

3rd International Accreditation/Validation Roundtable (Canberra Roundtable) held at University House, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

MINUTES

**DATE: Monday 7 April 2008 'Update and Critical Reflection'
 Tuesday 8 April 2008 'Developing Consensus'
 Wednesday 9 April 2008 'First General Meeting of The Canberra Accord'**

PRESENT:

Gordon	Holden	President	Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA)
George	Henderson	Chair CAA Validation Panel	Deputising for Richard Hastilow of Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
**Louise	Cox	UIA First Vice President and Regional Co-Director UNESCO-UIA Validation Council	Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA)
#Fernando	Ramos Galino	General Reporter, UNESCO-UIA Validation Council	Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA)
**James	Scheeler	Regional Director, Region III UNESCO-UIA Validation Council	Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA)
#Gaetan	Siew	President	Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA)
Bruce	Blackmer	President	National Architectural Accrediting Board , USA (NAAB)
Andrea	Rutledge	Executive Director	National Architectural Accrediting Board , USA (NAAB)
Douglas	Steidl	President-elect	National Architectural Accrediting Board, USA (NAAB)
Sharon	Matthews	NAAB Advisor/observer	National Architectural Accrediting Board, USA (NAAB)
Claudio	Brun del Re	President	Canadian Architectural Certification Board/Conseil canadien de certification en architecture, (CACB-CCCA)
Myriam	Blais	Vice President	Canadian Architectural Certification Board/Conseil canadien de certification en architecture, (CACB-CCCA)
Robert	Guthrie	Treasurer	Canadian Architectural Certification Board/Conseil canadien de certification en architecture, (CACB-CCCA)
Sungjung	Chough	Director	Korea Architectural Accrediting Board (KAAB)
Jin Kyoon	Kim	President	Korea Architectural Accrediting Board (KAAB)
Junsuk	Lee	Associate Director	Korea Architectural Accrediting Board (KAAB)
Hector	Garcia Escorza	Executive Director	Consejo Mexicano De Acreditación de la Enseñanza de la Arquitectura (COMAEA) Comoté Mexicano para la Practica Internacional de la Arquitectura (COMPIAR)
#Fernando	Mora Mora	President	Consejo Nacional de Registroy Certificación (CONARC)
Xiao Jing	Wang	Deputy Director of International Department	Architectural Society of China (ASC)

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Chang	Zhou	Secretary General	Architectural Society of China (ASC)
Youguo	Qin	Chairman	The National Board of Architectural Accreditation of China (NBAA)
Yanwei	Guo	Consultant	Department of Personnel and Education, Ministry of Construction of P.R. China
#Nobuaki	Furuya	Regional Co-Director UNESCO-UIA Validation Council and representing JABEE	Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA) and representing Japan Accrediting Board Engineering Education
David	Parken	CEO	The Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA)
* Alec	Tzannes	President	The Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA)
#Richard	Blythe	Chair - National Education	The Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA)
#Stephen	Frith	President	Association of Architecture Schools of Australasia (AASA)
#Andrew	Hutson	President	Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (ACA)
#Nino	Bellantonio	Chair	ACT Board of Architects

* Monday only

Did not attend First General Meeting on 9 April. **Observer at First General Meeting on 9 April

IN ATTENDANCE

Martha Liew RAIA National Education Manager
Gill Robinson RAIA Roundtable Coordinator

APOLOGIES

Aaron Bernel Rodriguez, President, Asociación de Instituciones de la Enseñanza de la Arquitectura (ASINEA), Mexico
Wolf Tochtermann, UNESCO, Co-President of UNESCO-UIA Validation Council

ITEM	ISSUE	POINTS OF DISCUSSION	ACTION
1	Welcome and Attendance	Alec Tzannes, RAIA President welcomed the invitees and observers to the Roundtable (to be known as the 'Canberra Roundtable'). He gave a short background to the Roundtable which commenced in 2006 in Washington when representatives of the accreditation and recognition authorities from UNESCO-UIA, CAA, US, UK, Canada, China, Korea, Mexico and Australia came together for the first time to discuss the possibility of establishing an accord on architectural education. The aim was to agree on substantial equivalency of accreditation and recognition systems for architectural education programs. In his address, he focused on the global perspective and the Australian context. Alec acknowledged the financial support of the Australian Government	

