

board of architects singapore

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Board of Architects (“the Board”) is a statutory authority established to administer the Architects Act in Singapore. The Architects Act 1991 (“the Act”) sets out provisions for the registration of architects, the regulations of architectural qualifications, the practice of architecture by registered individuals and the supply of architectural services by licensed corporations.

2 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

The current term of the Board is 3 years from 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2021. The Board consists of the following Members:

President	:	Ar. Tan Shao Yen
Members	:	Ar. Ang Kong Siong, Tony Ar. Chan Eng Chye, Theodore Ar. Chan Kok Way Ar. Chan Li Chen, Angelene Ar. Cheah Kok Ming Er. Chew Keat Chuan Ar. Fun Siew Leng Ar. Khairudin Saharom Ar. Ong Tze Boon Ar. Seah Chee Huang Er. Tan Shu Min Emily Ar. Teh Joo Heng Ar. Wo Mei Lan Ar. Woo Kok Chew, Raymond
Registrar	:	Ar. Ng Lye Hock, Larry

3 FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD

The main functions of the Board as prescribed in the Act are:

- to keep and maintain every register mentioned in the Act;
- to hold or arrange for the holding of such examinations as the Board considers necessary for the purpose of enabling persons to qualify for registration under the Architects Act;
- to establish, maintain and develop standards of professional conduct and ethics of the architectural profession;
- to promote learning and education in connection with architecture and the practice of architecture, either alone or in conjunction with any other professional body;
- to hear and determine disputes relating to professional conduct or ethics of registered architects or to appoint a committee or arbitrator to hear and determine those disputes;
- to appoint arbitrators for the purpose of hearing and determining disputes between registered architects or licensed corporations, partnerships or limited liability partnerships and other persons;
- to license corporations, multi-discipline partnerships or limited liability partnerships which intend to supply architectural services in Singapore;
- to facilitate the mutual recognition, within Singapore and any country or territory outside Singapore, of the qualifications and standards regarding the practice of architecture; and
- generally to do all such acts, matters and things as are necessary to be carried out under the provisions of this Act.

4 COMMITTEES

The Board appoints various Committees to assist in the implementation of its various functions.

S/N	Name of Committee	Function
1	Accreditation Committee	To assist the Board in the accreditation of foreign universities and qualifications
2	Design Panel under Section 15(2)(c)	To assist the Board in conducting the Professional Interview under Section 15(2)(c) of the Architects Act
3	Examination Panel under Section 15(2)(b)	To assist the Board in conducting the Professional Interview under Section 15(2)(b) of the Architects Act
4	Examination Panel under Section 15(2)(a)	To assist the Board in conducting the Professional Practice Examination under section 15(2)(a) of the Architects Act
5	Examination Panel under Section 15(1)(c)	To assist the Board in conducting the Confirmatory Examination under Section 15(1)(c) of the Architects Act
6	CPD Audit Committee	To assist the Board in reviewing on-going CPD courses and programmes.
7	Review Committee on Architectural Qualifications	To assist the Board in reviewing the list of recognised qualification.
8	Panel of Architects and Lay Persons for Investigation Committees	To assist the Board to streamline its investigation/enforcement functions

5 REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

5.1 Registration

In year 2019, 156 candidates applied to sit for the Professional Practice Examination (PPE) and 4 candidates applied to sit for the Professional Interviews under Section 15(2)(b) and Section 15(2)(c). A total of 93 architects were registered in 2019.

As at 31 Dec 2019, there were a total of 2148 architects on the register of architects and a total of 1727 architects on the annual register of practitioners.

5.2 Licensing of Corporations and Partnerships

As at 31 Dec 2019, there were a total of 156 licensed corporations and limited liability partnerships on the Board's register of licensees. The breakdown is as follows:

Type of Corporations/ Partnerships	Number of licensees
Limited Corporation	125
Unlimited Corporation	1
Limited Liability Partnership	30
TOTAL	156

6 DISCIPLINARY INQUIRIES

In 2019, the Board received five complaints lodged against five registered architects.

Investigation Committees appointed by the Board completed inquiries on five complaint cases against five registered architects. Following the inquiries, four of the cases were referred to Disciplinary Committees while one of the cases was dismissed by the Board.

