

# International Update

The Council determined several years ago that our participation in the global economy was relevant to our mission of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This public embodies the citizens of our own jurisdictions as well as the citizens of other countries with whom we enter into agreements.

To reiterate the basis for the Council's negotiations with foreign regulatory authorities, the issue of ensuring certification of only competent architects from other countries with their own credentialing and qualification evaluations has been a key negotiating point. All of our agreements require that an applicant have the credentials required to practice architecture in his or her home jurisdiction as well as a prescribed level of comprehensive practice beyond initial licensure. We have crafted all of our agreements identical in concept and similar in requirements with different periods of post-licensure practice required in the various agreements, depending on country to country differences.

Last year's culmination of many efforts in the international arena resulted in Member Board approval of the agreements with Australia and the Architects' Council of Europe, as well as the Canada-Mexico-United States Trinational Agreement. Since then the Council has been developing the implementation details for these agreements that will ensure that foreign architects who seek NCARB certification will meet the rigorous standard of verified credentials expected by the Member Boards.

## AUSTRALIA

NCARB Member Boards voted in 2006 to approve the Agreement for Mutual Recognition between NCARB and the Architectural Accreditation Council of Australia (AACAA). Since then the staffs have met in order to bring the agreement to a full Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). This MRA is identical in substance to the Agreement that was approved at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. It is expected

that the MRA will be approved by the Australian states at their annual meeting in September 2007. In the meantime, work progresses on the development of the implementation details.

## ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

APEC promotes mobility of architects within the Pacific Rim. There are currently 21 economies in the APEC Architect project. The second meeting of the Central Council was held May 23-24, 2006, in Mexico City. The monitoring committee members for the United States at this meeting were the leadership and staff of NCARB and AIA. The agenda consisted primarily of developing the framework for APEC Architect reciprocal recognition and a review of the progress on the inauguration of the APEC Architect Register, documentation, and monitoring committee reports to the Council. Mexico assumed the APEC Architect secretariat from Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) who had performed that function for two years. It was decided that the next meeting would be held in Vancouver, Canada in August 2008.

## TRINATIONAL

A meeting of the Trinational Committee, comprising representatives of Canada, Mexico, and the United States (NCARB) was held in May 2007, in Toronto, Ontario. Its purpose was to negotiate the implementation details and documentation procedures for the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) that was endorsed by the NCARB Member Boards at the 2006 Annual Meeting. The three NAFTA governments agreed on the concept of the MRA at the NAFTA Commission meeting in Vancouver, Canada in August 2007. We expect the details of the agreement to be finalized by spring of 2008 and to be able to accept Certificate applications from Canadian and Mexican architects shortly thereafter. It should be noted that the Trinational MRA does not supersede the US-Canada Inter-recognition Agreement that has been in effect since 1994.

## ARCHITECTS COUNCIL OF EUROPE (ACE)

The profession to profession Mutual Recognition Agreement that was signed in 2005 and ratified by the Member Boards in 2006 is in the process of being reviewed by the European Union Commission. We look forward to starting discussions on the implementation procedures with the EU Commission and the Architects Council of Europe (ACE) in the near future.

## INDIA

We have received a letter from the Council of Architecture (COA) in India expressing interest in discussions leading to negotiations for a Mutual Recognition Agreement. The COA is the body that is charged with the responsibility to regulate architectural education and the profession of architecture in India. The NCARB Board of Directors has responded positively to this request and has made a formal reply to the COA stating that NCARB is prepared to enter into such discussions. Following a mutual review of each other's licensing requirements, a meeting is anticipated in July 2008 to determine future steps.

## UIA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE COMMISSION (PPC)

PPC Co-Chair Russell Keune, FAIA reported that the Model Mutual Recognition Agreement, developed and presented by the NCARB representative at the Commission meeting in Turin, Italy, was accepted by the International Union of Architects (UIA) Council at its February 2007, meeting. NCARB representatives will attend the next PPC meeting scheduled to be held in Seoul, Korea in early October 2007. The purpose of these annual PPC meetings is to continue to develop and refine guidelines for the policies in the UIA Accord on Professional Practice. The Accord promulgates policies, heavily influenced by U.S. standards of practice, to developing countries wishing to establish systems for the profession of architecture within their jurisdictions. **DC**