ARCASIA Charter on Social Responsibility (ACSR)

November 2015

<u>Table of Contents</u>

1-1. ARCASIA President's Message

Good architecture is about people and their communities, not just about fulfilling clients' dreams. It is about advocating responsible architecture and universal design. It also demonstrates how with little effort, we as architects are able to make a difference to everyone's life, in particular the less abled. All of us, at some stage in our lives will experience some form of disability. As such, we must ask ourselves, how does our profession contribute to equity amongst people and what can we do to facilitate the basic rights of people in order to guarantee that every individual has access to shelter, employment, education, culture and other facilities without facing discrimination?

I strongly subscribe to the fact that we must not lose sight of the fundamentals of our profession, which is to design architecture that demonstrates a sense of responsibility for society and the community.

In my inaugural speech as the President of ARCASIA, I spoke about my deep passion for "Architecture for Humanity" and pledged to make this as one of the key agenda items under my presidency. I am very glad to note that many of us share the same passion and commitment. ARCASIA is ideally positioned to serve as a platform to establish a framework and guidelines to assist affected Member Organizations examine issues, such as disaster management, in addition to participating in community-based projects that are both meaningful and close to our hearts.

I am glad to note that ARCASIA has initiated this project and I hope that the spirit of giving and caring carries on as an integral part of ARCASIA events in the near future.

Therefore, it is my great pleasure on behalf of the 19 ARCASIA Member Organizations who gather here today to witness the signing of the inaugural ARCASIA Charter on Social Responsibility. It is my belief that, through our combined commitment, architecture across our region will strive to build communities that will improve the quality of the lives of all people.

Witnessed by :

Ar. Tan Pei Ing

ARCASIA President 2013-2014

Ar. Sathirut Nui Tandanand

ARCASIA President 2015-2016

Date: ..12-11-2015.....

1-2. ACSR Chairman's Message

On behalf of all ARCASIA Member Organizations I am delighted to present the inaugural ARCASIA Charter of Socially Responsible Architecture – ACSR 2015.

Drafted in accordance with ARCASIA's seven key principles – Accountability, Transparency, Ethical Behaviour, Respect for Stakeholder Interests, Respect for Rule of Law, Respect for International Norms of Behaviour and Respect for Human Rights – this document seeks to define the mandate to be observed by ARCASIA as it endeavours to promote social responsibility across the region through the initiatives and projects undertaken by Member Organizations.

In today's global village, observance of the governing principles associated with social responsibility not only serve to guide architects in relation to specific projects, but also mandates all associated stakeholders to operate in a transparent, open and accountable manner for the benefit of all.

This Charter aims to clarify the policy of social responsibility as applied and observed by Governments, Institutes and Societies of Architects, Schools of Architecture and Universities, architectural practices/firms and individual architects.

By adopting Social Responsibility at the Government policy level, as a code of conduct of the Institute, for inclusion on the curriculum at Schools of Architecture, as best practice as applied by companies and as a personal commitment by individual architects, the expected outcome will be the better management of global resources, more efficient use of building materials, reduction in energy consumption, less pollution and a more sustainable world.

This Charter has been produced in handbook format using simple English with practical examples, photos and images to illustrate how Social Responsibility can be applied at all levels of society.

ARCASIA supports all Member Organizations in their endeavours to apply the principles of social responsibility across the board. To this end we also look forward to the publication of future Charters and the documentation of SR progress across all member countries.

Witnessed by :

Ar. Joseph Kwan MH

ACSR Chairman 2011-2014

Ar. Rita Soh

ACSR Chairman 2015-2016

Date: 12-11-2015

1-3. ARCASIA Background

Social Responsibility is an ethical ideology or theory that an entity, be it an organisation or individual, has an obligation to act to benefit society at large.

(ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility, Bali, Indonesia. 31 October 2012)

ARCASIA comprises 19 Member Organizations across the Asia region. ARCASIA originated during the 1967 Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) New Delhi Conference, when it was felt that there was an urgent need for the establishment of a regional centre that would be concerned with environmental design and unity among the six Asian Member Institutes of the CAA – India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. A proposal was subsequently made for a Centre for Environment and Technical Advancement (CETA) and for the establishment of an ARCASIA Formation Council.

The First Formation Council (1969-1974) in September 1970 resolved that future assemblies of the National Institutes of the Asian Region of the CAA and ARCASIA be formally called the Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA). While also addressing the need for worldwide associations, the organisation was formed to enable closer working relationships between the individual Member Organisations within the region to deal with matters that are of more immediate importance to the region.

In 1979, ten years after the establishment of the First Formation Council in Hong Kong, the constitutions for ARCASIA and the ARCASIA Board of Architectural Education (ABAE) were signed at the inaugural meeting held in Jakarta.

The Objectives of ARCASIA are:

1) to unite National Institutes of Architects on a democratic basis throughout the Asian region to foster friendly, intellectual, artistic, educational and scientific ties;

2) to foster and maintain professional contacts, mutual co-operation and assistance among Member Organizations;

3) to represent architects of the Member Organizations at national and international levels;

4) to promote the recognition of the architect's role in society;

5) to promote the development and education of architects and the architectural profession in their service to society;

6) to promote research and technical advancement in the field of the built environment.

2-1. THE CHARTER
2015

General

[Corporate Social Responsibility] is a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis.

(EU Commission "Corporate Social Responsibility: A business contribution to sustainable development", 2002)

Social Responsibility is an ethical ideology or theory that an entity, be it an organisation or individual, has an obligation to act to benefit society at large.

(ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility, Bali, Indonesia, 31 October 2012)

Accountability

ARCASIA supports initiatives to encourage individual professionals and companies engaged in architectural practice to conform to socially responsible standards.

Transparency

ARCASIA supports a policy of total transparency with all stakeholders in order to build trust, create a positive brand image and reduce reputational risks in times of crisis.

Respect for Stakeholder Interests

ARCASIA supports respect for the interests of all stakeholders, including ongoing engagement and formal acknowledgement of stakeholders' expectations.

Respect for the Rule of Law

ARCASIA respects the rule of law and the legal systems as applied in all respective Member Organization countries.

Respect for International Norms of Behaviour

ARCASIA supports respect for international norms of behaviour in order to promote and protect the implementation of adequate environmental and social safeguards.

Respect for Human Rights

ARCASIA encourages and supports respect for human rights and strives to secure dignity and equality for all people.

2-2. ARCASIA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
(Signatories to the Charter)

Architects Association of Macau

(Signature of the President)

The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage

(Signature of the President)

Architectural Society of China

(Signature of the President)

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

(Signature of the President)

Korea Institute of Registered Architects

(Signature of the President)

Association of Lao Architects and Civil Engineers

(Signature of the President)

2-2. ARCASIA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (cont'd.)
(Signatories to the Charter)

Institute of Architects Bangladesh

(Signature of the President)

Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia

(Signature of the President)

Institute of Architects, Pakistan

(Signature of the President)

The Indian Institute of Architects

(Signature of the President)

The Japan Institute of Architects

(Signature of the President)

Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia

(Signature of the President)

2-2. ARCASIA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (cont'd.)
(Signatories to the Charter)

Singapore Institute of Architects	Sri Lanka Institute of Architects	Society of Nepalese Architects
(Signature of the President)	(Signature of the President)	(Signature of the President)

United Architects of the Philippines	Union of Mongolian Architects	Vietnam Association of Architects	Bhutan Institute of Architects
(Signature of the President)	(Signature of the President)	(Signature of the President)	(Signature of the President)

We, the abovesigned, as Representatives of our respective Member Organizations, hereby confirm our acceptance of this Charter, its content and our commitment to its implementation.

Dated this 12th **Day of November, 2015.**

3-1. United Nations Global Compact

Delivering a better future for all requires action by all.

The vision and aspirations of the drafters of the United Nations Charter, as they set out to be "architects of a better world", remains a beacon today. But if in 1945 their sights were set largely on Governments, today we know that thousands of companies and civil society organisations are key partners in tackling our world's most pressing challenges.

Building a better world is a global imperative – not just for the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty, the millions of youth with no prospect of employment, or one-third of the population living in countries facing water stress. These are just some of the numerous and connected crises that threaten progress, peace and stability in societies and markets everywhere.

The Global Corporate Sustainability Report 2013 reveals that businesses around the world are beginning to take sustainability more seriously. A look at the actions taken by the nearly 8,000 companies from 140 countries participating in the United Nations Global Compact tells a promising story.

Companies – from the largest to the smallest in size, from the most developed to the least developed countries – are striving to ingrain universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anticorruption into their management and operations.

At the same time, while UN Global Compact participants are on a good track in terms of high-level commitments and goal setting, much more needs to be done to deepen sustainability efforts in how they think and act, from boardrooms to supply chains.

The UN Global Compact is continuously developing opportunities for companies to improve performance and increase action, including through issue platforms on climate, water, women's empowerment and children's rights that allow them to share risks and accelerate gains. The 101 increasingly active country networks are helping business pursue sustainability in line with local priorities, language and culture.

With growing incentives from investors, consumers and Governments, and pressure from enlightened business and industry leaders, we can move from incremental progress to transformative impact.

We cannot achieve a more equitable, prosperous and sustainable future without business engagement and solutions. The United Nations is committed to deepening its collaboration with the private sector and advancing the corporate responsibility movement. I call on more companies around the world to join the UN Global Compact, and spur a sustainability revolution in markets and societies around the world.

H.E. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

Foreword to *Global Corporate Sustainability Report 2013*

3-2. ISO 26000:2010

Guidance Standard on Social Responsibility

Launched in 2010 by International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Secretary-General Rob Steele, ISO 26000:2010 was one of the most eagerly awaited ISO International Standards of recent years. It provides guidance to both business and public sector organisations on social responsibility (SR).

Steele stated:

> *"What makes ISO 26000 exceptional … is that it distils a truly international consensus on what social responsibility means and what core subjects need to be addressed to implement it. In addition, it is based on broad stakeholder input, including from developing countries, business, government, consumers, labour, nongovernmental organisations and individuals."*

The objective of social responsibility is to contribute to sustainable development. An organisation's performance in the society in which it operates and its impact on the environment have become critical aspects of measuring its overall performance and ability to continue operating effectively. This is in part a reflection of the growing recognition of the need to ensure healthy ecosystems, social equity and good organisational governance. In the long run, all organisations' activities depend on the health of the world's ecosystems. Organisations are also subjected to greater scrutiny by their stakeholders.

An organisation's performance in relation to social responsibility can influence

1) its competitive advantage,
2) its reputation,
3) its ability to attract and retain workers or members, customers, clients or users,
4) employee morale, commitment and productivity,
5) the views of investors, owners, donors, sponsors and the financial community and
6) its relationship with companies, governments, media, suppliers, peers, customers and the community in which it operates.

