



**Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers**

**(ALACE)**

# **COUNTRY REPORT**

The 21<sup>st</sup> ASIAN Congress of Architects

Incheon, South Korea

8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> September 2025



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# COUNTRY REPORT 2024-2025

## Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE)

### 1. HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

The Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE) was founded in 2004. A regulation administered by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport came into effect, requiring that architects be licensed to practice the profession. ALACE concentrated on building an organization that served both the profession and society. ALACE aims to (i) promote the continuing enhancement of the architecture profession in ways that are friendly to the environment and that preserve Lao traditions, while maintaining professional independence (ii) Promote harmony and unity among members to enhance the stature and efficacy of ALACE with a shared focus on activities that benefit the profession and society (iii) Serve as a resource for professional and technical information and advice for the benefit of members and society (iv) To encourage, support, and promote education, research, and development that ensures the field of architecture progresses with the times (v) Cooperate with government agencies, as well as domestic and international organizations and institutions, to create an understanding and appreciation of the principles, role, and scope of the architecture profession as a means for fostering credibility and trust (vi) Promote, develop, and perform the architecture profession in accordance with the highest standards of service and ethics for the benefit of members and the public (vii) Define and certify the standards and rules for the practice of architecture.

### 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022-2024)

| Position                               | Name             |               |
|--|------------------|---------------|
| President                              | Ar.Vongphai      | Bounmanee     |
| Vice president and Honorable secretary | Ar. Saykham      | Thammanosouth |
| Vice president                         | Ar. Soukanh      | Chithpanya    |
| Vice president                         | Eng. Khampaseuth | Thepvongsa    |
| Vice president                         | Ar. Waddana      | Soukhabandith |

| Committee  | Name  |   |
|--|---|---|
| Secretariat Office   | Ar. Phanomvanh  | Chitpanya                                     |
| External Relation  | Eng. Phatthana  | Simmalavong                                   |
| Chapters   | Ar. Vipraseuth<br>Eng. Soulivanh<br>Eng. Khamphong      | Souvannavong<br>Phommahaxay<br>Somvichit      |
| Committee on Professional Practice (CPP) and Committee on Professional Development (CPD) | Ar. Pathana<br>Ar. Sommany<br>Eng.Thong<br>Eng. Kongkeo | Phonethip<br>Pathoumxay<br>Sopha<br>Phamavanh |

|   |                   |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|
| Education, Research and Young Architect | Ar. Xayaphone     | Vongvilay      |
|   | Ar. Siphathay     | Phanphengdy    |
|   | Eng. Khamhou      | Xaphouvong     |
|   | Eng. Vongphachane | Boualaphanh    |
| Social Responsibility                   | Ar. Xananikone    | Inthilath      |
|   | Ar. Thanousorn    | Vongpraseuth   |
| Media and Fund Raising                  | Ar. Vidaly        | Chanthaphasouk |
|   | Eng. Sengmany     | Gaoluanglath   |
| Monitoring and Ethics                   | Eng. Sisaghouane  | Silithasak     |
|   | Ar. Noupohonh     | Phosy          |

|                                      |  |              |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Honorably Executive Committee</b> |  |              |
| Honorably President                  | Minister of Ministry of Public Works and Transport |              |
| Honorably Adviser Committee          | Mr. Seun   | Phetsanghane |
|                                      | Prof. Dr.Bounleuam                                 | Sisoulath    |
|                                      | Prof. Dr.Somphone                                  | Dethoudom    |
|                                      | AR. Phonesay                                       | Southiphong  |
|                                      | Eng. Khamthavy                                     | Thayphachanh |

### 3. MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Membership: In 2024, there are 1,185 members within 17 provinces and one capital region

### 4. BUDGET OF THE INSTITUTE

#### ALACE annual revenue:

- Annual ALACE Convention and Exhibition
- Annual membership subscriptions
- Conferences/seminars
- Events and Activities
- Sponsorships

### 5. NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

#### Headquarters

The primary operational role of the ALACE headquarters is to provide services to members and architects in general through general administration (administrative and financial services) and by implementing the various aspects of the Board's annual operational plan: professional, technical, preservation, architecture, international, and recreation. In addition, the ALACE provides up-to-date information to members and architects concerning building codes through publications, seminars, and inquiries. The ALACE HQ office offers membership information, processes new members, renews memberships, publication and souvenir items, and runs an architecture library.

