



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:

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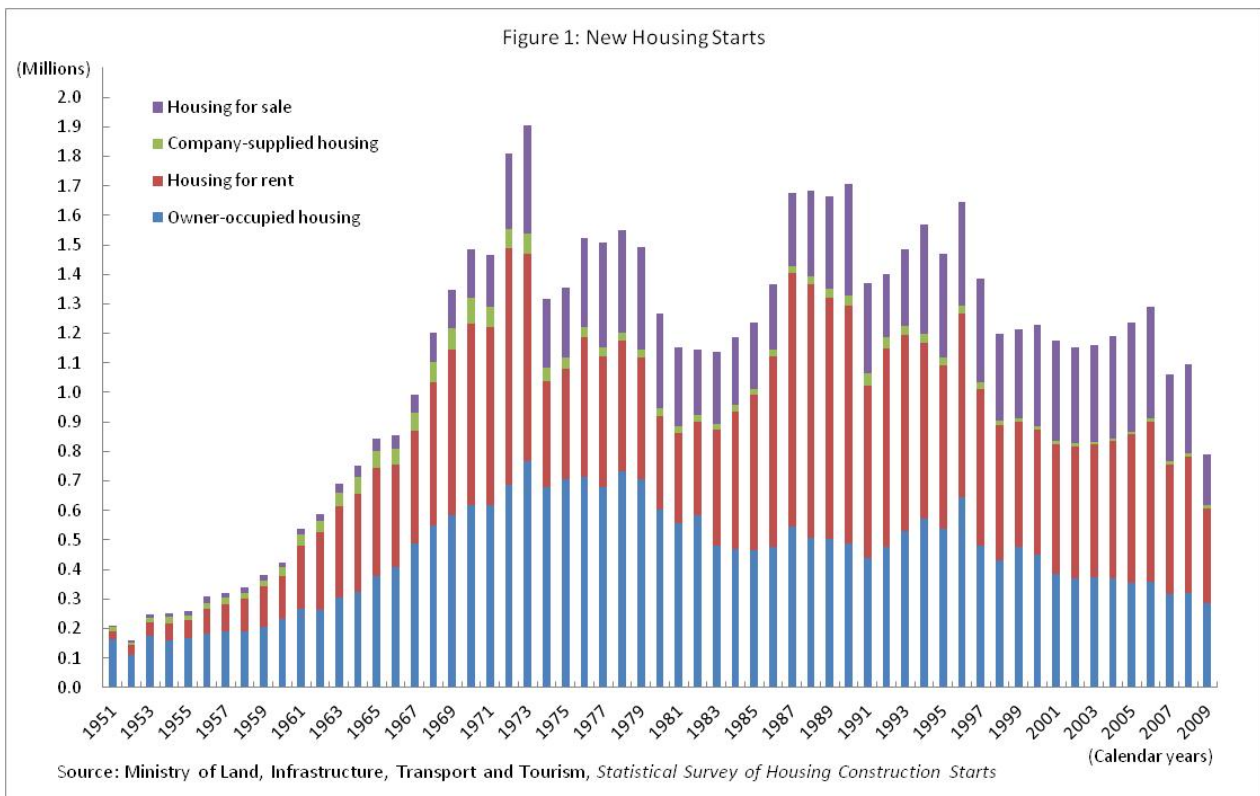
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§ 1 . Housing Construction in Japan

The economy has suffered since the Lehman shock in 2008. This incident triggered a period of economic stagnation; building investment has decreased greatly.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) announced that housing starts decreased by 27.9% from 2008 to 2009 (from 1,000,090 units down to 788,000units.) The 2009 figure represents about 40% of the highest ever figure of 1,910,000, in 1973.



§ 2. JICA Training Courses 2009

JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) invites people to Japan from developing countries and conducts group training courses in various fields as part of international technical-collaboration programs. Over the years, BCJ has been involved in numerous training programs run by JICA.

a) “Improvement of Housing and Living Environments”

One of the group training courses that BCJ has been entrusted with, “Improvement of Housing and Living Environments”, was conducted from October 22nd to November 27th. Eleven people from ten different countries participated in this course. The course was composed of lectures and on-site observations. These were based mainly on themes such as the housing situation and housing policy in Japan; specifically housing



Group photo at Harumi Triton Square

problems in Japan and developing countries, urban renewal, and rebuilding after the Great Hanshin-Awaji earthquake. At the end of the course, the participants gave presentations on action plans to improve policies and/or systems regarding housing and living environments in their respective countries, based on what they learned in the program.

b) JICA Training Program for China Building Administrators



Lecture at BCJ

From November 30th to December 11th, BCJ conducted a training course for building administrators from China, under a JICA contract. In China, Japan-China cooperation project that is a 3-year project to spread seismic-resistant buildings has been going on since May, 2009. This course was a part of the cooperation program. BCJ will conduct similar courses in fiscal 2010.