The ISO 26000:2010 International Standard provides guidance to organisations, regardless of size or location, regarding

1) concepts, terms and definitions related to social responsibility,
2) background, trends and characteristics of social responsibility,

3) principles and practices relating to social responsibility,

4) core subjects and issues of social responsibility,

5) integrating, implementing and promoting socially responsible behaviour throughout the organisation and through its policies and practices within its sphere of influence,

6) identifying and engaging with stakeholders and

7) communicating commitments, performance and other information related to social responsibility.

The ISO 26000:2010 International Standard is intended to assist organisations in contributing to sustainable development, to encourage them to go beyond legal compliance, while recognizing that compliance with the law is a fundamental duty of any organisation and an essential part of their social responsibility. The International Standard is also intended to promote common understanding in the field of social responsibility, by complementing other instruments and initiatives for social responsibility, not by replacing them.

This International Standard is intended to provide organisations with guidance concerning social responsibility and can be used as part of public policy activities. However, for the purposes of the Marrakech Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it is not intended to be interpreted as an "international standard", "guideline" or "recommendation", nor is it intended to provide a basis for any presumption or finding that a measure is consistent with WTO obligations.

Furthermore, it is not intended to provide a basis for legal actions, complaints, defences or other claims in any international, domestic or other proceeding, nor is it intended to be cited as evidence of the evolution of customary international law.

This International Standard is not intended to prevent the development of national standards that are more specific, more demanding or of a different type.

ISO 26000:2010 is a voluntary guidance standard that is not to be used for certification, unlike ISO 9001:2008 (quality management) and ISO 14001:2004 (environmental management), which can be used for certification.
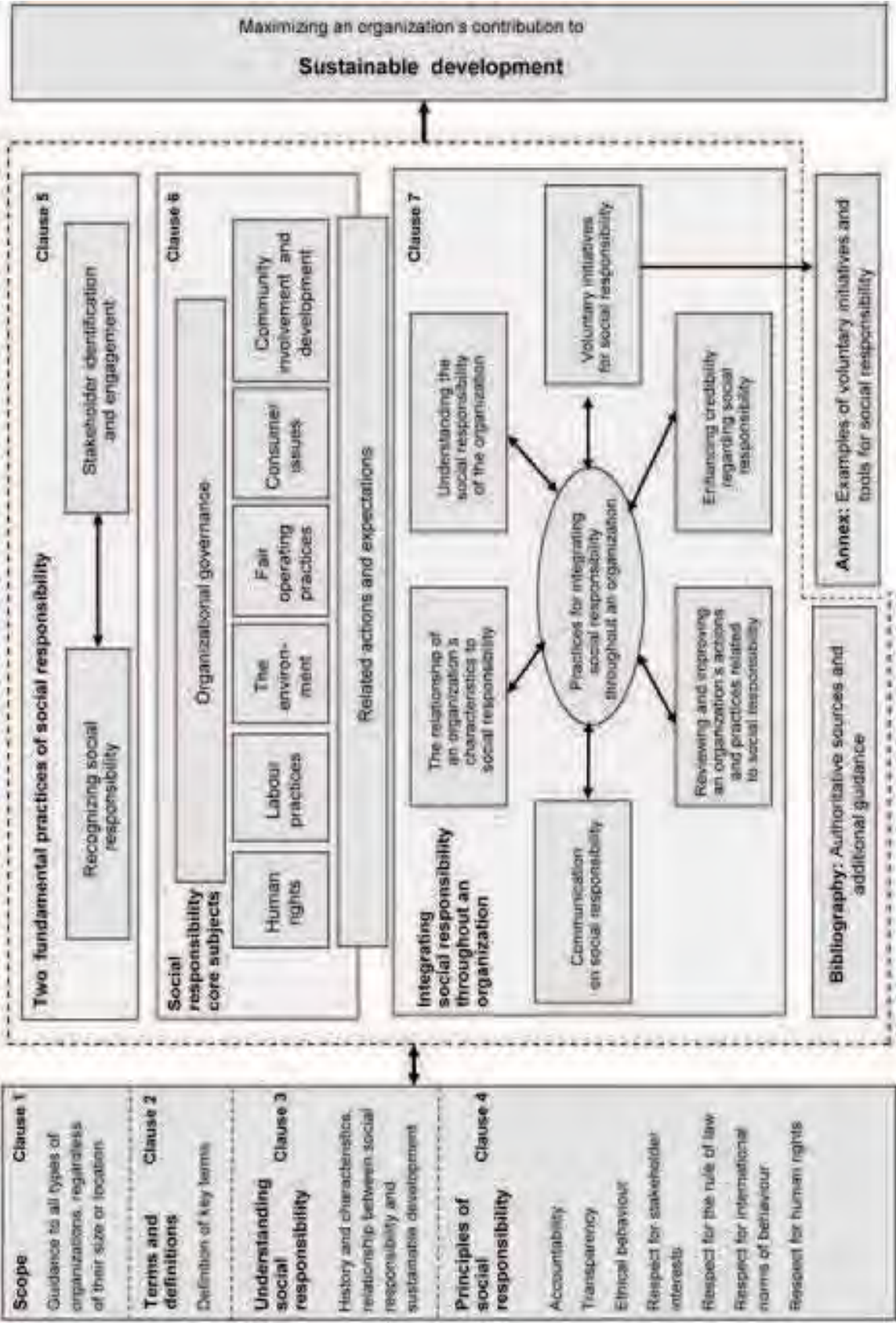
Source: ISO 26000:2010

