The 19th General Assembly, 64th and 65th Council Meetings
and CAA/SLIA Conference ‘Rethinking Sustainability.’
16-20th February 2010, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Delegates from 14 countries attended the assembly with 11 observers including UIA President, Louise Cox, who was welcomed by the president.

2007-2010 Session

In his opening address CAA President Gordon Holden noted that the current financial constraints faced by CAA due to reduced subscription income had proved to be a catalyst for Council to reflect on the essence of the organisation. The outcome of the November 2009 Council Meeting in Cyprus was confirmation of the continued relevance of the organisation and proposals for a new operational structure.

A major achievement of the session was CAA’s contribution as a founder signatory of the Canberra Accord for Mutual Recognition of Architectural Qualifications but he was disappointed that that his aim to elect women councillors had not been achieved. “We are at risk of becoming less relevant in a world society if our Council remains a group of senior men”, he said.

Executive Director Tony Godwin noted that assessing the risks of moving around the world had been the backdrop to the period and congratulated the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects for persisting with their hosting bid and organising the conference in such a short timescale.

The significant change in the operation of CAA over the last 10 years was in the activity profile; from events often undertaken in partnership with members at the local level to international activities administered from the centre. This required increased administrative capacity.

Validation

George Henderson (Chair, UK) reported that CAA had re-established its Validation secretariat following the end of the contract with the RIBA, managing an increasing workload fully implementing the Green Book procedures. System agreements were concluded with Australia and UK and country agreements with Hong Kong and New Zealand were in negotiation. CAA had participated in the ‘Invitational Round Table on Validation’ which led to the signing of the Canberra Accord which came into operation in January 2010 and he had been unanimously appointed its first chair.

The President announced that George was standing down after long and dedicated service and nominated Clare Newton, an Australian member of the validation panel, who was duly appointed by the 65th Council meeting.

Education

Mansur Ahmadu (Chair, Nigeria) served on the Validation Panel ExCom and had assisted in bringing forward two Nigerian schools for validation. The 8th International Student Competition, ‘A Memorial to a Memorable Event’ attracted 91 entries from 47 schools of architecture in 16 Countries. The contest is supported by the Architectural Review and is reported in their April 2010 issue. A fuller display of entries will shortly be on the CAA website.
**Practice**

Balbir Verma (Chair, India) made a presentation on GATS and the implications for the profession urging member institutes to engage with their governments to make offers.

P4P (Partners for Projects) the business forum for practices working internationally had not progressed awaiting commitment from all member institutes although an administration contract had been negotiated with the Hong Kong Institute of Architects.

A sustainable infrastructure design workshop was held in Uganda together with an organisation Promoting Renewable Energy in Africa (PREA) and hosted by the new department of architecture at Uganda Martyrs University with participation from the Architects Association of Kenya. CAA sponsored speakers from Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa.

**Communication**

Contracts for an eJournal and new website had been agreed together with initial design work but these projects were still in progress.

**Commonwealth**

BEPIC, the association with other Civil Society professional organisations working in the built environment, had flourished with a successful workshop at the People’s Forum prior to the Uganda CHOGM including presentation of a summary report by the local facilitator for the sustainable infrastructure workshop. BEPIC lobbied successfully for a State of Commonwealth Cities report.


**Finance**

The figures, budget and actual, for the session revealed persistent divergence from the budget and deficits resulting in a reserve £8000 lower than the agreed level of £30,000. Whilst there were good reasons for this outcome the need for strict financial control and more frequent monitoring by Council was agreed in order to rebuild reserves.

An outline budget, prepared on the following basis, was agreed;

- subscription income will be used for core administration
- Validation will be funded by implementing charges for validation visits appropriate to the market and partially subsidised by subscription income.
- All other activities will be self funding
- Reserves will be re-established to £30000

All activities proposed are shown in the budget with expenditure and matching income as identified by the business plans prepared by Council members following the Cyprus Council meeting.