Group photo after the lecture at BCJ

§ 3 . International Events in which BCJ participated in the Fall of 2009

a) ABCB Conference

Hosted by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), the ABCB Conference was held on the Gold Coast of Australia from Sept. 21- 24. BCJ was represented at the conference by its President, *Makoto Tateishi*, and a staff member.

During the three-day conference, there were sessions and workshops on the themes of “Climate Change - A Moving Target,” “Performance through Innovation - Meeting Objectives and Expectations,” and “Energy Efficiency - Future Directions.” The event was attended by a total of 600 people, including people involved in building administration, the construction industry and academia throughout Australia, as well as many overseas delegates. The various sessions and activities were valuable opportunities for information sharing and networking.

b) The 14th WFTAO Annual Meeting

The 14th Annual Meeting of the World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations (WFTAO), of which BCJ is a member, was held in Calgary and in Banff, Canada, from September 28th to October 2nd, hosted by CCMC (Canadian Construction Materials Center) of NRC (National Research Council Canada). It was attended by 10 member organizations from 10 countries, including BCJ.



IRCC/WFTAO seminar and workshop

During the first half of the program, the WFTAO and the Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC), which is a group of organizations involved in the making of building codes, held a joint seminar and a workshop. Participants in these sessions shared information and views about progress toward the introduction of performance-based building codes in various countries and the issues encountered in doing so. The session also included discussions about issues relating to innovative building products, and the current state of technical assessment systems for those products.

The Annual WFTAO Meeting was held in the second half of the program. Reports on the recent activities of member organizations were followed by discussions about the problems facing each organization. Most of the organizations were experiencing difficulties because of the downturn in the construction industry, which is part of the overall economic slump, and because of the growth of competing organizations, and other factors. Participants debated solutions to these difficulties, including measures to improve the efficiency and speed of assessment services. There was also keen interest in building sustainability. Member organizations are implementing assessment initiatives relating to this problem.

a) ICC Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the International Code Council (ICC) was held in Baltimore, from November 1-8. Three participants from BCJ attended the conference as members of a delegation organized by the Japan Conference of Building Administration (JCBA). The Japanese delegation attended a forum on the making of codes in the United States and an educational program focusing on evaluations. During the international forum, they gave a presentation about Japan's Ministerial Approval System for building materials, and about incidents and countermeasures relating to the falsification of data for fire-resistant materials.



Annual Conference of ICC



Japanese delegates

§ 4. BCJ Publications

a) Introduction to the Building Standard Law of Japan

BCJ has published an English outline of the Building Standard Law of Japan: “Introduction to the Building Standard Law: Japanese Building Codes and Building Control Systems”, which is on the BCJ website. This is a document to facilitate the understanding of the Building Standard Law of Japan (unabridged), and its related regulations. It may be useful, along with [the English version of the Building Standard Law of Japan*](#), for foreigners who want to understand the Building Standard Law of Japan, and for Japanese people who want to introduce the Building Standard Law of Japan to foreigners. The document may be downloaded for free from the website below.

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

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- Chapter 1 Features of the Building Standard Law and Related Laws
- Chapter 2 Building Control Systems
- Chapter 3 Performance-based Codes
- Chapter 4 Building Codes for Structural Safety
- Chapter 5 Building Codes for Fire Safety
- Chapter 6 Building Codes for Other Fields
- Chapter 7 Zoning Codes
- Annex 1 Structural Types of Newly Built Housing in Japan



*The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (May 2009)

Price: ¥10,000 (¥500 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)

Date: PDF format

Language: English

Pages: 1,120 (Print Size: A4)

CD-ROM (Windows/Macintosh)

Date of publication: 2009.5.28

ISBN: 978-4-88910-150-8

This is an English translation of the Japanese building code. It includes all of the amendments enforced through June 1, 2008.

