

International Presidents Forum-2007 AIA Convention in San Antonio
Report by Korean Institute of Architects

National Update:

We have an on-going process of revising overall architectural systems for the past several years to comply with the international standards suggested by the UIA Accord adopted in Beijing in 1996.

1. Architectural education programs are adjusted to accommodate 5-year programs after a careful preparation for several years.
2. As a means to secure quality of professional education, Korean Architectural Education Accrediting Board was established and the initial accreditation visits to three schools were successfully conducted last November, in which 6 experts invited from abroad participated as team members.
3. We expect new revised Architects Act will be in effect next year which will call for a major change in the architect licensing system, from current life-time licensing system to renewal system. Naturally, Intern development programs and continuing professional education system are critical parts of the new architects registration system.
4. The Korea APEC architects monitoring committee was established and initiated selection of qualified APEC architects. Approximately 270 architects were recognized as qualified APEC architects this year.
5. Negotiations for Korea-US Free Trade Agreement were successfully completed last April which includes architectural service, although details remain to be discussed further.

Sustainability:

Sustainability has emerged as a critical issue both in public and private sectors. Large government projects require sustainability as a critical design consideration and often mandate adoption of renewable energy resources to replace a certain portion of conventional energy as well as a life-cycle cost analysis. As energy cost rises, private sector projects are also beginning to seek alternative energy resources. For instance, photovoltaic cell to capture solar power to offset expensive electricity bills can be often observed on the roofs of private residential houses. The public utility company encourages the system by reimbursement of about 60% of the installation cost or allowing the solar system to be connected to the public utility line to feed back.

The Korean Institute of Architects is determined to continue the promotion of sustainable design to its members and the public as well and very proud to fully support the proposed San Antonio Declaration.

Outsourcing:

Many overseas projects actively utilize the practice of outsourcing. It is not, however, a very active practice for most domestic projects, except for a small amount of perspectives and architectural models. The influence of the practice therefore has minimum impact domestic service market.

Mobility of Architects and WTO Commitment

1. Korea has been actively participating in the UIA Professional Practice Committee for a long time, and will host the next PPC meeting in Seoul in October this year.
2. The government is keen on and supportive of the UIA activities related to the WTO and GATS including the support of the "Draft Discipline on Domestic Regulation in the Architectural Sector."