The 65th Council meeting agreed a 4% increase in the subscription rate for 2010 and confirmed an earlier decision of a £150 minimum fee. The charging basis on number of full members for the preceding financial year will be clarified and suspension for non-payment of dues will be strictly enforced.
Constitution

It was agreed to review the constitution particularly in the matter of elections and to develop by-laws to provide procedural detail.

The UK charitable status was agreed as useful, mainly for taxation benefits, but also as an audit of the affairs of the association. The UK Charity Commission’s requirements for financial control to be retained in the UK with the Treasurer resident in the UK, and for a board of trustees responsible for ensuring that the charity is run in accordance with charity regulations, were noted.

Management Structure

Activities will be placed under the traditional committee headings of Education, Practice and Communication. The need for an active Council was stressed and a Council member will be responsible for each activity under the overall management of the relevant Committee chair.

The executive will be re-established to assist with day-to-day management.

Activities 2010-2013

The following activities were endorsed by the assembly as appropriate and relevant for the association to undertake noting always the requirement for ‘collaboration not duplication’ relative to the work of other local or international organisations.

Education
  - Validation
  - Student Competition

Practice
  - P4P
  - GATS
  - Contracts. Assessing the need among members for developing a standard building contract and Architect/Client form of agreement for use in Commonwealth Countries. UIA offered to share the contract form they have developed with FIDIC. RAIA and RIBA also offered assistance.
  - Continuing Professional Development. The full scope of this project is to be decided but the need for CAA to have a CPD policy to guide members was supported. RAIA offered to assist with this and to make sample CPD material available online.

Communication
  - Website: Completing the new website project.
  - Ejournal: Implementing the existing publishing contract.

Other
  - Robert Matthew Award.
  - 20th General Assembly and Conference.
Country Reports

In spite of the global financial crisis these revealed much local activity with a number of recurring themes;

- a number of countries maintaining workloads largely unaffected by the recession for particular local reasons.
- strong engagement with government, particularly on climate change, sustainability and improving the built environment.
- established and emerging CPD programmes.
- a strong events programme often including an architecture week or celebrating World Architecture day.
- regional collaboration particularly in the Americas (Caribbean Islands) and West Africa (Ghana/Nigeria).
- More women holding institute office.

13 countries submitted reports and we would be happy to post other reports to the website to complete the association’s membership profile.

Elections

The following posts were confirmed or elected:

**President.** Mubasshar Hussain (Bangladesh, President IAB)
**Immediate Past President.** Gordon Holden (Australia)
**Senior Vice President.** Rukshan Widyalankara (Sri Lanka, PP SLIA)
**Honorary Secretary/Treasurer.** Nick Willson (UK)
**Chair of Education.** Mansur Ahmadu (Nigeria)
**Chair of Practice.** Christos Panayiotides (Cyprus)
**Chair of Communications.** Jayantha Perera (Sri Lanka, PP SLIA)

**Vice Presidents**

**Africa**
- Vice President Africa (West). Jimoh Faworaja (Nigeria)
- Vice President Alternate Africa (East). Steven Oundo (Kenya, President AAK)
- Vice President Alternate Africa (South). (post vacant)

**Americas**
- Vice President Americas. (post vacant)
- Vice President Alternate Americas. (post vacant)

**Asia**
- Vice President Asia. Chandana Edirisuriya (Sri Lanka, President SLIA)
- Vice President Alternate Asia. Jalal Ahmad (Bangladesh)

**Europe**
- Vice President Europe. Vincent Cassar (Malta)
- Vice President Alternate Europe. (post vacant)

**Oceania**
- Vice President Oceania. John Sinclair (New Zealand, PP NZIA)
- Vice President Alternate Oceania. David Parken (Australia, CEO AIA)

Candidates for posts not filled will be actively sought.
CAA/S利亚 Conference ‘Rethinking Sustainability’

This event comprised a diverse and stimulating range of speakers and, as a finale, spectacular audio-visual presentations from students of the two schools of architecture in Sri Lanka;

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The event was reported in the April issue of the Architectural Review and the presentations can be viewed at [http://www.slia.lk/tt/Call_for_Papers.php](http://www.slia.lk/tt/Call_for_Papers.php)

Tony Godwin
Executive Director
April 2010