirms its strong support for the resolutions adopted by ARCASIA, with particular commitment to promoting inclusivity, advancing sustainability, and enhancing knowledge sharing within the architectural community.

In line with these principles, AAK continues to foster an environment where architects from diverse backgrounds can collaborate, contribute, and benefit from equal opportunities. We are actively integrating sustainable design practices into our programs and competitions, encouraging environmentally responsible approaches that address both local and regional challenges.

Furthermore, AAK remains dedicated to facilitating the exchange of expertise and experiences among members, regional partners, and international counterparts. Through seminars, collaborative projects, and participation in ARCASIA events, we aim to strengthen the collective knowledge base and drive innovation in the profession.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with ARCASIA and member institutes in advancing these shared goals for the betterment of the built environment in Cambodia and across the Asia region.

16. Plans for the Future

Plans for 2025-2026 include:

- AAK Congress
- Cambodia Architecture Festival
- Collaboration with BAC for ASEAN Architecture Congress in Cambodia
- Two design competitions annually
- Four seminars annually
- Official launch of AAK website
- Adjusting membership types
- Implementing CPD program

17. Other Important Issues for ARCASIA Council

As a newly joined member of ARCASIA, the Architects Association of Khmer (AAK) recognizes the value of understanding the Council's processes, priorities, and collaborative dynamics. At this stage, our focus will be on active observation and engagement to gain deeper insights into the Council's work.

We believe this approach will enable us to identify meaningful areas where AAK can contribute most effectively. In the coming years, we look forward to playing a more active role in ARCASIA's initiatives and offering contributions that reflect both the strengths of Cambodia's architectural community and our shared regional objectives.



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