#### ALACE Chapters



There are currently 17 chapters of ALACE, semi-autonomous chapters under the ALACE umbrella located in three regions of Lao PDR: the North region, including 7 provinces; the Central region, including 5 provinces; and the South region, including 4 provinces.

## 6. LEGAL STATUS

ALACE is registered as a private association under the laws of Lao PDR. After the ALACE's establishment, all architects' licensing and registration came under ALACE by law. Registration Authority of The Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE) is at the provincial Departments of Public Works, under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

## 7. CONGRESS OF INSTITUTE

The National Congress of the Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers (ALACE) will be held every 3 years to review the activities implemented and select the new committee board of ALACE. Every year, ALACE also holds annual meetings to review a physical year, programs, and future plans.

## 8. INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The ALACE has been a member of ARCASIA since 2011 and renewed its membership with UIA in 2008. The ALACE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 8 countries:

- Association of Siamese Architects (ASA) in 2006;
- Viet Nam Association of Architects (VAA) in 2006;
- Vietnam Federation of Civil Engineering Association (VFCEA) in 2007;
- Pertubulan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) in 2010,
- Korea Institute of Registered Architects (KIRA) in 2010;
- Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) in 2011;
- Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia (IAI) in 2011;
- Sri-Lanka Institute of Architects (SLIA) in 2012.
- ALACE entered these relationships to exchange information about professional know-how, practices, and standards and organize joint activities among organizations and their members.

## 9. MAJOR TASKS OF THE INSTITUTES IN 2024-2025

### **ALACE workflow management Improvement**

- Mobilize and appoint members to become sub-committees of more than 100 architects and engineers in specific fields.
- Completion of database software to upgrade the working system more efficiently.
- Supporting Sustainable Management and SDGs for ALANCE's plans

### **ALACE and ALACE Chapters Organization Improvement**

- The reorganization of ALACE 4 in a new era will ensure the connection and appropriateness for the management and development of ALACE to be continuous and sustainable.



- Completed improvement in the organization of the province chapters of 14 provinces in 17 provinces throughout the country.

### **Building a Strategic Framework of ALACE**

- Completed a strategic framework for 2030 and continued to create an efficient action plan for implementation.

### **Professional Practice and Professional Development Task**

- Completed 12 Seminars and events for the ALACE members to exchange professional practice.
- Organized a meeting to brainstorm and understand of ALACE's new strategic plan for 7 provinces in the northern part of Lao PDR
- Organized 10 Meetings to meet members and sub-committee to understand more deeply of the role and function of ALACE 4

### **Social Responsibility Task**

- Participated in providing constructive feedback on many public benefit projects in Vientiane capital, such as Lao PDR Urban Forum, Lao Building Code, New Urban Development, etc.
- Appointed by the Vientiane Governor for Sustainable Development and SDGs Achievement consultancy.

### **External Relation and Profession Activities**

- Meeting and discussing with the government, especially the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Council of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers, is a good way to look forward together in the future of professional practice monitoring and ethnic Controlling.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with internal and external countries such as the faculty of architecture, faculty of engineering (National University of Laos and Souphanouvong University), and ASA (Thailand).
- ALACE Study tour in ESAN part of Thai land for ASA expo and field trip of architect's office, construction materials warehouse, and factory, etc...
- Cooperation with universities to encourage students to participate in design competitions by American Standard Companies Inc.

## **10. ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS/AWARDS**

We are planning for the first Best Thesis Award and Good Design Award in Lao PDR. However, we still need to plan on how to start and manage shortly, and we will need guidance from other ARCASIA institutes.