Disciplinary Committees appointed by the Board completed one formal inquiry. At completion of the inquiries, the Disciplinary Committee ordered the architect to be fined \$10,000 and to pay costs.

7 ACTIVITIES OF THE BOARD

7.1 Board Meetings

The Board held a total of 11 meetings in the year 2019.

7.2 Professional Practice Examination 2019

The Examination Committee of the Board, chaired by Board member Ar. Teh Joo Heng held 16 meetings in 2019 and oversaw the conduct of the Practice of Professional Practice Examination (PPE). The written examination was conducted on 12 Nov 2019 at the National University of Singapore and the oral examination was conducted on 16 and 17 Jan 2020 at the MND Complex. A total of 90 out of 156 candidates passed the examination in 2019.

7.3 ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Architectural Services

The Board had been involved in the implementation of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Architectural Services. The MRA on Architectural Services was signed by the ASEAN Ministers on 19 Nov 2007.

The ASEAN Architect Monitoring Committee Singapore is authorized by the Board to process applications submitted by registered architects for registration as ASEAN Architects. For the year 2019, 6 applications for registration as ASEAN Architects were approved. As at 31 Dec 2019, the number of ASEAN Architects from Singapore on the ASEAN Architect Register is 114.

Registrar chaired the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement on Architectural Works from 2006 to 2009 and was instrumental in the setting up of the ASEAN Architects Council. He is the current Chairman of the ASEAN Business Services Sectoral Working Group.

Registrar attended the following ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS) Meetings in 2019: -

- 1) CCS 92, 11 – 15 February 2019, Brunei
- 2) CCS 93, 17 – 21 June 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 3) CCS 94, 21 – 25 October 2019, Manila, Philippines

President and Registrar also attended the 3rd ASEAN Architects Congress held in Manila, Philippines from 10 – 11 April 2019.

7.4 APEC Architect Project

Singapore is a participating economy of the APEC Architect Project. Under the APEC Architect Framework, participating economies are able to enter into bilateral or multi-lateral arrangements which allow architects in these economies to access fast-track cross-border registration procedures.

On 10 October 2010, Singapore signed the APEC Architect Trilateral Agreement on Reciprocal Recognition of Registered Architects with Australia and New Zealand.

The APEC Architect Monitoring Committee Singapore is authorized by the Board to process applications submitted by registered architects for registration as APEC Architects. For the year 2019, 4 applications for registration as APEC Architects were approved. As at 31 Dec 2019, the number of APEC Architects from Singapore on the APEC Architect Register is 80.

7.5 BOA Presentation Ceremony and Seminar 2019

The Board held its annual Presentation Ceremony and Seminar on 31 Aug 2019 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore. Of the 93 architects registered in 2019, 84 attended the Ceremony to receive their Registration Certificates

together with 8 newly registered ASEAN and APEC Architects who received their ASEAN and APEC Architect Certificates. BOA Prizes were presented to 7 outstanding architecture students from Singapore Polytechnic, the National University of Singapore and the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

7.6 Collaborative Alliance Conference (CAC) 2019

The Collaborative Alliance Conference (CAC) was held on 1 October 2020 at the Sands Expo & Convention Centre at Marina Bay Sands. The conference is a continuation of the previous Joint BOA-ACES Conferences in 2017 and 2018.

The inauguration of this new conference reflects the aspiration of collaboration and seven organizations came together for the first time for this effort: Board of Architects, Professional Engineers Board (PEB), Association of Consulting Engineers Singapore (ACES), Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES), Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore (REDAS), Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL), and Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA).

The theme for this year's conference is "Future Economy: Towards a more enterprising and pro-business transformation". Minister Chan Chun Sing, Ministry of Trade and Industry, graced the occasion as our Guest-of-Honour and participated in an interactive dialogue session with the participants.

7.7 BOA Prizes

In 2019, the Board awarded BOA Prizes ranging from \$300 to \$800 each to 1 Diploma in Architecture graduate and 6 undergraduates from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD).

7.8 Annual Appreciation Lunch

The Board held an appreciation lunch on 8 Feb 2019 at Yan Palace Restaurant to thank registered architects and laypersons who had rendered voluntary services to BOA. About 60 registered architects and laypersons who were members of the various committees of the Board (Investigation Committees, Examination Committee, Professional interview Panels) attended the lunch.