

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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### § 1 . Recent Topics on Buildings and Housing in Japan

#### (1) Development of building regulations regarding wooden buildings

In Japan, building standards regarding wooden buildings are being developed based on new knowledge in order to promote the use of wood for building construction. The latest trends, etc. are explained below.

##### ① Rationalization efforts for regulations regarding fire safety of wooden buildings

In 2014, part of the Building Standard Law was amended based on new knowledge gained from full-scale fire tests, etc., which have enabled the construction of 3-story school buildings of wooden construction, as they are no longer required to be fire-resistive construction, as long as certain fire safety measures are taken.

The past process of rationalization efforts for regulations is as follows;

#### a. Rationalization of regulations regarding wooden housing and wooden apartment buildings, etc.

After 1987, regulations regarding wooden housing and buildings were rationalized. It was determined that such structures were technically secure for evacuation safety, and hazard prevention was confirmed based on scientific knowledge from results of tests on materials and members and from full-scale fire tests. (In 1987: 3-story detached housing, and in 1992 and 1998, 3-story apartment buildings)

#### b. Rationalization of regulations of wooden buildings by specifying performance-based requirements

By specifying performance-based requirements of building regulations in 2000, it has since been possible to build wooden buildings without limits on total floor area or on height. It then became legal to build medium-scale wooden buildings made with wooden-hybrid materials, such as steel covered with thick wood, which ensures performance of fire-resistive construction. Also, buildings of glued laminated timber with mortar can now be built.

#### c. Further rationalization of regulations regarding 3-story school buildings, and others

In June 2014, part of the Building Standard Law was amended based on new knowledge from the results of three full-scale fire tests (Refer to the photo on the right) and others. Three-story school buildings, which had been mandated to be fire-resistive



Full-scale fire test by BRI

construction, can be built using exposed large-section wooden materials by taking early fire-spread prevention measures for upper floors, such as using noncombustible finishing materials for the ceiling and by installing pent roofs and balconies. (To be enforced within one year after announcement)

## ② Development of regulations and standards of CLT

Recently, regulations and standards have been developed that enable the construction of public buildings and large-scale buildings using cross laminated timber (CLT). Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) of CLT was established. Establishment of structural-design strength of materials in the Notification is being considered. (The target period for establishment is 2015-16) Now, time-history response calculations are required in order to build buildings without structural-design strength, but permission for the use of limit strength calculations is being considered. If limit strength calculations can be used, construction of medium-scale CLT buildings might be allowed in Japan, as they are in some other countries.

## § 2 . Information on BCJ Activities

### (1) International Regular Meeting of BCJ in 2014

#### a) The 19<sup>th</sup> WFTAO Annual Meeting in Sao Paulo

From Sep. 8-10, 2014, the 19<sup>th</sup> WFTAO\*<sup>1</sup> annual meeting was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, hosted by IPT\*<sup>2</sup>. Eight people from seven organizations, from seven countries, including BCJ, participated in the meeting. Although the number of participants was not large, a lot of practical information was exchanged.

The next meeting will be held in September, 2015, in the USA, to be hosted by ICC-ES.

\*1 WFTAO: World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations

\*2 IPT: Instituto de Pesquisas Tecnológicas

#### b) The 6<sup>th</sup> Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology

BCJ, CBL\*<sup>3</sup>, and CAG\*<sup>4</sup> held the 6<sup>th</sup> Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology in Shanghai, Oct. 26-29, 2014.

##### ➤ Outline of the meeting program

Day 1: Technical site visit of housing complex project in Chanzou

Day 2: Observation of Suzhou and technical site visit of housing complex project in Shanghai

Day 3: Conference

##### ➤ Main topics of the presentations

- Current housing policy for the elderly in China
- Current housing policy for the elderly in Japan
- Present status of prefabricated housing in China
- Development of components for housing remodeling in Japan
- Changes in Japanese prefabricated housing
- Reports on Japan-China housing cooperation project



The 6<sup>th</sup> Japan-China Meeting on Building and Housing Technology in Shanghai in 2014

The next meeting will be held in Tokyo in 2016.

\*3 CBL: Center for Better Living (Japan)

\*4 CAG: China Architecture Design & Research Group

### c) The 23<sup>rd</sup> Japan-France Building Colloquium

BCJ, BRI\*5 and CSTB\*6 held the 23<sup>rd</sup> Japan-France Building Colloquium in Tokyo, Dec. 9-11, 2014.

