

JIA (Japan Institute of Architects) updates May 6th, 2011

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1 Overview of Eastern Japan Great Earthquake Disaster and vision of its recovery

1-1 Current situation

The Tohoku (means northeast) earthquake and tsunami were caused by a 9.0-magnitude undersea Megathrust Earthquake off the coast of Japan that occurred at 14:46 JST on Friday, 11 March 2011. The quake triggered huge tsunami waves up to 37.9 meters that struck Japan, seaside villages and cities of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures,

minutes after the quake. In some cases, Tsunami abruptly traveled up to 10km inland. The national police agency officially confirmed 14,723 deaths, 10,807 people missing mainly above 3 prefectures, as well as over 78,841 buildings completely destroyed. (data:May 2)

In the middle of April, major transportation network has resumed regular service; i. e. Bullet Train between Sendai and Tokyo, Flights between Sendai and other cities in Japan, highway network are safely operating now. Besides, it will take some more months to revive coastal train network and function of ports. Regarding accidents at Fukushima I Nuclear Power Plant, intensive works for its stabilization will continue within several months.

Metropolitan Tokyo, 230km south to Fukushima has no effect of the quake, tsunami and radio-activity. Tokyo area and Western Japan has been keeping daily life and usual business

activity after March 11.

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1-2 Professional activities after disaster

Right after the quake, JIA members and a large number of architectural professionals has

started professional actions including “quick inspection of damaged building.” Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ) has been investigating the damage and its mechanism at the affected areas.

These activities were so effective under the circumstances. It was so swift to respond,

because Ministry of Infrastructure, Land and Transportation (MLIT) and several associations of architectural professionals has experienced emergent professional actions under the natural disasters in recent Japan and other countries.

Including JIA, associations of professionals has been jointly making professional proposal for revival. Currently, Japanese professionals are working hard to rebuild housings and buildings, and began to picture new regional plan of damaged areas.

1-3 Appeal from Professional

Even before the disaster, the affected areas were facing at the aging of its population

and declination of local industry. For reviving of these areas, it is important not only to

recover its safety but also to consider and treat these issues.

Until now, emergent action, human support and technical suggestion of people in foreign countries encouraged Japan. I feel actually prompt action and broad sympathy will strongly back up the stabilization after disasters in any case in the world. Based on our experience and recognition, Japan will contribute to the disasters in the world.

Right after the disaster, Japan has faced with the power shortage. Tokyo area has already prepared to avoid shortage in summertime. Observing the difficulty, Japanese people have become aware of the importance of sustainable design and low-energy lifestyle. It is crucial for architect, too.

1-4 Vision of JIA beyond disasters

With accumulating the experiences and wisdoms in passed 2 months, JIA will push forward to complete the mission for proper revival from the disasters. It will empower the region and inhabitants if architect show the leadership at reviving process in creative management and in solution with definite design. For promoting this idea, JIA are preparing “JIA Fund for the disasters” to assist the emergent

activity and the work for revival, and to back up architects' immediate action at the disasters.

2 JIA updates and future vision

JIA has currently 4,600 members (April, 2011: No one injured in this disaster).

In Japan, "The Building Standard Law of Japan" and "Act on Architects and Building Engineers" has begun obligatory continuing education as professional from 2008. Prior to the change of the policy, JIA has been operating the educational system to keep professional morals, sincerity and up-dated knowledge for decades. JIA will continue to back up and bring up an architect who takes important role on realizing desirable townscape thorough sincere design work.

Meanwhile, JIA has been appealing to MLIT and to public about suitable positioning of genuine architect. Actually, according to the definition of UIA architect, architect has not yet clearly placed in the Law of Japan. JIA appeals that properly and successively trained architect will be effective to continuation of regional activity. JIA confirms this principle through plenty of discussions with citizens for many years.

3 Momentous messages at UIA 2011 TOKYO Congress

JIA hosts the UIA Congress (The 24th World Congress of Architecture 2011) in this September. Its preparation has been doing by UIA 2011 Japan Organizing Board (JOB) which are composed of JIA and other architectural associations.

When Regular Coordinating Council for UIA 2011 was jointly held by UIA and JOB on April 8th and 9th at Tokyo, they reached the conclusion to work together for the success of the Congress as scheduled (September 25th -October 1st).

Right at the moment when Japan faces the difficulty after March 11, theme of the Congress was switched to "Design 2050: Beyond Disasters, through Solidarity, towards Sustainability." Facing with disasters, architects in the world will discuss what architect can do now for the future. UIA 2011 will declare the statement to public within the global context. I believe the Congress is so meaningful chance to deliver significant message at Japan this year.

4 Towards Global platform

It is apparent that overseas activity of architects and students has become active

in passed 10 years. With a view to supporting this movement, JIA pictures the active “global educational platform based on collaboration.” Through this platform, architects can share the technical information and it is possible to bring up genuine effective professionals who use professional skills and morals on global business.

In the scheme of “platform” , young professionals and students can explore the chance of overseas internship, overseas workshop and global discussion. Probably, this scheme does not exclude elder generation from “platform” . Platform will back up every professional.

Anyhow, JIA will provide the architects and people in the world with knowledge and experiences of Japan at discussions at UIA, ARCASIA and other global fields. JIA hopes to develop everyone’ s professional spirit, skill and moral which are common to architects anywhere in the world.

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