Maximizing an organization's contribution to

Sustainable development

Clause 5

Two fundamental practices of social responsibility

- Recognizing social responsibility
- Stakeholder identification and engagement

Clause 6

Social responsibility core subjects

Organizational governance

- Human rights
- Labour practices
- The environment
- Fair operating practices
- Consumer issues
- Community involvement and development

Related actions and expectations

Clause 7

Integrating social responsibility throughout an organization

- Understanding the social responsibility of the organization
- The relationship of an organization's characteristics to social responsibility
- Communication on social responsibility
- Practices for integrating social responsibility throughout an organization
- Voluntary initiatives for social responsibility
- Enhancing credibility regarding social responsibility
- Reviewing and improving an organization's actions and practices related to social responsibility

Annex: Examples of voluntary initiatives and tools for social responsibility

Bibliography: Authoritative sources and additional guidance

Scope — **Clause 1**

Guidance to all types of organizations, regardless of their size or location

Terms and definitions — **Clause 2**

Definition of key terms

Understanding social responsibility — **Clause 3**

History and characteristics, relationship between social responsibility and sustainable development

Principles of social responsibility — **Clause 4**

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Ethical behaviour
- Respect for stakeholder interests
- Respect for the rule of law
- Respect for international norms of behaviour
- Respect for human rights

Figure 1 – Schematic Overview of ISO 26000:2010

4-1. GENERAL

[Corporate Social Responsibility] is a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis.

(EU Commission "Corporate Social Responsibility: A business contribution to sustainable development", 2002)

Social Responsibility is an ethical ideology or theory that an entity, be it an organisation or individual, has an obligation to act to benefit society at large.

(ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility, Bali, Indonesia, 31 October 2012)

What is Social Responsibility?

Social Responsibility (SR) refers to an approach to business and professional practice that involves participating in initiatives that benefit society. As consumer awareness about global social issues continues to grow, so does the importance of SR. The ARCASIA Charter on Social Responsibility focuses on SR as it relates to architectural professional practice, teaching, research and regulation undertaken by individual architects, businesses, schools and governments within ARCASIA member countries.

SR functions as a self-regulating mechanism that allows a business or individual to monitor and ensure continuing compliance with the rule of law, ethical standards and respect for international norms of behaviour.

There are basically four types of SR: 1) Environmental Responsibility, 2) Human Rights Responsibility, 3) Financial Responsibility and 4) Political Responsibility.

1) Environmental Responsibility includes taking responsibility for reducing carbon emissions, global warming, pollution and the consumption of non-renewable resources. It also includes taking the steps necessary to do so, namely, to reduce carbon footprints, limit pollution and obtain materials from sustainable sources.

2) Human Rights Responsibility includes addressing the issue of unfairly treated workers, promoting demand for fair trade products and ensuring that strict labour standards are applied to and by suppliers.

3) Financial Responsibility includes ensuring that all finances are ethically obtained and managed. This includes personnel being expected to and supported when they act as whistle blowers, whether about white collar crime or other criminal activities amongst stakeholders.

4) Political Responsibility includes not trading with or otherwise supporting repressive regimes. This is an ongoing and difficult issue in the observance of SR.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is defined as corporate self-regulation integrated into a specific business model, and is a subset of SR. Some company CSR models go beyond compliance, so that the organisation engages in actions that further social good beyond the interests of the organisation or required by law.

SR abides by the principle that individuals and companies can, and should, make a positive contribution to society. This is achieved by managing the social, environmental and economic impacts of the individual or organisation and his, her or its response to stakeholder concerns. SR-focused practice observes a set of values that are in accordance with, but not specifically laid down by law.

Professionals and businesses apply SR to operate transparently in an economic, environmental and socially responsible manner. This can help them to manage and mitigate social and environmental risk factors. Incorporating responsible business practices into professional practice, investments and operations may not only benefit the local economies and communities within which the business operates, but can also make good basic business sense.

According to the 2007 report of a group of European experts on CSR and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs), SR should be seen as an investment that can bring advantages such as better staff retention, recruitment, development and motivation, improved customer loyalty and reduced expenditure on energy. It is about continuous improvement and should be seen as part of the modern model of business excellence.

SR is a long-term approach to business that addresses the needs of communities, people and employers. It provides frameworks for successful enterprises that are harmonious with their surroundings and the environments within which they operate. It is also an opportunity to generate honest and positive media coverage that a business and its community can rightly be proud of.

There are many aspects to social responsibility. Individual companies and professionals may decide to develop one particular area of SR or multiple areas.

SR policies may help an organisation successfully to attain new business, increase customer retention and develop and enhance relationships with customers, suppliers and networks. It can also help to attract and retain a happy workforce, save money on energy and operating costs while managing risks. SR can set companies and professional practitioners apart from competitors, generating innovation and learning and enhancing influence. It can also improve the reputation and standing of practitioners, provide access to new sources of investment and funding opportunities and generate positive publicity with media interested in promoting ethical business activities.

Source: ISO 26000:2010

The figures denote the corresponding clause numbers in ISO 26000

4-2. ACCOUNTABILITY

ARCASIA supports initiatives to encourage individual professionals and companies engaged in architectural practice to conform to socially responsible standards.

What is Professional Accountability?

Over the last 30 years, businesses around the world have witnessed the growing importance and visibility of a range of initiatives pioneered by businesses, social organisations and governments that aim to encourage companies to behave in more socially responsible and accountable ways.