#### ➤ Outline of the conference program

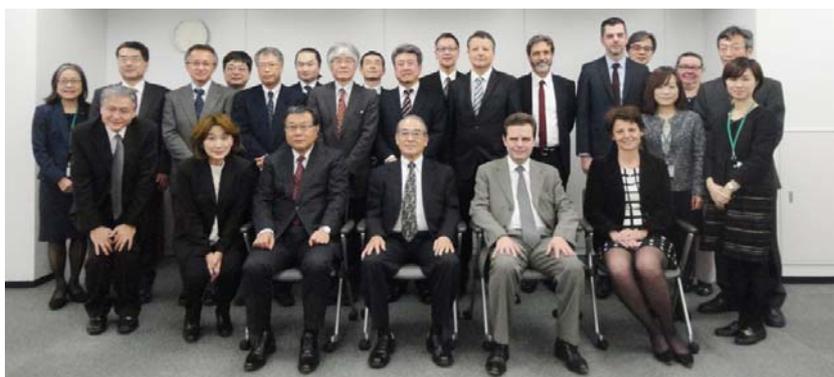
Day 1: BCJ/BRI-CSTB meeting

Day 2: Joint conference with Japanese and French ministries

Day 3: Joint technical site visit with Japanese and French ministries

#### ➤ Main topics of the presentations in BCJ/BRI-CSTB meeting

- New building-energy efficiency labeling system in Japan
- Building-energy efficiency labeling system in France
- Material standards and the perspective for structural design method of CLT in Japan
- Approach to environmental load reduction of buildings in France
- Indoor Air Quality in France



Group photo of Japanese and French delegations of Japan-France Building Colloquium in 2014 (in BCJ Tokyo office)

- BRI's study on computerization in building confirmation and inspection, including application of BIM technology
- Latest trends of environmental performance evaluation methods for buildings in France, using BIM

The next Colloquium will be held in Paris in 2016.

\*5: Building Research Institute (Japan)

\*6: Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (France)

## (2) Report on International Training Seminar

### a) JICA\*7 Group Training Courses

In 2014, BCJ organized and operated the following training programs, which were entrusted to us by JICA:

- Group Training Course: *Disaster Prevention of Buildings (against Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Fire, etc.)*, Jul. 9-Aug. 8 (16 participants from 12 countries)
- Group Training Course: *Improvement and Disaster Prevention of Housing and Living*



Site visit of Hiroshima, JICA group training course on improvement and disaster prevention of housing and Living Environments in 2014

*Environments*, Oct. 6-Nov. 27 (15 participants from 9 countries)

\*7 JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency

### b) The 26<sup>th</sup> IYSH Housing Seminar\*8

BCJ was entrusted by the Japan Housing Association with the operations of the 2014 IYSH Housing Seminar. The seminar was conducted from Aug. 25-29, 2014. (14 students from 6 countries and regions)

The program consisted of lectures 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 made presentations on what they had learned in the seminar, and discussions were held on each presentation.



Site visit of Kawagoe,  
IYSH Housing Seminar in 2014

\*8 IYSH Housing Seminar: Housing seminar for foreign students and trainees in Japan in commemoration of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless

### (3) BCJ Publications in English

#### a) Quick Look at Housing in Japan (May, 2014)

This is a document that summarizes the housing situation and the housing policy in Japan. It has been updated many times since it was first published in 1985, in order to reflect policy changes and shifts in the housing situation. BCJ has updated both the English and the Japanese editions again, and the revised versions were uploaded onto the following website in May, 2014:

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

	<p>The current edition <b>A QUICK LOOK AT HOUSING IN JAPAN: May 2014</b></p> <p>Price: Free File form: PDF Language: English/Japanese Pages: 98 (Print Size: A4) Date of publication: May 2014</p>
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#### b) Introduction to the Building Standard Law of Japan (Ver. July 2013)

This is a document in English that is issued by BCJ to facilitate the understanding of the Japanese building code, *the Building Standard Law of Japan*, and its related regulations. It was revised in July 2013, and it may be downloaded for free from the following website:

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

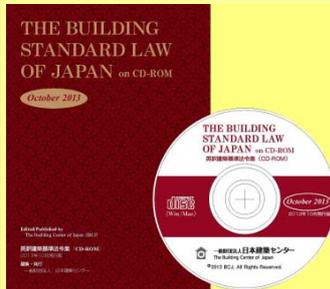
	<p>The current edition <b>Introduction to the Building Standard Law of Japan (Ver. July, 2013)</b></p> <p>Price: Free File form &amp; size: PDF, 7.2MB Language: English Pages: 237 (Print Size: A4) Date of publication: July, 2013</p>
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### c) The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (October 2013)

This is the English translation of the Japanese building code. It includes all of the amendments enforced through January 1, 2013.

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

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

	<p><b>The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM (October 2013)</b> Price: ¥10,000 (\800 consumption tax will be added to purchases in Japan) Data: PDF format Language: English Pages: 1,294 (Print Size: A4) CD-ROM (Windows/Macintosh) Date of publication: 2013.10 ISBN: 978-4-88910-160-7</p>
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