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		<p>Department of Education & Workplace Relations which enabled the RAIA to host the Roundtable. He also thanked RAIA staff for their work. Alec Tzannes then introduced RAIA CEO David Parken who will act as Chair.</p>	
2	<p>Introduction and acceptance of the agenda</p>	<p>David Parken introduced the roundtable members and observers. He set the scene for the discussions over the next three days, covering the methodology of the Roundtable which is derived from the Engineers' Washington Accord, and the importance of architecture as a service industry with its strong connection to the construction industry and issues of sustainability.</p> <p>The agenda which was circulated prior to the meeting was accepted.</p>	
3	<p>Summary of the Ottawa Roundtable</p>	<p>Claudio Brun del Re talked about the outcomes from the Ottawa Roundtable, held in 2007, from which the elements of an Accord were developed and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed, based on an agreement of the principles necessary for the educational qualifications of architects. He presented the Comparative Analysis (previously known as the GAP Analysis) which was developed for discussion at the Ottawa Roundtable. He stated that it gave sufficient grounds to continue discussions as there are more similarities than differences between the systems of the participating countries.</p>	
4	<p>Summary of the Development of the Canberra Accord on Architectural Education</p>	<p>George Henderson gave a PowerPoint presentation of the stages taken to prepare the draft Accord over 12 months. He advised that the first draft of the Accord was circulated for comment on 15 June 2007 to the delegates who attended the roundtables in Washington (2006) and Ottawa (2007). A summary of the responses to this draft were circulated on 10 September 2007, followed by the issue of a second draft on 02 October 2007, which took account of comments made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAIA request for additional organisation category • Criteria for appeals should be fine-tuned • Accreditation criteria to include minimum 5-year requirement for Full 	

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		<p>Time architecture programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification of Class A and Class B architects in China • Call to reduce complexities and reinforce funding principles. <p>Issues put forward and requiring further discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Should the Chair have the casting vote?(NAAB) 2) Multi-lingual documentation? (NAAB against, UNESCO-UIA in favour of using its two working languages, French and English) 3) Quality Assurance methods for the admission of new signatories – how to benchmark? (UIA) 4) Unanimous vote for recommendation for move from provisional to signatory status? (NBAA, ASC) 5) Completeness and status of the comparative analysis of systems? (CAA, CACB-CCCA, UIA) 6) List of initial signatories; equal and adequate scrutiny? (CAA, RIBA) 7) Delay the effective start date until 2010? (CACB-CCCA, RIBA) 8) Issue of the Accord and connectivity with GATS, EU and APEC Architects (UIA) 9) AACRA/RAIA system in Australia, and NZRAB? (CAA) 10) Minor text changes (KAAB, RIBA, UIA) 11) Practical arrangements for administering the Accord. <p>It was agreed that the Accord should consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agreement • A separate attachment of rules and procedures • Appendix A: Principles and Criteria for substantial equivalent systems and the application process for provisional status • Appendix B: Start-up Arrangements. <p>George was thanked, by acclamation, for his enormous effort in getting the Accord draft to this stage.</p>	
5	Organisational Updates	Each member organisation of the Canberra Roundtable gave an update on	

