

International Presidents Forum

FCARM-Mexico

AIA Convention, San Antonio, 2007

Sustainable Design & Construction-Follow up on the Las Vegas Declaration 2005

The policies on sustainability developed by Mexico's FCARM are based on Human Rights Principles and the protection of the environment, especially in harmonizing the planning of urban development and the explosive growth of new housing projects. FCARM presented the new Federal Government agencies and the president himself a document drawn by our commission of PRO-FUTUROS (PRO-FUTURES) that includes the definition of integrated public policies with scenarios in 2010, 2020 and 2030. Among these are the strengthening of strategies on energy renewal and particularly on architectural education and sustainability.

It must be understood that the difference in economic models and levels of development makes a difference in the level of impact on the environment. In our countries energy consumption as a result of technology is still very low, and our main problem is trying to avoid falling in the use on unnecessary technological means.

Offshore Outsourcing

Our geographic location enables us to have a dual response to this situation. At the same time that we have Mexican architects using the services of Central and South American architects, many of our members who live along the border with the US, have long worked on both sides, with and for American architects. Although we do not have precise statistics, we are working towards this end and to identify their precise activities and relationships. The different agencies of FCARM (federation of architects); CONARC (certification), COMAEA (accreditation), COMPIA (international practice), are closely working towards establishing the areas of opportunity that will enable a close control of international practice within our country.

Mobility of Architects and WTO Commitments

Our country, after the US, has signed the most number of international economic agreements and as such, has established Mutual Recognition Agreements with North America (NAFTA), the EU, and APEC (where Mexico has currently the Secretariat for 2007-2008). In all of these, we have guided our participation by two clear policies; recognition as equals (in responsibility and professional recognition) and the respect for cultural differences.

The San Antonio Declaration

Since the whole process of building architecture begins with the investors, we propose to include them also in the call made to architects, engineers and contractors to adopt and implement these sustainability goals.