Professional accountability is related to corporate accountability. According to researchers Marshall and Macdonald, "accountability" differs from "responsibility" in that it is commonly used to refer to more confrontational or enforceable strategies. It typically implies that corporate, and by extension professional, behaviour can be influenced by pressure exerted by social and government groups beyond the company itself. Such groups can adopt a range of strategies, including legal mechanisms to enforce social standards.

Architects practising under the auspices of the various ARCASIA Member Organizations are typically required to subscribe to a code of conduct or ethics. Such codes set the standards in accordance with which such professionals are required to act, in addition to those imposed by the general law of the jurisdiction. They typically apply not only to individual members acting on their own behalf but also to the conduct of any architectural businesses in which they have an interest. Most if not all ARCASIA Member Organizations are empowered to impose sanctions in case of non-compliance with such codes. Institutional codes of professional conduct therefore impose a form of professional accountability with which architects must comply.

However, professional accountability also demands participation by affected groups. This may include giving voice to and considering the interests of individuals and groups who work within or are affected by the works of architectural practices.

4-3. TRANSPARENCY

ARCASIA supports a policy of total transparency with all stakeholders in order to build trust, create a positive brand image and reduce reputational risks in times of crisis.

Transparency refers to the open and honest reporting on policies, procedures and operations, which goes beyond the statutory requirements for disclosure imposed on businesses by the jurisdictions within which architects practise their profession.

Transparency can help to reduce reputational risks by building trust with stakeholders and enhancing brand image. Individuals and corporations that practise transparency take responsibility for the impacts caused by their businesses, including negative impacts and performance failures.

This includes reporting on targets that have not been met, providing explanations of the reasons for not doing so and detailing the efforts being made to improve future performance. Transparency is therefore also closely related to accountability.

4-4. RESPECT FOR STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS

ARCASIA supports respect for the interests of all stakeholders, including ongoing engagement and formal acknowledgement of stakeholders' expectations.

The starting point for any individual or organisation to respect stakeholder interests is to identify the stakeholders. Stakeholders have been defined as the individuals or parties that have an actual or potential interest in or impact on the company, its operations and financial results, who often have the ability to influence the success (or failure) of a company at various levels (Libit, 2013).

The location, scale and nature of operations will determine who sees themselves as stakeholders. Stakeholders will expect to be recognized when an organisation's effect on them is direct or immediate, for example, employees. Even people who seem to have no direct connection to the business may consider themselves stakeholders, such as the families of employees and those who live in the communities in which the business is located.

For those involved in the practice of architecture, stakeholders also include those who are directly or indirectly affected by their built works. These may include occupants, neighbours, utility and service providers, those responsible for maintenance and, ultimately, future generations.

Architectural professionals, companies or other organisations may be contemplating stakeholder engagement for a variety of reasons. These may include better understand of impacts, help in the articulation of values, mission, strategy, commitments and their implementation. Other reasons may be to facilitate a regulatory approvals process, to participate in measurement and reporting, to avert or solve a crisis or to improve relationships proactively. The reasons for engaging stakeholders will determine both the style of engagement and the stakeholders' expectations, all of which may be subject to change over time. A primary objective of stakeholder engagement is to build relationships with stakeholders to understand better their perspectives and concerns on key issues, including SR issues. Having understood those perspectives and concerns, consideration may be given to incorporating them into the business's corporate strategy.

Research into stakeholder dialogue relating to SR indicates that "more important than actually carrying out stakeholder dialogue is knowing that the outcome of that dialogue has the potential to influence the company's management" and ensuring that a system is designed to ensure that the results of such dialogue are "fully grasped and considered". Failure to do so may lead to the risk that "the stakeholder dialogue will have been nothing more than an exchange of opinions" (Tokoro, 2007).

4-5. RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

ARCASIA respects the rule of law and the legal systems as applied in all respective Member Organization countries.

Rule of law is a fundamental principle of governance. It refers not to any single particular law or set of laws, but to the existence and application of overarching legal concepts and frameworks. While these may and do vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the principles are essentially universal.

The peak body promoting and supporting the rule of law internationally is the United Nations (UN).

"The 'rule of law' is a concept at the very heart of the [United Nations'] mission. It refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency.

"... 'justice' is an ideal of accountability and fairness in the protection and vindication of rights and the prevention and punishment of wrongs. Justice implies regard for the rights of the accused, for the interests of victims and for the well-being of society at large. It is a concept rooted in all national cultures and traditions and, while its administration usually implies formal judicial mechanisms, traditional dispute resolution mechanisms are equally relevant."

(S/2004/616)
Report of the Secretary-General on the Rule of Law and
Transitional Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies

The UN has articulated the elements that constitute a rule of law framework at the national level as follows:

"... a Constitution or its equivalent, as the highest law of the land; clear and consistent legal framework, and implementation thereof; strong institutions of justice, governance, security and human rights that are well structured, financed, trained and equipped; transitional justice processes and mechanisms; and a public and civil society that contributes to strengthening the rule of law and holding public officials and institutions accountable.

> *These are the norms, policies, institutions and processes that form the core of a society in which individuals feel safe and secure, where disputes are settled peacefully and effective redress is available for harm suffered, and where all who violate the law, including the State itself, are held to account."*
>
> "United Nations and the Rule of Law" (www.un.org/en/ruleoflaw/)

For architects practising within ARCASIA jurisdictions, or who are members of ARCASIA Member Organizations and practising in other jurisdictions, respect for the rule of law entails ensuring understanding of and compliance with all laws, regulations and codes applicable to the architect's work within the jurisdiction(s) within which it is performed.

