

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 . Report on International Conferences
- § 2 . Training Seminars and Support of Surveys from Abroad
- § 3 . BCJ Launch of Certificate Service for Earthquake-Resistant Evaluation of Existing Buildings
- § 4 . BCJ Publications in English

§ 1 . Report on International Conferences

a) The 4th Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology

BCJ and CAG¹ have been meeting regularly since 1985. CBL² and CABR³ have been involved in the meetings since 2004, when the first meeting was held by the four organizations. The organizations regularly exchange a wide variety of information.



The 4th Japan-China meeting in Beijing

The fourth meeting was held in Beijing, China, September 12-14, 2010 with representatives of the four organizations participating. Altogether, more than seventy people attended, representing the four organizations and public and private sector observers including the building and the housing industry in China and Japan.

Each organization reported on its recent activities and on various issues such as energy efficiency, environmental and seismic technologies in the building and housing



Representatives from the four organizations

industry of each country, and a fully-finished model housing project. There were also presentations from Japan on the development of industrialized housing and on joint projects between the Japanese private sector and China. China introduced its rural housing program and social housing program, as well as its Green-Building initiative. The meeting provided a very good window into the recent trends in the building and the

housing sectors of both countries.

Participants also had the pleasure of visiting a fully-finished model housing project in Beijing, as well as visits to Tianjin Eco-City, a housing development in Dalian, a window manufacturing plant, and a market where various building materials are sold.

The next meeting is to be held in Japan in 2012.

¹ CAG: China Architecture Design & Research Group

² CBL: Center for Better Living (Japan)

³ CABR : China Academy of Building Research

b) The 15th WFTAO Annual Meeting

The 15th Annual Meeting of WFTAO⁴, of which BCJ is a member, was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 20-22, 2010, and was hosted by ETA-Denmark. It was attended by 16 member organizations from 12 countries, including BCJ.

Update reports concerning recent activities of the respective organizations were exchanged and the participants were able to share their experiences and their solutions to problems. BCJ gave an update report and introduced Japanese efforts for global-warming countermeasures in the building and the housing sectors. These were followed by discussions on how to stimulate WFTAO activities and how to maintain sustainability of buildings in business.



The 15th WFTAO meeting at ETA Denmark

On day 2, there was a technical visit to an urban district in Copenhagen. It was very valuable for the participants to see a good example of a newly developed district and the trends of urban housing and of architectural design in Denmark.

The next meeting will be held in Japan in September 2011, co-hosted by BCJ and CBL.

⁴ WFTAO: World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations

c) BCJ-ABCB Meeting

On May 10, 2010, Mr. Mike Balch (Deputy General Manager, ABCB⁶) and Mr. Kevin Newhouse (Manager, ABCB) visited BCJ for an exchange of information on codes and standards, as well as for evaluation procedures in Japan and Australia.

BCJ provided updates on housing starts and on the issuance of building confirmation in Japan. ABCB gave presentations on the Australian building code, including design requirements to address the needs of the handicapped, the achievement of energy efficiency, and countermeasures for forest fires. They also discussed their plumbing code, including the plumbing product certification scheme called *Water Mark in Australia*.

⁶ ABCB: Australian Building Codes Board

d) BCJ-ICC Meeting

On November 10, 2010, Mr. Rick Okawa (Deputy Vice-President of International Services and Business Development, ICC⁷) and Mr. Imad Yahya Eldurubi (President, WOBO⁸) visited BCJ and had an information-sharing meeting with BCJ on the following topics:

- Database System for Common Use among Building Administrative Agencies (BCJ)
- International Green-Construction Code (ICC)

⁷ ICC: International Code Council

⁸ WOBO: World Organization of Building Officials

e) The 21st Japan-France Building Colloquium

From December 8th through 10th, 2010, BCJ and CSTB⁹ held their 21st regular conference at the BCJ office, as well as at other places in Japan.

BCJ and CSTB exchanged information on their recent activities. This was followed by information sharing and discussions on various topics, including energy-saving technology, wooden buildings, ETA (European Technical Approval) and CE Marking, and technical-information exchanges and cooperation with Chinese organizations.

Details will be reported in the next BCJ WEB NEWS.

⁹ CSTB: Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment

§ 2. Training Seminars and Support of Surveys from Abroad

a) JICA Training Courses: 2010

JICA¹⁰ invites people from developing countries to Japan and conducts group training courses in various fields as part of international technical assistance programs and projects. Over the years, BCJ has been involved in the operation of numerous training programs operated by JICA in the building and the housing areas.

The following program was entrusted to, organized and operated by BCJ in this fiscal year.

