

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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BCJ 50th anniversary

BCJ celebrated its 50th anniversary on August 7th, 2015. We held a commemorative reception of this anniversary for about 500 guests on October 27th, 2015 in Tokyo. The reception commenced with the opening address by our president, Jin Matsuno. Following this, many congratulatory speeches were made. The traditional Japanese celebration-ceremony of breaking open a sake barrel was performed by various guests. The president's opening address has been uploaded to the BCJ website:

http://www.bcj.or.jp/en/src/BCJ_50th.pdf



Breaking open a ceremonial sake barrel
at the commemorative reception



About 500 guests attended the reception.

§ 1 . Recent Topics on Buildings and Housing in Japan

Development of building regulations regarding base isolation materials

In March of 2015, in Japan, there was a case of falsification regarding some seismic isolation materials that had been approved by the minister. The Japanese government has been reviewing the process of the ministerial approval system to prevent reoccurrence of such cases, according to the following basic policies:

To strengthen the methods for examining in the approval stage, and in the product shipment stage (a. products that are directly linked to safety, b. products for which performance cannot be verified in the market, or c. products of manufacturers who were guilty of falsification in the past).

On December 31st, 2015, as the first step in the strengthening of the process, the enforcement regulation of the Building Standard Law (BSL), the ministerial order concerning designated qualifying examination bodies and others that are based on the BSL, as well as the related notifications were amended and went in to enforcement in order to improve the procedure of ministerial approval of base isolation materials. The outlines of the amendments are as follows:

In the process of the performance evaluation prior to ministerial approval, "evaluators" shall attend the applicant's factory and observe a test, or shall conduct onsite confirmation of production, inspection or of quality control in the factory of designated building materials, when the Minister determined that an application

requires these activities by the “evaluators”. (These were not required for the evaluators before the amendment of the regulations.)

A fee table for the abovementioned evaluators’ activities has been made as well. The fee is added to the application fee for the performance evaluation. For applicants who are guilty of any similar falsification in the past, higher fees are applied. (There is a different fee table for factories operated by foreign companies and actual travel expenses will be added.)

Also, the technical requirements for the quality of designated building materials have been amended and the examination of quality control systems will be conducted more strictly.

§ 2 . Information on BCJ Activities

(1) International Regular Meeting of BCJ in 2015

The 20th WFTAO Annual Meeting in Long Beach

From Sep. 29 to Oct. 1, 2015, the 20th WFTAO*¹ annual meeting was held in Long Beach, California, USA, hosted by ICC-ES*². Twenty-one people from 11 organizations, from 10 countries, including BCJ, participated in the meeting. Reports on recent technical assessment activities were exchanged among the attending organizations so that members could share information on the latest issues that respective organizations or countries are facing. As the annual conference of ICC, which is the parent organization of ICC-ES, was held in the same place, some WFTAO members were able to attend the global forum of the ICC conference.

The next meeting will be held in September, 2016 in the EU region.

*¹ WFTAO: World Federation of Technical Assessment Organizations

*² ICC-ES: ICC Evaluation Service

*³ ICC: International Code Council

(2) Report on International Training Seminar

a) JICA*⁴ Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (Group & Regional Focus)

In 2015, BCJ organized and operated the following training programs, which were entrusted to us by JICA:

-*Disaster Prevention of Buildings (against Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Typhoons, Fire, etc.)*, June 29-Augst 7. (12 participants from 6 countries; Algeria, Chile, India, Mexico, Myanmar, the Philippines)

-*Improvement and Disaster Prevention of Housing and Living Environments*, October 14-December 3. (11 participants from 7 countries; Armenia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines)

*⁴ JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency



JICA knowledge co-creation program on Disaster Prevention of Buildings in 2015

b) 2015 IYSH Housing Seminar *⁵

BCJ was entrusted by the Japan Housing Association with the operations of the 2015 IYSH Housing Seminar. The seminar was conducted from August 24-28, 2015. (12 students from 6 countries and regions; China, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan)



Site visit of Katori City
2015 IYSH Housing Seminar

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.

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

(3) Report on international information sharing activities

We made the presentations in Japan and overseas to meet the requests of the governments and the organizations as below.

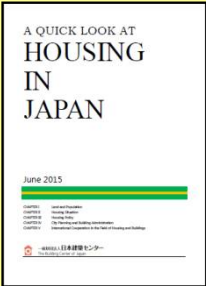
Date in 2015	Topics/Presentation titles	Events	Venue
Jan. 27	Sustainable building and construction sector in Japan and the analysis of opportunities for European firms	Inquiry from a French-Japanese consultancy	Tokyo
Feb. 3	Building regulations and related systems in Japan	2 nd Seminar for building code of Myanmar	Tokyo
Feb. 5	a. BCJ activities based on the BSL b. Building confirmation and inspection activities at BCJ	2 nd Seminar for Myanmar building code	Tokyo
Feb. 25	Measures for energy efficiency in buildings	Inquiry from CEA-Liten, France	Tokyo
Mar. 18	Outline of housing situation and building regulatory system in Japan	EU-Japan policy seminar	Tokyo
May 27	a. BCJ activities based on the BSL b. Performance Evaluation based on the Building Standard Law	A seminar for the delegation from the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey	Tokyo
Jul. 22	The Building Center of Japan Performance Evaluation; Evaluation based on Building Standard Law	Building and Construction Authority of Singapore's visit of MLIT of Japan	Tokyo
Aug. 31	Japanese building regulations	Inquiry from the delegation of MBA school of Auckland Univ., New Zealand	Tokyo
Nov. 1	Approach for long-life housing and its dissemination in Japan (Scheme of long-life housing and present situation)	A seminar on real estate and science in China	Tianjin, China
Dec. 5	Outline of BCJ activities	Japan-Myanmar Seminar on Housing, Building and Urban Development	Yangon, Myanmar

(4) BCJ Publications in English

a) A Quick Look at Housing in Japan (June, 2015)

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 June, 2015:

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

	<p>The current edition A Quick Look at Housing in Japan: June 2015</p> <p>Price: Free File form: PDF Language: English/Japanese Pages: 94 (Print Size: A4) Date of publication: June 2015</p>
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b) The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM is now under revision

The Building Standard Law of Japan on CD-ROM is the English translation of the Japanese building code. We are now editing the 2015 revised version. It is scheduled to be issued this spring.

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

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