Most obviously, that will include aspects such as the relevant design and building codes, safety standards and environmental requirements, which apply directly to buildings and the process of constructing them. It also includes compliance with any laws relating to the practice of architecture and business applicable in the place or places where the architectural services are provided. The latter include labour, taxation and business laws and regulations. Finally, architects and architectural practices are expected to respect the general civil and criminal laws of the places in which they work.

In the context of international practice, where work may be undertaken in more than one jurisdiction as is common in the ARCASIA region, more than one set of laws may therefore apply. As a minimum, ARCASIA Member Organization members are required to comply with the rule of law as it applies in each such jurisdiction. Architects engaged in best practice, however, may consider going beyond this minimum compliance, to apply higher standards based on their international experience and understanding, where these are not incompatible with the relevant local law.

4-6. RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF BEHAVIOUR

ARCASIA supports respect for international norms of behaviour in order to promote and protect the implementation of adequate environmental and social safeguards.

Respect for international norms of behaviour implies going beyond mere compliance with the law and applying instead higher or more universally recognized standards than may apply in the relevant jurisdiction(s). Such norms relate to a wide range of aspects of business and architectural practice, including for example anti-corruption behaviour, environmental responsibility, health and safety, employment and labour relations, political contributions and approaches to conflict resolution.

As a minimum, international norms of behaviour may be relied upon in situations and jurisdictions where the locally applicable law or its implementation does not provide for adequate environmental or social safeguards.

In countries where the law or its implementation conflicts with international recognized norms of behaviour, the international norms should be followed where this can be done without falling foul of the local law.

In some situations, the local law or its implementation may prevent compliance with international norms of behaviour or make it unreasonably difficult. In such situations and where not following these norms would have significant consequences, architects should consider legitimate opportunities and channels to seek to influence relevant organisations and authorities to remedy any such conflict. Where such remedies are unavailable, architects should also consider withholding their services and withdrawing from the situation until such time, if any, that the situation has changed.

Respect for international norms of behaviour also entails avoiding being either overtly or covertly complicit in or supportive of the activities of other organisations that are not consistent with those norms.

4-7. RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ARCASIA encourages and supports respect for human rights and strives to secure dignity and equality for all people.

The Global Compact Network Netherlands has published useful guidance for companies seeking to do business with respect for human rights. The publication both explains what human rights are and sets out the business case for respecting them:

> *"Human rights are basic standards aimed at securing dignity and equality for all. They are universal, indivisible and inalienable. Human rights are written down in international agreements. The most well-known is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (... UDHR). While human rights treaties do not directly address businesses, the UDHR states that 'every individual and every organ of society shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms.'*
>
> *"...*
>
> *"Respecting human rights is the right thing to do – it is in line with core business values such as integrity, respect for people, and equal opportunity. In addition, human rights due diligence is good risk management: it helps protect business value by maintaining reputation, avoiding strikes, boycotts and protest, and prevents disputes from becoming costly law suits or damaging public campaigns. Finally, human rights increasingly helps raising the bottom line as it assists companies in understanding different individuals' needs and makes a company more attractive to investors and prospective employees."*

Global Compact Network Netherlands (2010)

The document gives practical examples of human rights relevant to business. These are set out as a non-exclusive list under five headings, with reference to particular rights as expressly set out in the relevant articles of the UDHR.

1) Human Resources:
   - Right to equality (UDHR article 1)
   - Freedom from discrimination (UDHR article 2)
2) Health and Safety:
   - Right to just and favourable work (UDHR article 23)

3) Suppliers and contractors:

- Right to join a trade union (UDHR article 23)
- Freedom from slavery (UDHR article 4)

4) Product Safety:

- Right to Health (UDHR article 25)

5) Employee Benefits:

- Right to social security (UDHR article 22)
- Rights to an adequate standard of living (UDHR article 25)

For architects and architectural firms, respect for human rights relates not only to their business practices, but also to the products of their work. Architects should strive to ensure that their designs and the buildings constructed from them help to promote human rights, by facilitating dignity and equality for occupants, users, neighbours and other stakeholders.

Architects should also refrain from participating in projects which would have negative impacts on human rights and should not engage with regimes and organisations which fail to respect human rights.

The Social Responsibility Pyramid

Source: ACSR Committee – HKIA

Examples of socially responsible architecture include architecture relating to:

5-1. Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Post-construction

1) GOLD Award in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2014
   Flood Reconstruction across Pakistan
   Yawar Jilani from Pakistan | Location: Pakistan

2) GOLD Award in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2013
   AFRCS Community Centre for Tsunami Affected Community (2009)
   Chinthaka Chaminda Wickramage from Sri Lanka | Location: Sri Lanka

3) HONOURABLE MENTION in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2013
   Resettling the Indus (2010)
   Nayar Ali Dada from Pakistan | Location: South Punjab, Pakistan

4) MENTION in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2014
   Earthquake Reconstruction in Northern Pakistan
   Yawar Jilani from Pakistan | Location: Pakistan

5-2. Planning with the Local Community to Re-generate and Re-vitalize the Community through Cultural Heritage

1) HONOURABLE MENTION in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2014
   Communal Bath & Toilets
   Ang Wen Hsia from Malaysia | Location: Pahang, Malaysia

   – The project incorporated modern architectural features while at the same time incorporating indigenous materials and input to ensure a connection with the local Jah Hut identity. It was constructed within a span of 8 weeks, in time for use during the national-level World Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations held in August 2013. The construction was effected by the villagers themselves (young and old), assisted by skilled workers and unskilled volunteers.

