

Summary of the Discussion “Future Direction of Asian Forum”

1. Various opinions and proposals regarding the future of Asian Forum were presented in the Plenary Session 2 on January 22, 2003, as summarized below.
 - Five activities are proposed together with establishing concrete organizational structure for the Asian Forum, including secretariats, etc. (Mr. Swarup)
 - (1) Setting up the harmonization process for building practices and information systems. Start interacting with multilateral funding agencies.
 - (2) Support developing nations who do not have sufficient laboratory measures.
 - (3) Consider business oriented approach. Wider involvement of business, for precast concrete application and ready mixed concrete application in housing construction, for example.
 - (4) Dissemination of information.
 - (5) Prime technology dissemination through an umbrella organization.
 - Propose to host the next Asian Forum in Kathmandu. (Mr. Hirachan)
(Note: Venue of the next conference, in Tokyo or elsewhere, will be announced in due course.)
 - Each member is, to put a priority and to select topics from a list for future action programs. (Mr. Budi)
 - Database is easy to start with. It can be started immediately. (Mr. Atencio)
 - Prepare an outline or brief annual report of construction industry of each country, in order to know GDP, the total volume of construction, etc. and to understand needs and/or differences. (Mr. Fujinawa)
 - Establish counseling & consulting functions/organization in each country to provide other countries with information regarding construction business in the country. (Mr. Fujinawa)
 - Make “Asian” standards to meet our physical & economical level and respective situations, instead of international standards. It will be better to make minimum standards at least every member can accept and follow. (Mr. Yi)
 - Form sub-committees at first. Tie up with existing Asian expert committees which have been already discussing specific technological issues. (Dr. Wang)
 - Before unifying standards, we need to have information base to know the levels of regulations in respective countries. (Ms. Tan)
 - Form working committees to look into common aspects of building and housing standards, to create minimum standards and to encourage exchange visits/observation tours especially

for practices in building and housing construction. (Mr. Fontamillas)

- Should we even have to talk about standards in the Asian Forum? Levels of development of member countries are not equal. (Mr. Atencio)
- We have to understand where the differences come from. We do not have to unify. Understanding of difference is important. (Chairman)
- Learning each other and sharing information are important. (Ms. Tan)
- Referring to APEC Engineers, benefits of having in common is highlighted. Asian countries should support/corroborate each other and less developed countries will be self-supportive in future. (Mr. Kecha)
- Each participating country is invited to host working groups or project teams on a voluntary basis. The Japanese government may support working groups in terms of human resources, or financially if possible. (Mr. Nagasaki)
- Propose four action programs as potential projects. (Chairman)
 - (1) Low-income housing projects or development, where experience in each country should be exchanged.
 - (2) Standards, performance-based approaches or regulations.
 - (3) Information on how to access to construction industries in Asian countries.
 - (4) Know the reality in each country through data base and visiting tours.
- To itemize data or information needed for comparison, such as laws regarding architects, etc., for the next forum. (Mr. Yi)
- It is suggested to elaborate these proposals and send them to the secretariat. (Mr. Swarup)

2. Thanking all members for their participation in the second conference, Chairman concluded the session as follows:

- Together with the secretariat, he will compile the opinions and proposals, and circulate among the members for their confirmation.
- He will announce action programs to each member. Each member is invited to host or to participate in the action programs on a voluntary basis.
- Lastly, he expressed his gratitude for Mr. Hirachan's proposal of hosting a future Asian Forum conference in Nepal

Summary of the questionnaire result

Missions:

- Coordination, collaboration, cooperation and harmonization among participating countries to establish a solid platform for design and construction field that will promote exchanging of information, ideas and best practices.

Strategy:

- To establish Network to promote closer cooperation and alliance with the support by information system of resources, regulations and acting agencies in each country
- To promote group discussion leading to issuance of technical paper and journal
- Forming of sub-committees held twice a year in addition to the current annual conference.
- Establishing database system such as Asian Building Databank to provide a solution for sharing knowledge and resources among countries.

Future activities:

- To organize sub-committee or advisory board to convey research program or to work on specific issues and policies
- To generate annual flow chart to identify activities in a concrete time frame
- To exchange delegations and organizing study tours
- To improve web-site and promote information sharing through e-mail
- To create database on building construction services
- To hold international building fairs and seminars
- To expand sponsorship
- To develop connection with other international agencies and to establish government link
- To identify protocols on cross border practices
- To promote business opportunities

Views and opinions for Asian Forum:

- It will provide ideal platform for promotion of mutual cooperation.
- Stipulation of byelaw and issuance of hand book will make it into internationally consolidated organization.
- It should deal more with actual problems through case studies and filed works.
- It should focus on our primary concern of better quality of construction industry of Asia and a fair treatment of the differences among countries.
- It should have formal publications of its process and reporting should be circulated among respective government authorities.
- It should stay focus on pertinent issues and formulate action plans for implementation.
- It should serve as a platform to share ideas and resources.
- It should become mechanism to pull in resources and knowledge to lead to joint relationship.
- It should deal with technical field as wide as possible.

Possible sub platforms:

(Organizations)

China	Various affiliating agencies of Ministry of Construction
India	Construction Industry Development Council
Indonesia	Ministry of Settlement and Regional Infrastructure Institute of Architects Indonesia Association of Indonesian Engineers
Malaysia	Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia Malaysian Institute of Architects
Myanmar	Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development Yangon Technological University Myanmar Engineering Society Association of Myanmar Architecture Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Academic Community in Private Industries
Nepal	Federation of Contractors' Associations of Nepal
Philippines	Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council The Subdivision and Housing Developers Association
Republic of Korea	Korea Institute of Registered Architects
Singapore	The Singapore Contractors Association Ltd.
Thailand	Department of Public Works and Town & City planning Federation of Construction
Vietnam	Housing Bureau of Ministry of Construction
Japan	Institute of International Harmonization for Building and Housing