



This mail service is intended to provide the latest information concerning building regulations and our activities with 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 us at the following address:

kokusai@bcj.or.jp

CONTENTS

§1. Recent Topics on Building and Housing in Japan

§2. International Events of BCJ in the Fall of 2008

§3. BCJ Publications

§1. Recent Topics on Building and Housing in Japan

a) Changes to the *Kenchiku-shi* Law

As stated in BCJ Web News No. 7, as a result of incidents involving the falsification of anti-seismic performance data, the *Kenchiku-shi* Law was amended in December 2006. It is a requirement under the *Kenchiku-shi* Law that large buildings (such as buildings over 13 meters in height) have to be designed by a First Class *Kenchiku-shi*. Under the amended law, the First Class *Kenchiku-shi* with advanced specialized skills relating to building structures and building equipment are titled new qualifications of First-Class *Kenchiku-shi* Specializing in Building Structures and First-Class *Kenchiku-shi* Specializing in Building Equipment. The following requirements will apply from May 27, 2009:

Action: Design of specified building structures and building equipment

Requirement: Design work must be carried out or checked by a First-Class *Kenchiku-shi* Specializing in Building Structures or a First-Class *Kenchiku-shi* Specializing in Building Equipment.

b) Changes to the Act on the Rational Use of Energy

As noted in BCJ Web News No. 10, the Act on the Rational Use of Energy was amended in May 2008. One of the main changes was the introduction of the following requirement, which takes effect on April 1, 2009.

Target: Developers who build and sell 150 or more detached houses per year

Requirement: Developers must strive to reduce the amount of primary energy used in houses that they build to below the standard level stipulated by the government by Japanese fiscal year 2013. Primary energy consumption in houses will be calculated based

on model plans and standard living conditions, taking into account thermal insulation specifications and equipment specifications (heating and air conditioning, ventilation, lighting, hot water supply) of the houses, as well as the effects of solar power generation facilities and other equipment, and regional characteristics.

c) Law Concerning the Promotion of Development of Quality Long-Life Housing

The aim of the above law, which was established in December 2008, is to create a stock of high-quality housing suitable for long-life use. Local governments will give certification for the construction of houses that meets specified levels of durability performance, earthquake-resistance, ease of modification and maintenance, and other factors that facilitate maintaining houses in good condition for a long time. Owners of certified houses will be eligible for incentives, including tax concessions and loans under favorable conditions. The processing of certification is expected to begin on June 4, 2009.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has introduced a system under which construction methods that employ advanced technologies (hardware and software) to ensure that houses will remain usable and in good condition for long periods will be adopted as model housing construction methods. Subsidies will be provided for houses constructed by these methods.

§ 2. International Events of BCJ in the Fall of 2008

a) ICC Annual Conference and BCJ-ICC Meeting

The Japan Conference of Building Administration (JCBA) sent a delegation to the Annual Conference of International Code Council (ICC), which was held in Minneapolis, U.S.A., from September 17 to 23, 2008. Two BCJ staff members attended as part of this delegation. The Japanese delegation presented information about Japanese building codes and standards and related matters at the international forum. Members also participated in an educational program about building standards and certifications in the United States.

On November 5, Rick Okawa, Deputy Vice-President of International Services and Business Development, ICC visited BCJ and had an information-sharing meeting with BCJ. The meeting was short but provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the activities of both organizations.



Rick Okawa (lower right) with BCJ staff members

With the permission of the ICC, BCJ has partially translated *Building Department*

Administration, a book published by the ICC, into Japanese. The translation is available on the Japanese BCJ website. To provide information about overseas building regulations, evaluation methods and related matters is an important aspect of the activities of BCJ. Readers who are interested in this information should click on the following link.