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		<p>their accreditation system. CAA, UIA and AACA also gave explanations of the role of their bodies in accreditation/validation.</p> <p>GS stated the position of UIA not as a signatory but as an observer. He said that the UIA/UNESCO Charter and Accord should be the benchmark for the guidelines. He was supportive of the Roundtable establishing criteria, guidelines and principles for evaluating systems. It was noted that this will be ongoing work of the Secretariat. However, he did not support the voting system for admission of new signatories. He recommended that should the Accord become a global agreement, then the UIA could act as the operating platform or convenor. In his initial presentation, GS alluded to political issues with GATS and the APEC Architect. He also referred to the paper that UIA delivered to the WTO.</p> <p>AACA had concerns regarding the impact such an agreement could have on the registration of architects. Andrew Hutson stated that the proposed multi-lateral accord would apply to only one part (accreditation/architectural qualification) of the overall process of registration. The registration process in Australia contains a number of parts. He stated that to consider only one part of the process in isolation could jeopardise the proposed equivalence between various international systems and qualifications. For this reason, AACA declined to be a signatory to the Canberra Accord.</p>	
6	Comparative Analysis	<p>Claudio Brun del Re presented the latest version of the Comparative Analysis (previously referred to as the GAP Analysis).</p> <p>Discussion on the comparative analysis covered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clarification needed on the system in China (Class A and Class B Architects) 2) Whether or not a new methodology was needed 3) Recognition of the special peculiarities of different countries eg earthquakes, permafrost etc. 4) How it might be reviewed to be available for general (public) use. 	Secretariat to develop a new methodology for systems and the comparative analysis to be retained in a format that is suitable to be in the public domain.

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7	Draft Canberra Accord on Architectural Education	<p>A large part of the meeting was taken up with edits to the draft Accord and discussion on whether or not some were prepared to be signatories. It was agreed that the Accord should have a preamble. George Henderson and Gordon Holden undertook to draft a preamble for the Roundtable to consider. The following was adopted as a preamble for the Canberra Accord:</p> <p>Preamble <i>This multilateral Accord has been initiated by organisations who have in common established systems for the accreditation/validation of architectural education that have been agreed are substantially equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>The Accord is founded on confidence in the substantial equivalence of their accreditation/validation systems verified by a process of collaborative, comparative analysis that acknowledges diversity.</i></p> <p><i>Accord conditions, rules and procedures will be developed by which the founding and future signatories are evaluated. The Accord is intended to embrace any number of new signatories that can demonstrate substantial equivalency of their accreditation/validation systems.</i></p> <p><i>It is anticipated that the Accord will facilitate international mobility of graduates in architecture and contribute to improving the quality of architectural education through benchmarking.</i></p> <p><i>The Accord is a transparent (peer review) system for determining substantial equivalence of architecture degree program/mes. It is considered to be reflective of the core principles of the UNESCO-UIA Charter for Architectural Education (Revised Version 2005) and the relevant sections of the UIA Accord on Recommended International Standards on Professionalism in Architectural Practice (Revised Version 2005).</i></p>	
	Resolutions on the	After much discussion on aspects of the draft Accord, particularly whether it	Ratification required by 30 June

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	<p>Canberra Accord</p>	<p>is a multi-lateral or a global agreement, the meeting reached an agreement that it is a multi-lateral accord with the potential vision of moving into a global accord.</p> <p><u>Resolution 1: dated 8 April 2008</u> Representatives of nominated organisations of this Roundtable resolve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To sign the Canberra Accord, subject to individual organisations' formal ratification by their constituents by 30 June 2008. 2. To meet, at its first General Meeting on 9 April 2008, to approve the interim Rules and Procedures and start-up arrangements. <p>CARRIED. UIA abstained.</p> <p><u>Resolution 2 : dated 8 April 2008</u> Notwithstanding the Canberra Accord as a multi-lateral initiative, the International Roundtable participants will endeavour to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further develop this multi-lateral Accord into a world-wide accord. 2. Develop the standards to facilitate the verification of academic qualifications and/or the establishment of equivalency of architectural education. <p>Furthermore, signatories to the Canberra Accord recognise the capability of the UIA to provide the potential framework for the implementation of this resolution.</p> <p>CARRIED. UIA abstained.</p> <p>The Roundtable participants were congratulated by the Chair for reaching this significant point.</p>	<p>2008.</p>