5-3. Sustainable Low Cost Regeneration of Existing Social Housing and Community

1) HONOURABLE MENTION in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2014
   Ta Phin Community House
   Hoang Thuc Hao from Vietnam | Location: Lao Cai Province, Vietnam

   – The project site is at Unit 1, Xa Seng village, Ta Phin commune, 17km from the center of Sapa town, a popular tourist attraction in the north of Vietnam. The project is a multi-functional community house, which will contribute to the local economic growth, enhance tourism development and maximize the local potentials. The project is also targeted towards sustainable development for the local community by preserving natural resources and environment, as well as enhancing the local cultural diversity and traditional handicrafts. The action program will include training strategies for local people in sustainable agriculture, tourism and project management.

2) MENTION in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2014
   Retreat Dwellings, Mu Monastery
   Mel Soong Meow Sin from Malaysia | Location: Tsum Valley, Nepal

3) MENTION in ARCASIA Awards for Architecture 2013
   Ranchen Nunnery, Nepal (2010)
   Mel Soong Meow Sin from Malaysia | Location: Tsum Valley, Nepal

5-4. Pro Bono Work

The architecture community is also well placed to give back to society, and does so through its generosity in relation to many pro bono projects across the region.

1) Community Care
   Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre (2013)
   Frank Gehry from USA in conjunction with Ronald Lu & Partners (RLP) from Hong Kong | Location: Hong Kong

   – Designed by an international architect in conjunction with a local practice, the Centre conveys the atmosphere of a warm and inviting home. There are no bedrooms or overnight facilities, as its purpose is as a drop-in centre. It is in close proximity to the district's main hospital, while being independent.

   – The Centre has a large kitchen, with private spaces for contemplation and also flexible social spaces to allow patients to interact freely.

   – This is one of a number of such Centres, and the first to be established outside of the United Kingdom.

2) Food Banking

Feeding Hong Kong Headquarters (2014-15)

Benoy from Hong Kong | Location: Hong Kong

– As the only food banking organisation in Hong Kong, Feeding Hong Kong worked for a number of years to secure a larger space in order to expand its services. After acquiring funding and a site in 2014, the organisation contacted Benoy to assist. Benoy provided pro bono services for redesign and conversion of the 650m^2 warehouse in Yau Tong, Kowloon, into a fully functioning office and food distribution centre.

– The new headquarters will allow the charity to enhance their operations with larger and better equipped areas for receiving food pallets, cleaning and re-packaging goods, food storage including cold and freezer rooms, distribution, training and the charity's day-to-day running.

3) Special Needs Education

Aoi Pui School (2013)

Benoy from Hong Kong | Location: Hong Kong

– The Aoi Pui School is the first, and only, school for children with autism in Hong Kong. Benoy assisted by contributing pro bono Interior Design, Graphic Design and Technical Support to the redevelopment of the school's relocated site in Hung Hom, Kowloon.

5-5. Accessibility and Universal Design

1) Design Competition (2013)
   Public Toilets
   ACSR and SONA | Location: Nepal

   – In the capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu, it is well noted that there are no public toilet facilities for the local community, and not even for visitors at any of the major touristic sights and attractions. People with disabilities, both local and visitors, do not have access to accessible public conveniences.

   – In 2013, ACSR and SONA conducted design competitions on **"Universal Design – Public Toilet for ALL"** for both Students and Professional categories. A total of 49 entries were submitted in both categories, with 32 and 17 in each respectively. Prizes were also awarded to all winning entries. It is the intention to build the Professional winning scheme at a tourism site for the Nepal community, and at the same time to demonstrate that all good responsible designs can be affordable and low-cost, sustainable and universally accessible, to cater for a range of people including the elderly and persons with disabilities.

   – It is also the goal of the project to build this universally accessible **"Public Toilet for ALL"** in Kathmandu as a prototype for other communities and regions within Nepal to follow.

5-6. Climate and Environmental Change

1) COMMENDATION in World Architecture Festival (WAF), Barcelona, Spain, SPECIAL AWARD for Sustainability in Design for Asia (DFA) Awards and FINALIST in Hong Kong Green Building Award (2008)
    Eco School – Maosi Ecological Demonstration Primary School
    Department of Architecture, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) | Location: Xian

    –   The objectives of the project were two-fold: to design and build a "demonstration school" for the children of the village and to educate school builders and officials about what an environmental-friendly village school should be, i.e. to be in harmony with human, nature and buildings.

