

여건변화에 따른 경쟁력 제고를 위한 건축사 제도 개선

An Institutional Study for the Improvement of the Architects Act

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Due to prolonged economic recession and increased pressure on opening the architecture industry to the global market, the Korean architecture sector faces a difficult period. The current architect related systems do not effectively respond to rapidly changing internal and external conditions, and also are unable to reflect the distinct professional qualities of an architect (architects). These institutional problems are becoming a major cause of weakening competitiveness of architects who are responsible for securing people's safety and property. Recognizing such issues, this study aims to propose the systematic improvement of the architect related institution in order to strengthen the competitiveness of Korean architectural industry. The four main issues discussed in this study are the establishment of an architecture firm which recognizes the architect as a distinct profession, the formation of a system which supports Korean architects entering overseas markets, the establishment of an architect's mutual benefit association, and the provision of a legal basis for financial support in government commissioned projects.

The first issue is related to the establishment of an architecture firm. Insofar, to achieve reasonable taxation and performance management of architectural company, the need for architect's independent working condition and the establishment of an architecture firm which ensures

collaboration between individual architects have been proposed. Other professions have already legally established the formation and establishment procedures, taxation regulations regarding the setup of their own firms. Therefore, in regards to the establishment of an architecture firm which is applicable in Korea, the study proposed the following three measures. First is to convert existing incorporated companies into professional firms. Second, to legalize existing architecture incorporated companies, and finally to adopt a system which allows for the recognition of responsible architects.

The second issue is related to the system dealing with Korean architects entering overseas markets. The necessity of establishing such system is emphasized during such circumstances, in the process of becoming a member of WTO and GATS, when the UIA international standards of professionalism in architectural practice is released and after the agreement of the FTA. In consideration of the fact that the US and EU, Korea's FTA partners, are tentative in mutually recognizing professional qualifications, the study proposed to legally minimize the mutual recognition of architecture qualifications amongst different countries in the Architects Act.

The third issue is related to the establishment of the architect's mutual benefit association. Currently, where there are no legal basis for the establishment of such association, and where a mutual association is practically operated by KIRA(Korea Institute of Registered Architects), a legal provision regarding the establishment and operation of an architect's mutual benefit association is needed.

The last issue is related to the legal provision of financial support for government commissioned projects. Through continuous amendment of the Architects Act various project types have been introduced into the legal framework, and in total there are six different

types of government commissioned projects run by KIRA today. However, legal provision regarding the financial support of these projects has not yet been made. In other sectors where there are less number of types of government commissioned projects, regulations regarding financial support are already in place. Hence, the study suggested the stipulation of financial support in the Architects Act in order to provide stable working conditions for architects involved in government commissioned projects.

As a conclusion, this study revised the specific legal provisions directly related to the abovementioned issues, so that this could be reflected in the amendment of the Architects Act. The limits of the study however are, due to the short amount of time given for the project, that the overall fundamental problems of the architect related systems could not be examined, and that a wider stakeholders' opinion could not be assembled. In future, more practical improvement measures of architect related systems can be drawn through in-depth interviews or surveys, and subsequent studies regarding these issues should be followed.

**keyword : Architects Act, architecture firm, mutual recognition of qualifications in architecture, architect's mutual benefit association**