

Summary Report of the 5th conference of Asian Forum for Cooperation in Building Industry

Preface

Asian nations have similarity in culture and lifestyle that has been cultivated over the long history through geographically and economically close relationship.

On the other hand, each region has formed its own traditional and cultural characteristics.

Rapid economic growth and urbanization in Asia have resulted in deterioration of the quality of the environment.

The pressing issue is how to address the basic needs and to respond to the expectations of people who hope to raise the quality of life, establish and implement sustainable building and construction for Asia in order to preserve its rich environment.

The purpose of Asian Forum is to provide venue for people of different field, such as housing development, building and construction sectors and administrative agencies, to gather, to exchange views on a wide range of issues, to establish common objectives and goals, formulation of action plans to promote mutual cooperation of the Asian region.

1. Background

Asian Forum has held four international conferences since 2002. The purpose of this effort was to establish a common platform among the Asian nations in order to promote mutual understanding and information exchange.

Delegates of participating countries have reported the latest development of trends and issues, and have engaged in open exchange of views. The professional network formed among the participants has been enhanced each time, and has become an invaluable asset of Asian Forum.

Currently a dedicated website was built to enhance the professional network, and to facilitate free exchange of information. Each country is encouraged to develop its own national network system based on this international information network system.

2. To reaffirm principle and strategy of Asian Forum

A. Principle of Asian Forum

Asian Forum will take a leadership role in Asian region to establish “mutual understanding of the building industry” and to promote “sustainable environment” by utilizing information platform and professional network that have been set up.

B. Strategy of Asian Forum

(Information platform + Project Forum + Cooperative Network)

The followings will be formed to achieve the vision of Asian Forum:

- Information platform such as Asian Forum Website will provide a venue for exchanging and gathering information such as laws and regulations, database and directories.
- Project Forum is a mini-forum to address specific issues by participating members.
- Cooperative Network will encourage collaborative activities by people including the participating members, the secretariat, the professionals and the administrative agencies from each country.

3. Resolution of the 5th International Conference

The followings have been proposed;

A. The establishment of Core Member Council.

The participating members of our last five Asian Forum Conferences will be the core members of the council. They will be encouraged to initiate Cooperative Network and act as the key personnel for transmitting information of each country, and act as the action initiator to express specific issues for Project Forum.

B. Mini Forum will be organized on specific issues

Specific issues that are proposed by the Core Member Council that are agreed by the other core members will become the agenda to be addressed in Project Forum. The resolution from the Project Forum will be transmitted back to Asian Forum members.

C. To enhance Information Platform

If Information Platform is used widely and repeatedly, it will evolve itself and enhance its value. The setting up of the Mail Magazine will promote communication among the Asian Forum members. It will contain the information provided by the core member and will be issued periodically to all Asian Forum members, selected professional organizations and administrative agencies. The Asian Forum member countries are also encouraged to set up their respective "National Asian Forum Yellow Page" as this will be a very useful platform for information exchange. The results of Project Forum can also be posted at the Asian Forum website as Project Archives

4. What is the future direction of Asian Forum.

A. Continuation of Asian Forum

This 5th conference is the last scheduled session funded by Japan. However, it has been mutually understood that the professional collaborative network will play a significant role for the future development of the Asian region. The objective of Asian Forum will remain by maintaining active use of Information Platform and promoting activities initiated by various information provided by the core members. From the experiences through the past conferences, we have acknowledged the importance of face-to-face communication for developing and enhancing Asian Forum. Therefore, we will aim to hold the next international conference in three years for the core members to gather again.

We also welcome and encourage other core members to host future Asian Forum conference.

B. The significance of Asian Forum

The core members will be responsible for promoting the vision and objective of Asian Forum to their respective professional organizations and administrative agencies.

C. Role of the Secretariat

IIBH will continue to act as the Secretariat, will assist the activities and projects initiated by Core Member Council, maintenance of the Information Platform, and promote the Asian Forum. As for the Project Forum initiated by other member country, the host country will be responsible for their respective secretariat.