Message from 2015 AIA Japan President

The American Institute of Architects is one of the oldest and prestigious professional organizations in the United States. Founded in 1857 by 13 architects who met in Richard Upjohn's office in New York to form what would become the AIA. The mission was to "promote the scientific and practical perfection of its members" and "elevate the standing of the profession". Since then, there are currently more than 300 state and local chapters in the U.S., in addition to, the newly formed International Region, where AIA Japan is a member together with UK, Continental Europe, Middle East, Hong Kong and Shanghai chapters, and we are expanding our global horizons.

AIA Japan was founded in 2005 by 5 dedicated AIA members residing and working in Japan who got together with the same ideals as the original AIA mission. This year marks the 10th anniversary of our founding and membership has grown since and we continue to foster relationship between architects in Japan and the United States. We are planning a gala anniversary event this year and more information will be announced shortly. We also continue to improve and expand on our many successful programs that have been organized and implemented by our hard-working members.

Here are some of the on-going programs of AIA Japan:

- Professional and Student Architectural Design Awards Program
  (See more at http://aia-japan.wix.com/aiajapan#!awards/c1ej7)

- Student Travel Study Tours to U.S. for university students studying architecture in Japan
  (See more at web link.............)

- Continuing Professional Education Programs for our architect members (Web link?)

- Architectural Exchange Programs between U.S. and Japanese educational institutions

- Collaboration with Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) and Union of International Architects (UIA)

- Relationship with Architects for Humanity (AFH) with their Resiliency Programs at Ishinomaki and Tohoku Region devastated by the tsunami in 2011

- Networking/Job Findings/Work Referrals for our members
  (See more at http://aia-japan.wix.com/aiajapan#!find-an-architect/c18md)

Through the above-mentioned programs, AIA Japan strives to enhance the craft, science and art of architecture, as well as social responsibility to our society. Membership in AIA organization is not limited to U.S. licensed architects, but architects licensed anywhere in the world are eligible as International Associates. Also, for those who are not yet licensed, you can join us as an Associate AIA member. Whichever membership categories that you belong to, our common bond is that we all work, teach or study in the architectural profession in Japan, a country with creative architects leading the world in prize-winning buildings with their innovative solutions through the power of design. AIA Japan is fortunate to be a part of this country and we strive to be a bridge spanning Japan and other countries to foster close working relationship with all those involved in the architectural, design, and construction professions.
AIA Japan is a non-profit organization with our members working on a voluntary basis and we are dependent upon our corporate sponsors for their generous funding of our programs. Our sincere gratitude goes to our loyal sponsors, without whom our programs would not be possible. And so to our current and future members and students of architecture, I say "stay involved, be global, and YES, YOU CAN make a difference!" We welcome you to be a part of AIA Japan!

Richard J. Moriwaki, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
2015 AIA Japan President