For more detailed information, and to purchase this CD-ROM, please visit:

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

b) Publication Schedule for *Quick Look at Housing in Japan*



A QUICK LOOK AT HOUSING IN JAPAN November 2009

Date: PDF format

Language: English/Japanese

Pages: 100(Print size: A4)

Date of publication: 2010.3.31

Quick Look was first published in 1985 to promote international awareness of the housing situation and housing policies in Japan. It has since been updated six times to reflect policy changes and shifts in the housing situation. We plan to publish another revised edition in April, 2010. The document may be downloaded for free from the webpage below:

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

c) Publications in Japanese

Since April 2009, BCJ has published the books as listed below. They are on sale in bookstores in Japan. 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



Kozo Sekkei no Puro Nyumon (Tekkotsuzo Kenchiku-Hen)
[An Introduction to Structural Design for Professionals (Steel-Structure Building Edition)]

Price: ¥3,800 (¥190 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)
Language: Japanese
Pages: 361
Size: B5
Weight: 0.86kg
Date of publication: 2009.4.20
ISBN: 978-4-88910-147-8

This book, which is targeted toward professionals, provides a clearly written introduction to the structural design of steel-structure buildings. Its purpose is to take readers to a level at which they can understand Horizontal Load-carrying Capacity Calculation, Response and Limit Capacity Calculation, and to allow them to achieve qualifications on working plans relating to Confirmation and Inspections, Structural Calculation Conformity Judgment, and other areas.



2009-Nenban, Puresutoresuto Konkuritozo Gijutsu Kijun Kaisetsu Oyobi Sekkei-Keisan Rei [Notes on Technical Standards for Pre-Stressed Concrete and Examples of Designs and Calculations (2009 Edition)]

Price: ¥7,000 (¥350 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)
Language: Japanese
Pages: 335
Size: A4
Weight: 1.15kg
Date of publication: 2009.9.30
ISBN: 978-4-915392-49-8

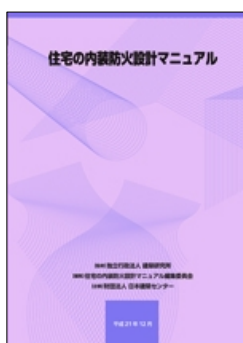
This book explains revisions to Notification #1320 of the Ministry of Construction (1983), concerning the technical standards required to ensure the safety of pre-stressed concrete buildings and the structural methods used in structural components of buildings. The revisions were introduced in Notifications issued following the 2006 amendment of the Building Standard Law. Also included are examples of designs and calculations.



***Hitori de Manaberu Mokuzo no Hekiryō Sekkei Enshūcho* [Practice Book for Self-Taught Timber-Wall Design]**

Price: ¥3,334 (¥166 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)
Language: Japanese
Pages: 260
Size: A4
Weight: 0.86kg
Date of publication: 2009.12.1
ISBN: 978-4-88910-151-5

This illustrated book provides a clear explanation of timber-wall volume designs, as stipulated in the Building Standard Law, and Housing Performance Indication System. It also covers the anti-seismic performance standards under the approval system for Long-life Quality Housing (Grade 2 or higher). Readers will be able to deepen their understanding by solving exercises in the book, which are based on model plans.



***Jutaku no Naiso Bouka Sekkei Manyūaru* [Fire-Preventive Design Manual for Interior Finishing]**

Price: ¥4,000 (¥200 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)
Language: Japanese
Pages: 165
Size: A4
Weight: 0.51kg
Date of publication: 2009.12.24
ISBN: 978-4-915392-57-3

In addition to an overview of restrictions on interior finishing, this book also provides an easy-to-understand explanation of notifications relating to restrictions on home interior-finishing materials in rooms where fire is used. The explanation consists mainly of design examples.



***2009-Nenban, ALC Paneru wo Mochiita Kenchikubutsu no Kozo Kankei Gijutsu Kijun Kaisetsusho* [Notes on Structural Technical Standards for Buildings in which ALC Panels are Used (2009 Edition)]**

Price: ¥3,000 (¥150 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan)
Language: Japanese
Pages: 124
Size: A4
Weight: 0.5kg
Date of publication: 2009.12.24
ISBN: 978-4-915392-59-7

This book explains technical standards under the Building Standard Law relating to ALC panels. It uses detailed explanations, including drawings and other information, to help designers understand the required performance levels and specifications for structural designs involving the use of ALC panels.

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