PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMISSION
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS
CASE STUDY
IN THE
USE AND APPLICATION OF THE
UIA ACCORD FOR PROFESSIONALISM IN THE
INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE OF
ARCHITECTURE

The Professional Practice Commission is compiling a series of case studies that document how the UIA Accord is being utilized by UIA member sections. It is hoped that these case studies will encourage other UIA member sections to make use of the UIA Accord in their countries.

1. UIA Member Section

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia(PAM)
Malaysian Institute of Architects

2. Use and Application of the UIA Accord

The UIA Accord had been introduced and deliberated upon by the Malaysian government on various occasions in seminars, conferences and dialogue for the past five years.

The Board of Architects has been adopting the Accord in its activities to promote uniform standard for accreditation and training. The Council for Architectural Education Malaysia(CAEM) is the body under the Board of Architects have adopted the guidelines of the Accord in evaluating architectural syllabus for the Institutes of Higher Learning Malaysia. This move is to standardise the recommendation of the Board to other relevant organization that are associated to the practice of architecture.

A copy of the Accord was forwarded to the Malaysian permanent representative at the World Trade Organization (WTO) at their headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland to apprise them of the developments of International standard of professional practice in architecture. Consequently, at the services negotiations in March 2003, Architect Esa Mohamed was a member of the Malaysian Government delegation involved in the negotiation on professional services. The UIA Accord was used as a basis for bilateral negotiations.

3. Goal - Objective

To make known the existence and potential applications of the UIA Accord for the practice of architectural profession in Malaysia, the ASEAN and APEC regions as well as services trade negotiations with the members of the World Trade Organization.

4. Instigator/Organizer of the Use and Application of the UIA Accord

Ar. Esa Mohamed, Past President of PAM and council member has been tasked with the promotion of mobility of architectural services by Malaysian architects. He currently holds positions as follows;

1. Chairman of the International affairs and Globalisation Committee of the Board of Architects.
2. Chairman of the International Affairs and Globalisation Committee of PAM.
3. Director of the Professional Services Development Corporation, Malaysia.
4. Co-chairman of the National Professional Services Export Council, Malaysia.
5. Represents the architectural profession in several government agencies and advisory boards of universities and ministry of education dealing with curricula development.
6. Represents the architectural profession in bi-lateral and multi-lateral negotiations on services in WTO, AFAS and APEC.

Through the above the UIA Accord has been introduced into the agenda of several activities of the government and that of the relevant bodies in the countries within ASEAN. At the 32nd meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services in Kuala Lumpur on 30th June-2nd July, The UIA Accord was introduced and in particular the guidelines on MRA. Arising from the presentation, Malaysia and the Philippines are developing MRA for architecture. It is expected that the MRA's for engineering and surveying will follow.

The Ministry of Education, Malaysia has formulated CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THE FIELD

OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT, which includes training in architecture, engineering and surveying at the institutes of higher learning, in order to ensure the quality based delivery and outcome of training and education is attained. The UIA Accord had been used as the benchmark for architectural education.

5. Government Ministry/Bureau/Agency

The government ministries, authorities, and organizations concerned are as follows;

- Ministry of works
- Ministry of International Trade and Industries
- Ministry of Education
- Board of Architects
- Schools of Architecture in local universities
- Malaysian Institutes of Architects

6. Description of the Process/Procedure

The National Economic Action Council which was established following the *Asian Financial Crisis* in 1997 saw the importance of the services sector as the next engine of growth for the region. It then established the Professional Services Development Corporation (PSDC) to harness and maximise the economic potential of the professional services industry, the fastest growing sector within the Malaysian economy. The PSDC encompassed five service sectors – legal services, accounting, construction industry (including architectural services), health care and education.
The Corporation was committed to developing strategic linkages with capacity building organisations in other countries, especially those within the region and with networking foreign institutions for joint participation in research and development activities. It intended to play a lead role in the development of mutual recognition agreements where appropriate and promote the exchange of technologies through facilitation of local and international workshops and training programs. The UIA Accord serves as an ideal template for facilitation of its programs particularly in negotiations under GATS as well as regional economic groups in ASEAN and APEC.

The PSDC is now becoming the main coordinator for capacity and capability building, networking with foreign professionals.

7. Results

The UIA Accord is continuously being cited at various forums dealing with the subject of architectural services. In April this year a national seminar for architects will be held to make them aware of the impact on globalisation and the need to open up their horizon. The UIA Accord will be one of the topics which will be presented again.
The WTO member representatives of the government are continuously being briefed on the progress and developments in the Accord. This is made possible by the existence of PSDC as the coordinating agency between the government and the private sector on matters regarding export of services including negotiations on multi-lateral, bi-lateral basis or Free trade agreements between two countries.

8. Date Initiated

On going.