http://www.bcj.or.jp/c20_international/regulation/index.html

b) The 13th WFTAO Annual Meeting



The 13th WFTAO annual meeting was held in a suburb of Pretoria, South Africa from September 21 to 24, 2008. Organizations from 10 countries, including BCJ, attended the meeting, which was hosted by Agreement South Africa. Participating organizations exchanged information about recent developments. BCJ reported on recent changes to building regulations in Japan and on trends in the Japanese building and housing construction. A seminar on green building and sustainable products was held on the first day. The program also included a tour of construction sites where ASA certification technology was in use. This provided a valuable opportunity to learn about actual building operations in South Africa. The next annual meeting will be held in Calgary, Canada, in September 2009.

c) BCJ-ABCB Meeting

BCJ holds regular meetings with the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB). The main purpose of these meetings is to share information and exchange views about evaluation activities. On October 7, 2008, BCJ representatives met with Dr. Lam Pham and Mr. Ron De Veer of the ABCB for an exchange of information on verification methods for fire prevention performance evaluation in Japan and Australia.

d) JICA Training Program for Indonesian Building Administrators

Over the years, BCJ has been involved in numerous training programs run by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for trainees from developing countries. From October 14 to 24, 2008, we implemented a training course for building administrators from Indonesia under a JICA contract. Japanese experts are currently stationed in Indonesia on a long-term basis to assist with the improvement of anti-seismic building regulations. This course was a part of the cooperation program. BCJ implemented a similar course in fiscal 2007, and will implement it in fiscal 2009.

e) The 3rd Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology

From October 30 to November 1, 2008, the four organizations of Japan and China, as shown below, held the third information-sharing meeting in Tokyo.

-The Building Center of Japan (BCJ)

- The Center for Better Living (CBL)
- The China Architecture Design & Research Group (CADRG)
- The China Academy of Building Research (CABR).

A Chinese participant at the meeting reported on the damage caused by the major earthquake that struck the Sichuan region in May 2008. Responding to it, the Japanese side reported trends in anti-seismic building



Representatives of 4 organizations



codes of Japan. This was followed by an information exchange and discussion. The next meeting will take place in China in 2010.

The Japan-China meeting

f) The 20th Japan-France Building Colloquium

On November 17 and 18, 2008, BCJ and the Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB) held their 20th regular conference at the CSTB office in Paris.

The program for the first day was combined with an inter-governmental meeting. There were reports and discussions on the themes of energy conservation and sustainable development measures, and system for assessing the environmental performance of buildings.



Presentation at Japan-France Colloquium

On the second day, BCJ and CSTB exchanged information on their recent activities. This was followed by information-sharing and discussions on various topics, including recent trends in building codes and standards in France and the EU, new energy efficiency codes for housing, and the results of the Grenelle Environment conference. It was agreed that the next conference would be held in Japan in 2010.

g) Cooperation Agreement with KICM (Republic of Korea)

At the request of the Korea Institute of Construction Materials (KICM), BCJ signed an operational cooperation agreement on November 17, 2008. The agreement mainly covers information-sharing between the two organizations. KICM conducts testing and evaluation of building materials in the Republic of Korea. BCJ and KICM plan to exchange technical information, including information on building standards and laws, based on their mutual needs.



Mr. Toshikatsu Sasai, Executive Director, BCJ (left)
and
Mr. Kim Sun Ho, President, KICM (right)

§3. BCJ Publications

a) Publication Schedule for Building Standard Law of Japan in English

In the previous BCJ Web News we stated that the revised English edition of the Building Standard Law of Japan would be published in January 2009. Publication is now scheduled for May 2009. We will place a notice on the following website as soon as the book is published.

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

b) New BCJ Publications (in Japanese)

BCJ produces a variety of publications for the Japanese market. These are all written in Japanese, but if they are of interest to readers, further information can be found here.

<http://www.bcj.or.jp/~e2102002/publication/>

These publications can be purchased using the same procedure as for BCJ publications in English. Click the following link for further information.

http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/services/03/03_01.html

International Dept.

The Building Center of Japan (BCJ)

6-1-8, Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8986, JAPAN

Tel: +81-3-5816-7525 Fax: +81-3-5816-7541

e-mail: kokusai@bcj.or.jp

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

All rights reserved