



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.

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§1. Promotion of wooden buildings and the Japan-France wooden-construction forum

In Japan, wooden buildings had been regulated from the viewpoint of fireproofing after the War, but the regulations have been gradually deregulated in recent years with the development of related technologies. Also, as public concern of environmental issues is growing, the use of wood and wooden buildings have been re-evaluated and promoted.

Concerning housing, at present, four-storied wooden housing is allowed to be built based on the revision of the Building Standard Law. As for buildings, the Act Promoting Use of Wood for Public Buildings was established and enforced in 2010. This act promotes to build wooden public-buildings of up to three stories.

Many foreign countries are also trying approaches to the promotion of buildings of wooden construction from the viewpoint of environmental sustainability. BCJ, BRI* and CSTB** held the Wooden Construction Forum from Jun. 18 to 21, 2012 in Tokyo, and exchanged information on wooden-construction building technologies. CSTB has close relationships with BCJ and with BRI, and has been promoting R&D on buildings of wooden construction in collaboration with FCBA*** since 2007, in accordance with the policies of promotion of use of wood for buildings, based on the environmental round table, *Le Grenelle de l'Environnement*.



The representatives from BCJ, BRI, CSTB and FCBA

Twenty one French participants from CSTB, FCBA, construction and architectural firms, manufacturers, and developers attended the Forum. Information was exchanged on the present situation of wooden buildings, as well as on the market, technologies and regulations of wooden buildings in Japan and France through seminars and technical visits. CSTB and FCBA made the Forum report. BCJ plans to translate it into Japanese, and upload it onto the BCJ website.

*BRI : Building Research Institute (Japan)

**CSTB : Centre Scientifique et Technique du Batiment (France)

***FCBA: l'Institut Technologique Forêt Cellulose Bois-construction Ameublement (France)

§2. Report on international conferences

a) The 17th WFTAO* Annual Meeting

From Sep. 10 to 13, 2012, the 17th WFTAO annual meeting was held in Prague, in the Czech Republic, hosted by TZUS**. Eleven organizations from 11 countries, including BCJ, participated in the meeting. BCJ gave an information update of the damage from the Great East-Japan Earthquake, as well as the recent situation and activities of BCJ.



WFTAO seminar in Brno

On Day 3, we had a construction site visit to a high-rise building and a seminar on building environment-performance in Brno. It was a good opportunity for the participants, including local architects, professors and WFTAO members to exchange information and opinions on building environment-performance.

The next meeting will be held in Germany or in Poland in September, 2013.

*WFTAO: World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations

**TZUS: Technical and Test Institute for Construction (Czech Republic)

b) The 5th Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology

BCJ, CBL*, CAG** and CABR** held the 5th Japan-China Meeting on Building- and Housing Technology in Tokyo, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2012. Sixty participants from Japan and China, including people from Japan-China Association for Building and Housing Industries (JCBH) and the Committee of Construction Industries of the China Association of Real Estate Business, which promote joint model-housing projects between Japan and China, as well as people from the four organizations attended the meeting.



Japan-China meeting on day 1

Both sides reported on their recent activities, and on several topics as below:

- Evaluation system of building products in Japan and China

- Energy saving measures for buildings and housing in Japan
- Photovoltaic systems for housing in China
- Public housing and housing industrialization in Japan
- Housing policy for middle- and low-income people in China
- Appropriate method of determination for an interface for industrialization of housing-infill in Japan
- New construction system of lightweight steel and lightweight concrete for industrialization of housing in China
- Present status of Japan-China joint model-housing project

On Day 3, participants had construction-site visits to a high-rise housing project in Tokyo, with a focus on the PC construction method, and to a housing complex and its model homes in Yokohama, with a focus on a fully-finished method.

The meeting was successfully completed with exchange of a lot of practical information. The next meeting is to be held in China in 2014.

*CBL: Center for Better Living (Japan)

**CAG: China Architecture Design & Research Group

***CABR: China Academy of Building Research

c) BCJ-ABCB* Meeting

On Oct. 9, 2012, Mr. Lam Pham (Director-Policy and International, ABCB*) and Mr. Ron De Veer (Director, ABCB) visited Japan and had a meeting with BCJ. BCJ provided information about water-related standards in Japan and performance evaluation of wastewater purifiers conducted by BCJ. ABCB provided us with some information on the current trends of construction codes in Australia and the current situation of their organization.



Attendees of the BCJ-ABCB meeting

*ABCB: Australian Building Codes Board

c) The 22nd Japan-France Building Colloquium

BCJ, BRI and CSTB held the 22nd Japan-France Building Colloquium from Dec. 11-13, 2012 in Paris. We had an information exchange session among the three organizations on day 1, a joint meeting with the Japanese-French governments on day 2, and a technical visit to a redevelopment district of old warehouses on day 3. We will report the details of the conference in the next Web-News.

§3. Report on training seminars and support of surveys from abroad

a) JICA* Training Courses: 2012

In 2012, BCJ organized and operated the following training programs, which were entrusted to us by JICA:

- Group Training course: *Disaster Prevention of Buildings (against Earthquake, Tsunami, Fire, etc.)*, Jul. 11-Aug. 10
- Group Training Course: *Improvement of Housing and Living Environment*, Oct. 22-Nov. 29

*JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

b) The 25th IYSH Housing Seminar*

BCJ was entrusted by the Japan Housing Association with the operations of the 25th IYSH Housing Seminar. The seminar was conducted from Aug. 27-31, 2012. Fourteen students from 8 countries and regions participated in the seminar.

The program consisted of a lecture on the housing situation and the housing policy in Japan, and site-visits to high-density urban areas, the historical-townscape preservation district, public housing, and others. The participants also exchanged presentations on what they had learned in the seminar.



Lecture in the historical townscape preservation district

*IYSH Housing Seminar: Housing seminar for foreign students and trainees in Japan in commemoration with International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

c) Support Survey in Japan on related overseas organization: 2012

BCJ arranged a program for surveys by China Institute of Building Standard Design and Research, from Jul. 31 to Aug. 3, 2012, on utilization of underground spaces, with the kind cooperation of the related Japanese organizations and companies.

In order to establish codes and standards for utilization of underground spaces in China, the delegation (10 delegates) requested information on how underground spaces were utilized in Japan. They were provided with information on the related building regulations, design and construction methods and other matters through lectures by experts and professors, and technical visits of actual examples of underground shopping malls and subway stations in Japan

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