- Group Training Course: “Building Codes and Control Systems (Building Safety and Social/Environmental Considerations)”; May 20-June 24
- Country-Focused Training Course (China): “The 2nd Building Codes and Control Systems in Japan for Appropriate Architectural Management”; April 12-23
- Country-Focused Training Course (China): “The 3rd Building Codes and Control Systems in Japan for Appropriate Architectural Management”; July 26-August 6
- Group Training Course: “Improvement of Housing and Living Environments”; October 21-November 26

¹⁰ JICA : Japan International Cooperation Agency

b) The 23rd IYSH Housing Seminar

The Japan Housing Association holds a seminar every year, supported by funds from the IYSH¹¹ memorial foundation. BCJ is entrusted by the Japan Housing Association with the operations of the seminar and conducted this year's event on 23-27, August. Thirteen foreign students and one trainee from seven different countries and one region participated in the seminar. The participants had a full agenda throughout the seminar, with a great variety of lectures and on-site observations, including the housing situation and housing policy in Japan, the



On-site observation of the 23rd IYSH Housing Seminar
(Publicly-Operated Housing)

improvement of high-density urban areas, the redevelopment of water-front areas in Tokyo and the preservation of historical townscapes. They all agreed that they had learned a lot.

¹¹ IYSH: International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

c) Supporting Surveys in Japan of related foreign organizations: 2010

BCJ accepted requests from three related organizations regarding sharing information and exchanging views about their recent activities.

- Agrément South Africa; Research concerning quality assurance in evaluation service: from April 26–28.
- BCA (Building and Construction Authority, Singapore Government); Hearing concerning structural calculation conformity judgment work: May 11.
- KICT (Korea Institute of Construction Technology); Hearing concerning BCJ Approval of Innovative Building Technologies (Agrément Services): November 10.

We arranged technical visits for:

- CAG; The observation of housing/health facilities for the elderly: August 2-5.

§ 3 . BCJ Launch of Certificate Service for Earthquake-Resistant Evaluation of Existing Buildings

Warnings that major earthquakes are expected to occur in Japan have been sounded for some time. This makes it imperative for the country to secure a large stock of seismically sound buildings; this in turn presents the challenge of accelerating the seismic upgrading of the existing building stock through appropriate seismic retrofitting plans.

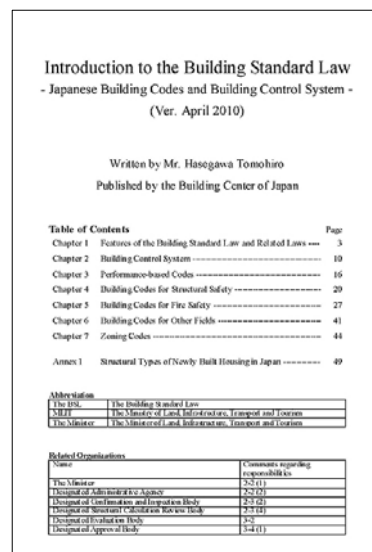
In April 2010, BCJ launched a new third-party service to assess the seismic strength of existing buildings and to certify that a seismic upgrading plan has been properly implemented.

§ 4. BCJ Publications in English

Introduction to the Building Standard Law of Japan

BCJ has published an English booklet that outlines the Building Standard Law of Japan; “Introduction to the Building Standard Law: Japanese Building Codes and Building Control System (Ver. April 2010)”, which is on the BCJ website. This is a free 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 Japan¹², 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 free document may be downloaded from the website below.

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



The top page

【Table of Contents】

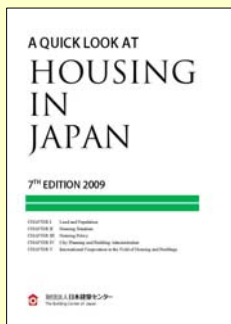
- Chapter 1 Features of the Building Standard Law and Related Laws
- Chapter 2 Building Control System
- Chapter 3 Performance-based Codes
- Chapter 4 Building Codes for Structural Safety
- Chapter 5 Building Codes for Fire Safety
- Chapter 6 Building Codes for Other Fields
- Chapter 7 Zoning Codes
-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

¹²The English version of the Building Standard Law of Japan

THE BUILDING STANDARD LAW OF JAPAN on CD-ROM
May 2009

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>



A QUICK LOOK AT HOUSING IN JAPAN November 2009

Price: Free
Date: PDF format
Language: English/Japanese
Pages: 106 (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.

This is the most recent edition. We plan to publish another revised edition in April, 2011. This document may be downloaded for free from the following website;

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