

This mail service is intended to provide the latest information concerning building regulation and our activities to domestic and overseas organizations which are engaged in technical assessments and research in the building field. If you no longer wish to receive this mail, please contact the following address:

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**【1】 Outline of Business Plan for 2004**

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BCJ makes an annual budget and an annual-activities plan at the beginning of every fiscal year. In 2004, we are presently developing the BCJ 5-year Management Plan and our management system based on the Mission Statement and Management Policy. These activities are aimed at providing services which are more client-oriented, more efficient, and of better quality. They are also intended to ensure sufficient business funds as a non-profit organization in a severely competitive environment; a result of the structural changes in the socio-economic circumstances nowadays in Japan.

Under the above-mentioned points, items 1 to 4 below are the new main activities:

- 1 The commencement of performance evaluation activity which focuses on indoor air quality in habitable rooms; this follows the performance evaluation for formaldehyde-emitting building materials under the Building Standard Law, which is already one of the BCJ evaluation activities.
- 2 Expansion of BCJ Approval of Innovative Building Technologies\*; BCJ has begun approval of individual elements of technology contained in rooftop greening. In 2003, approval of a set of technologies for rooftop greening was begun.

\* Technologies which have not yet been standardized nor specified under the Building Standard Law or under any other standards, including Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS).

- 3 The promotion of R & D which addresses social needs, such as the development of technology for repairs, alterations, and renovations of existing buildings, and measures to be taken for the reduction of damage caused by Tsunami.
- 4 The promotion of information services concerning the latest news on building regulation and technology, such as holding seminars related to 'The Scenery Act' (enacted in June, 2004), and the publication of explanatory books on new technical requirements concerning the earthquake-resistant calculation method which is based on energy balance.

Mission Statement and Management Policy:

[http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/01/01\\_01.html](http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/01/01_01.html)

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## 【2】 Publication of the Building Standard Law of Japan 2004

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It is our pleasure to inform you that the English translation of the Building Standard Law (BSL) of Japan 2004 (4<sup>th</sup> edition) will be published shortly. This updated version contains all amendments made to the BSL in the shift to the performance-based code enforced in 2000, and it includes technical criteria for structural safety and fire safety and notifications on criteria for countermeasures regarding the sick house issue as well as the Ministerial Order related to the procedures for the practice of building confirmation, inspection and performance evaluation conducted by private organizations. In addition,



we reviewed the technical terms and have changed some of them to what are regarded as more suitable in the international environment.

The translation work was performed under the supervision of the Building Guidance Division and the Urban Building Division of the Housing Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management of MLIT, and the Building Research Institute.

Performance-based codes have been introduced in many countries recently and a mutual understanding of building regulations has been

achieved on a worldwide basis, so we hope that this publication will be of help to all people who are concerned with such international trends in the field of building construction.

<Outline of the Building Standard Law of Japan 2004>

Size: A4

Pages: approx. 800

Price: ¥31,500

Contents:

- \*The Building Standard Law
- \*The Building Standard Law Enforcement Order
- \*The Building Standard Law Enforcement Regulation
- \*The Ministerial Order Concerning Designated Qualifying Examination Body and Others based on the Building Standard Law
- \*The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Notifications

For more detailed information and to purchase this book:

[http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01\\_03.html](http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/03/01_03.html)

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【3】 BCJ-ABCB Meeting



A meeting was held on March 24 with ABCB (Australian Building Codes Board) which is a building code development organization hosted and partially funded by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources. Since BCJ and ABCB signed a cooperation agreement in 1998, we have been holding meetings on a regular basis.

Last year, ABCB became the first recognized performance evaluation body under the Building Standard Law. Our meeting therefore focused mainly on exchanging information in terms of practical work as

performance evaluation bodies. As a result of the meeting, we agreed to work together on the following issues:

- 1 Development of a joint evaluation method by using a case study of actual products
- 2 Translation work of a commentary book of the verification method for evacuation safety, which was developed and applied in Japan.

The collaboration of the translation work was suggested by ABCB due to the fact that Australian experts on fire safety are very interested in this topic and they are considering introducing this verification method to Australia.

We expect that these cooperative efforts will become a new challenge to us to expand our international activities.

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#### **【 4 】 Renewal of BCJ Web Site**

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The first step of our web site renewal has just been completed. The new web site is easier to view than the previous site and also it has become possible to order our publication on our web site. We are planning to develop it further in order to make it more informative and more convenient for its users, especially for our clients. Any comments or suggestions are welcome.

**For Japanese**

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/>

**For English**

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/index.html>

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