## **11. KEY ISSUES FACING THE ARCHITECTS/ARCHITECT PROFESSION/INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTRY**

- Architectural profession key issues that we are facing here in Laos at the moment:
  - The development of the Credit Professional Development (CPD) programs
  - Certification of licensing architects and engineers

- Untracked or unreported projects, including local and foreign.
- Ranking architects and engineer qualification
- ALACE now has new office bearers and committees for the 2022 – 2024 terms. As a result, we are facing many challenging issues, but we are now moving forward at a better. The problems that we are facing as an institute in Laos include:
  - Membership issue - Gathering all architects/engineers as the whole country
  - Budgeting and financial issues
  - Permanent location/building/office for the institute
  - Implementation of the institute within the governmental sector

## 12. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

With our new office bearers and committee for 2024, we emphasize promoting our vision and strategic plan to reach real practices and achievements in the achievement of sustainable development goals.

### STRATEGIES FOR 2024-2030:

- To establish an organizational system or a monitoring system for all ALACE members around the country in more detail and with up-to-date information. This will allow our association to monitor our members, including both architects and engineers who are active in Lao PDR;
- Continue to work closely with the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (PWT) to help provide ALACE with a permanent location (office space or office building) and more financial support;
- To make ALACE become the center of Lao architects' and engineers' standardization, methodologies, professional practice, work quality/productivity, work ethics, environmental and socially responsive, and the ability or guidelines to compete internationally. ALACE to become the gathering place for all architects and engineers to unite, cooperate, exchange ideas and knowledge, and most importantly, help develop the nation.
- To promote architects' and engineers' educational systems in a way that corresponds to the actual needs of society, particularly in green technology, conservation, and preservation of Lao architectural heritage, and enhance better urban planning and city management.;
- To create a system that promotes local architects and engineers to become competitive professionals while establishing a system to monitor and control foreign architects and engineers who come to practice in the Lao PDR.
- To encourage and promote ALACE boards to take part in the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation (PWT) in the city and urban planning, architectural preservation and restoration, developing building codes, construction standards, and other practice-related issues;
- Continue to coordinate, implement, and review the memorandum of cooperation with contract partners and membership of various organizations;
- Establish a digital platform, such as developing a website, Facebook page, or any other electronic platform, to enable practice-related information and consider queries or questions to be fielded and responded to by the committee members.
- To create policies and professional guidelines for architects and engineers to obey and follow. ALACE will ensure the laws and regulations governing the practice of architects in Lao PDR are enforced in a fair and judicious manner. ALACE will be in charge of investigating all

complaints received by the Board/Committee and taking action against licensees and unlicensed individuals, including candidates, who have violated the provisions.

### MAJOR TASKS OF PLAN 2024-2025

- Organize ALACE Expo 2025 and the Annual ALACE conference
- To enhance and develop the ALACE organization (membership management, chapter leadership roles, financial status, public relations, etc.)
- Propose and seek to have a permanent office for ALACE
- Develop ALACE's 2022-2030 Vision and Strategies, 2022-2024 Implementation program
- Develop a CDP program and certification program for licensing architectural and engineering professionals
- To launch a digital platform (website, Facebook page, etc.) to enable practice-related and considered queries.
- Carry out of selecting and awarding of the ALACE awards to the architects and engineers of the ALACE member with excellent and outstanding performance.
- Find the conditions and feasibility for ranking architects and engineer qualifications and provide professional licenses for ALACE members.
- Promote and enhance ALACE to be a secretary to MPWT for Urban Development and Management, Laos Architect Preservation, Harmonization of new architects, Building Code, and Building Standards.
- Find the conditions to connect and cooperate with domestic and international social organizations.
- Engagement on the SDGs to meet the Sustainable Communities and Cities in Lao society.

**THANK YOU**

[www.alacelaos.org.la](http://www.alacelaos.org.la)

[alacelao.office@gmail.com](mailto:alacelao.office@gmail.com)