    –   The eco-school project was designed not only to create a comfortable, desirable study ambience for children, but also to demonstrate a feasible way for the locals to reach their maximum environmental sustainability.
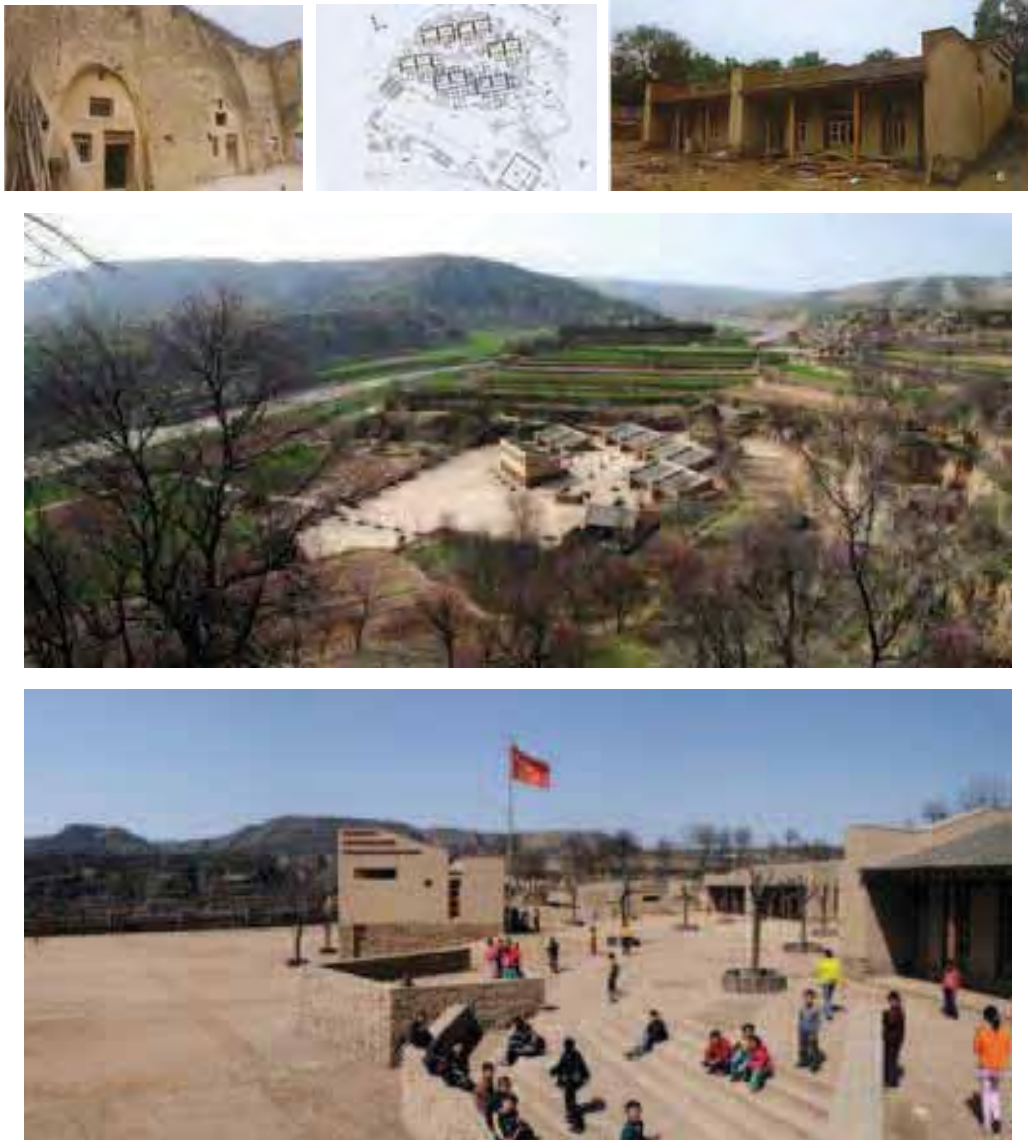
SOURCES

References and further reading on socially responsible architecture.

ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility: http://www.arcasia.org/committee/acsr

ARCASIA Committee on Social Responsibility, ACSR Report for OB Meeting, Bali, Indonesia, 31 October 2012: http://www.arcasia.org/committee/acsr/finish/19-meeting/162-acsr-report-31-oct-2012-bali-jk

European Commission – Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry, report of the European Expert Group on Corporate Social Responsibility and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, "Opportunity and Responsibility: How to help more small businesses to integrate social and environmental issues into what they do" (2007) (http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sustainable-business/files/csr/documents/ree_report_en.pdf)

Global Compact Network Netherlands, Business & Human Rights Initiative, "How to Do Business with Respect for Human Rights: A Guidance Tool for Companies," The Hague (2010): (https://commdev.org/userfiles/files/2651_file_how_to_business_with_respect_for_human_rights_gcn_netherlands_june2010.pdf)

Hall, C. et al, *Global Corporate Sustainability Report 2013*, UN Global Compact Office (2013) (https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/about_the_gc/Global_Corporate_Sustainability_Report2013.pdf)

International Organization for Standardization, ISO 26000:2010 – Social responsibility: http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/iso26000.htm

Krasner, S., 'Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables', in Stephen Krasner, ed., International Regimes (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1983), p. 2.

Libit, B., "The Corporate Social Responsibility Report and Effective Stakeholder Engagement", Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, 2013 (http://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/2013/12/28/the-corporate-social-responsibility-report-and-effective-stakeholder-engagement/)

Macdonald, K. and Marshall, S., "What is Corporate Accountability?", Corporate Accountability Research (2011) (http://corporateaccountabilityresearch.net/files/2011/09/What-is-corporate-accountability.pdf)

Maggie's Cancer Caring Centre, Hong Kong: www.maggiescentre.org.hk

Tokoro, N., "Stakeholders and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): A New Perspective on the Structure of Relationships", Asian Business & Management (2007) 6, 143–162. doi:10.1057/palgrave.abm.9200218 (http://www.palgrave-journals.com/abm/journal/v6/n2/full/9200218a.html)

UN Rule of Law Unit, "United Nations and the Rule of Law" http://www.un.org/en/ruleoflaw/

United Nations Global Compact: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/

Woods, S., "The importance of transparency", CSR Asia Weekly, Vol.9 Week 25, 2 July 2013, CSR Asia (2013) (http://www.csr-asia.com/weekly_news_detail.php?id=12273)

Xuetong Yan, "International Leadership and Norm Evolution", Chinese Journal of International Politics Volume 4, Issue 3, Autumn 2011, pp. 233-264

[END]