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

The Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA)

2. Use and Application of the UIA Accord

The UIA Accord is presented to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in a seminar for government representatives to the WTO at their headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The Commission has been in constant contact with the WTO from its inception.

3. Goal - Objective

To make known the existence and potential applications of the UIA Accord within the World Trade Organization, particularly within the WTO's Domestic Regulation Committee.

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

Michael Peck, CEO of The Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) and a member of the UIA Professional Practice Commission approached the national WTO member, the Australian Trade Office, with the recommendation that it host a three hour seminar at the WTO headquarters on the subject of the UIA Accord. The recommendation was accepted and invitations were extended to all WTO national members to attend.

5. Government Ministry/Bureau/Agency

The primary international organization that was the focus of this effort was the World Trade Organization and their Domestic Regulation Committee.

6. Description of the Process/Procedure

Once the recommendation was accepted by the Australian Trade Office, it extended official invitations to the WTO national government members to participate in the seminar. The Australian Trade Office invited The Royal Australian Institute of Architects, as the UIA member section, to organize the seminar program. The RAIA's designated representative to the UIA Professional Practice Commission then asked the Commission's leadership to organize the seminar and invite the presenters.

The seminar was chaired by the WTO's chair of the Domestic Regulation Committee. Four formal presentations were made by UIA officers and Commission representatives on various aspects of the Accord, the Guidelines and the international survey on practice standards. A question and answer session followed.

The seminar was attended by 35 WTO member representatives.

7. Results

The seminar served to introduce the UIA Accord to the WTO member representatives. The seminar brought about a clear understanding that the UIA cannot expect the WTO to be imposing the UIA Accord on their members. Rather, it is the responsibility of the UIA member sections in working with their national governments to see that the UIA Accord are carried forward both with their country trade ministries and they in turn with their WTO member representatives.

In response to a formal request by several UIA member sections to their national trade ministries and in turn to their WTO member representatives, copies of the UIA Accord were formally circulated to all of the WTO members.

8. Date Initiated

The seminar was held in Geneva, Switzerland on July 18, 2002.

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