

Summary Report of the 4th Asian Forum 2004

At : 4th Asian Forum
Mita, Tokyo Japan
10th December 2004

1. Background

1-1 Purpose of the Asian Forum

The purpose of this Forum is to promote mutual understanding and collaboration among Asian nations in order to prepare a framework for cooperation in the field of architecture and building construction.

Participants are to include government officials and representatives from private industry. The framework, or “platform”, is expected to contribute to exchange of information and views on such topics as production system, building materials, professional services, building technologies as well as legal systems, standards and regulations.

1-2 Progress prior to the 4th Forum

Having exchanged general information and experiences at the 1st and 2nd Forums, the 3rd Forum resolved to accept the items below as proposed projects, and that the nominated coordinating bodies would be expected to compile project summaries which clarify objectives, goals and project descriptions as well as a proposed time frame, and then to circulate them for inviting other participating countries.

	Proposed Projects	Coordinating Bodies
1	Collecting general information on the building delivery process of each AF member country	Japan
2	Data base of “Procurement/delivery methods”	Japan
3	Data base of “Codes and regulations” establishing benchmark for formulating best practices and standards	Malaysia
4	Data base of “Procedures/approvals relating to building projects”	Indonesia
5	Data base of “Organizations relating to building industry”	Thailand
6	Establishing a list of contact points	Japan
7	Construction cost indices	India
8	Sustainability in Asia	Singapore succeeded by Japan

9	Reviving the industry	Singapore
10	Comparative research of housing situations or housing warranty systems	Japan

Since then, India, Malaysia and Thailand have compiled their respective project summaries and have circulated them among member countries. Japan, on the other hand, has proposed and circulated a newly modified project titled “AF Yellow Page Network” combining three projects which had been assigned to Japan, namely project 1, 2 and 6, based on the perspective that it is quite difficult to collect, update and disseminate relevant information/data in English directly and timely under the scheme of these originally proposed projects. Japan also expects the other project coordinating bodies to join this project when feasible.

After 3rd Asian Forum, AF Bulletin Board was created to facilitate communication among AF Members.

2. Discussions in the 4th Asian Forum

2-1 Country Report Sessions

All the member countries made 22 presentations (refer to the Appendix A) related to 10 proposed projects.

2-2 Project Progress Report Sessions

Japan as the coordinating body for Projects 1, 2, and 6 and Malaysia for Project 3, have shared the common recognition that there are problems to overcome specifically on data collecting and disseminating data/information and language differences. Having exchanged views on how to surmount these stumbling blocks in a realistic way, Japan and Malaysia jointly proposed the formulation and operation of the “AF Yellow-Page Network” for construction-related information and service providers.

The outlines of the AF Yellow-Page Network project are:

- AF members are to establish an on-line portal site “National AF Yellow-Page” with a useful directory, and then
- link it with other AF members’ portal sites through the Asian Forum web site.
- AF members are also to stimulate related local people/organizations to provide information on “National AF Yellow Page”, and
- Through “National AF Yellow Page” and an on-line network, it becomes possible

to access necessary data/information and appropriate business partners.

The other project coordinating bodies also reported the progress of each project. These are: Thailand for Project 5, Indonesia for Project 4, India for Project 7, Japan for Projects 8 and 10, Singapore for Project 9. A new project titled “Development of housing and urban development index” was proposed by the Philippines.

It was noted that “AF Yellow-Page Network” can be a useful platform to share data/information and a practical infrastructure for the project concerned.

3. A Call for Action - Towards the 5th Asian Forum and the Future

3-1 Promotion of “AF Yellow-Page Network” project

In order to promote the “AF Yellow-Page Network” project as a common platform for information exchange among people/organizations concerned in member countries, all the participating representatives are invited to consider the following plans:

1st Step: Establishing “National AF Yellow Page” portal site and post the data/information which is already collected for the first trial.

2nd Step: Disseminating the concept of “AF Yellow Page Network”, and stimulating people/bodies concerned with construction, to participate in the Project and provide their information to the extent possible.

Concerning the above, progress reports will be requested from the participants of the 5th Asian Forum. The Secretariat will provide support for member countries if necessary.

A Task Group will be established to develop common tools (such as Classification/Directories for Information/Service and Search Engine Software) for AF Yellow-Page Network. .

3-2 Further activities

It is also recognized to initiate thematic projects as further activities of the Asian Forum by the project teams which will be formulated by interested members. It is expected to implement such thematic projects by utilizing collected data/information through “AF Yellow-Page Network” where appropriate.

Thematic projects and their coordinators identified at the 4th Forum are:

- # “Procurement/Delivery methods” (Japan)
- # “Codes and regulations establishing bench mark for formulating best practice and standards” (Malaysia & Japan)
- # “Procedures/approvals” (Indonesia)
- # “Organization relating to building industry” (Thailand)
- # “Construction Cost Indices” (India)
- # “Sustainability in Asia” (Japan)
- # “Reviving the Industry” (Singapore)
- # “Housing Warranty Systems” (Japan & Korea)
- # “Housing and urban development indices” (Philippines)

Project progress reports are expected to be presented by the project teams, at the 5th Forum to the extent possible.

3-3 Future Arrangement of the Forum

All the member countries agree to continue the Asian Forum activities further, and to consider appropriate financial arrangements after the 5th Forum which will be held in Tokyo in 2005.