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	Wednesday 9 April 'First General Meeting of The Canberra Accord'	All signatories to the Canberra Accord attended the First General Meeting, with Louise Cox and Jim Scheeler staying on as observers until 2.00pm.	
	Final edits of the Canberra Accord	<p>Discussion continued on final edits to the draft Accord and its Appendices.</p> <p>The UIA requested deletion of the reference, to UNESCO and UIA being non-voting members, in Appendix B.</p> <p>Resolution 1 dated 9 April 2008: "That UIA and UNESCO be invited to attend as observers, the Second General Meeting of the Canberra Accord to be held in April 2009 in Seoul, Korea."</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	
	Chair of the Canberra Accord	<p>David Parken called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Canberra Accord 2008-2010.</p> <p>Gordon Holden nominated George Henderson who accepted the nomination. George Henderson was elected unanimously.</p> <p>David Parken then vacated the Chair, stating his pleasure to have been able to host this meeting. He thanked all participants for their hard work and keen interest in the challenge of reaching such an Accord. He acknowledged the assistance of the Australian Department of Education and Workplace Relations.</p> <p>George Henderson took the Chair. A vote of thanks with acclamation was given to Jim Scheeler from UIA, for his work in bringing this to fruition.</p>	
	Signing the Canberra	The Canberra Accord was signed at 1.45pm on Wednesday 9 April 2008.	Ratification is needed before

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	Accord	<p>This is subject to ratification and is private and confidential until 1st July 2008.</p> <p>Louise Cox and Jim Scheeler were present as observers, and then left the meeting at 2.00pm.</p>	<p>the Accord is made public by 1st July 2008.</p>
	Secretariat for the Canberra Accord	<p>Tasks for the Secretariat were agreed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the comparative analysis to enable a public document to be released without the colour-coding 2. Review and develop principles and procedures for the review process, and the criteria to be applied to it 3. Arrange reviews of the Mexican and Korean systems 4. Review the Chinese system's new English version 5. Set a schedule for reviews of all the signatories 6. Arrange media release when ratification is complete for and send to the participating countries in good time so that translations can be arranged prior to dissemination on 1st July 7. Work out a formula for ongoing financial contributions to the Secretariat's operating costs 8. Design and develop a website. <p>There followed some discussion on the suggestion from George Henderson that there be a moratorium on applications for new signatories until the reviewing process is in place. It was agreed that any country applying would be invited to Roundtable meetings as an observer.</p> <p>Participant countries were asked who might be willing to act as secretariat. NAAB offered to fill this role, and presented a budget model which involved a sharing of costs. The member signatories agreed that NAAB would serve as the Secretariat. NAAB indicated it would contract with Ms. Sharon Matthews to provide support for the activities of the Secretariat. All signatories agreed</p>	<p>Secretariat to action.</p>

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		<p>to contribute funds to meet the expenses of the Secretariat. It was acknowledged that the first year would be more expensive with set-up costs and particularly website development.</p> <p>The contributing cost for each country was discussed, with participants agreeing to transfer US\$6000 each to the NAAB by 1st July 2008. This was agreed to be the initial, base contribution for all signatories. Ongoing financial contributions for the remainder of the first year and for ongoing years would be assessed on the basis of a formula that might include such variables as the size of the systems (number of accredited programs) and GDP of the country.</p> <p>Issues of communication with the Secretariat were discussed, with consensus that when emails are sent out from the Secretariat, a date for reply will be given and no response by that date will be taken as abstention.</p> <p>In considering the selection of panel members for review visits, it was agreed that the Secretariat would accumulate a pool of suitable people who could be called upon.</p> <p>A request came from Korea for a visit in April or May 2009 and from Mexico April to June 2009.</p>	<p>Signatories to provide US\$6000 to the Secretariat by 1st July 2008. NAAB to provide information for sending funds by wire transfer.</p> <p>Secretariat to organise visits to Korea and Mexico in 2009.</p>
	<p>Next Roundtable Meetings</p>	<p>Both Korea (KAAB) and China offered to host the 2009 Roundtable; however China agreed to defer until 2010. Therefore the 2009 meeting will be in Seoul with the 2010 meeting to be held in Beijing.</p>	<p>Korea to organise 2009 General Meeting. China to organise 2010 General Meeting.</p>
	<p>Close of meeting</p>	<p>The meeting closed at 3.50pm on 9 April 2008.</p>	

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