

WAEPA E-NEWS LETTER



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EDITORIAL

WAEPA is a platform of accomplished and registered women professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering and planning. Its inception originated from the need for the women technical professionals to acknowledge their potential and express their experiences and struggles so that the younger generations are able to prepare themselves better for the same challenges ahead in light of the shared wisdom. In its pursuit for becoming a vibrant and dynamic platform, WAEPA aspires and aims to target and involve all the technical women professionals in the country so that the voice of WAEPA gets stronger in the days to come. This is the first issue of the WAEPA Newsletter and an outcome of the relentless yet short journey of the fifth executive committee of WAEPA. It presents the important activities that WAEPA engaged itself into during the last two years, most of which fell within the COVID pandemic duration. The journey also involved organizing the platform for global exposure and connectivity. Hope the Newsletter is able to provide a snapshot on the potentials of WAEPA and enlightens the readers by depicting itself with a versatile nurturing platform.

President's Message

Ar. Selina Afroza, President, WAEPA, Bangladesh



Fellow Women Architects, Engineers and Planners, Greetings from the 5th Executive Committee of WAEPA, Bangladesh. On the launching of e-Newsletter (for the period of 2020-2022) extending sincere thanks for your warm and active support towards WAEPA, Bangladesh for the last 17 years!

Due to the unprecedented global Phenomenon the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic like others WAEPA had to depend upon online activities for regular purpose avoiding in-person contacts. Therefore in "New Normal" life style to continuing professional activities the formation of 5th Executive Committee was finalized and announced online on August 29, 2020 (for 2020-2022) among the participants of WAEPA Members and Advisers via zoom meeting.

WAEPA, Bangladesh always puts the welfare of members as a priority. During this troubled time the Association tried to uphold this motto nonetheless. WAEPA took up some initiatives regarding the launching of "WAEPA Talks" a digital media knowledge sharing online platform, WAEPA Website opening and publishing of e-Newsletter (2020-2022) to ease the emergency needs of the members and continued and updated some running schemes.

Let's hope that Women's effective and efficient role as an Architect, Engineer and Planner above all as a Professional with technical skill, knowledge and creativity would enhance through the activities to achieve the goal. WAEPA wishes the physiological, professional or financial hardship caused by the global phenomenon will start easing out soon and a most vibrant WAEPA ahead.

WAEPA at a Glance

Inception

WAEPA BANGLADESH – THE VOICE OF WOMEN TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS was launched with the vision to create a platform for women with technical background so that discussions and experiences are exchanged to better contribute towards national development.

Women in Bangladesh still remain underrepresented in the technical professions. While gender inequality has been improving here, discrimination still prevails in this sector of career development.

Ensuring effective career opportunities for women in technical professions still remains a challenge while a common platform addressing burning issues of women in technical professions facilitating their career advancement continues to be a matter of high demand.

With this motivation in the backdrop, Women Architects, Engineers and Planners Association (WAEPA), Bangladesh was founded on July 28, 2005 and subsequently licensed and registered under Section 28 of the Companies Act 1994.

These days, a great number of women have caught up with their male counterparts and are now graduating in Architecture, Engineering and Planning disciplines.



Even though these women technical professionals are making significant contributions in national development programmers, policies and individual careers, there prevails a lot of challenges and limitations.

WAEPA Bangladesh envisages in addressing these needs and challenges of women professionals, in guiding the younger professionals in their career journey as well as it thrives to focus on the achievements and contributions of its members.

WAEPA pledges to make every effort to succeed in fulfilling its aims and objectives regarding the development and empowerment of Women Technical Professionals of Bangladesh so that their members can contribute in all the sectors of society be it familial, community and national level with their expertise and meticulous sincerity.

Vision

WAEPA is to be recognized as the apex body and voice of women technical professionals of Bangladesh.

Mission

WAEPA shall contribute in the continuous improvisation, promotion and empowerment of the professional atmosphere of women Architects, Engineers and Planners and ensure advancement and emancipation of career-oriented women in nation-building and networking with national and international programs and projects.



Several Activities of WAEPA with
Previous Distinguished Members



Since launching, WAEPA has been blessed with the leadership from 5 executive committees. Each executive committee is led by a president and serves for 2 years. The committee has other executive positions such as vice presidents from all three backgrounds, one general secretary, one treasurer, joint secretaries and members from all three backgrounds. The committee also has advisory positions filled up by distinguished senior professionals. The first and second executive committees were led by Architect Lailun Nahar Ekram, the third executive committee was led by Late Architect Khaleda Rashid and the fourth and the fifth committee (recent) have been led by Architect Selina Afroza.

Inauguration of 5th EC

The fifth executive committee was inaugurated on October 31, 2020 during COVID-19 pandemic through an online event. The event was graced by the honorable Education Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Dipumoni.

Launching of WAEPA Talks

While the world was struggling to survive and reimagining the wheels of development during the ongoing COVID pandemic, with the start of the journey of the 5th executive committee of WAEPA Bangladesh, WAEPA talks was launched through an online glorious event on October 31, 2020. The idea behind this initiative was to move on with online engagement among women technical professionals through lively discussions surrounding a theme for each talk by a specific speaker in the fields of architecture, engineering or planning.

Launching of WAEPA Website

Website of WAEPA Bangladesh was officially launched on 31 July 2021. The website contains the personal account of its members and the information could be updated by the members themselves. The website could be visited at <http://www.waepabangladesh.org>

With the launching of our website, some new fields for involvement have also been generated. With our website much of our activities have become digitalized. Now one can become a member and pay the membership fee online. We hope WAEPA will get more members now to encourage others to be part of this society.

WAEPA Celebrates Women's Day

WAEPA celebrated women's day during pandemic lockdown through delivering inspiring and enlightening messages from its members in its platform to keep up with its vibrant existence in the community. The messages for the running year encompassed the theme "Break the bias". The compilation of the messages were published in the official WAEPA Facebook page.



WAEPA Commemorates the Comrades

WAEPA lost two of its valuable members in the year 2022, Architect Shaheda Rahman and Professor Dr. Umme Kulsum Novera who were both distinguished faculty members of BUET and were very much appreciated personnel during their lifetimes. WAEPA held Memorial sessions for Late Architect Shaheda Rahman on November 26, 2022 for Professor Dr. Umme Kulsum Novera on December 31, 2022. Both of the events involved prayers and memorial words for the deceased personnel from the people of their acquaintances. The commemorative events also included families of the departed souls as well.

WAEPA Talk Sessions on Architecture

WAEPA sessions on architecture field included enlightening discussions from distinguished academics and professionals in the field with vibrant discussions on career development paradigms in general for women architects, architectural responses and approaches to reach spatial and environmental equity through resilient features, synergistic approach for effective change in architecture and development and the endless potentials for contributions in the field. The most recent talk encompassed demonstration of community involvement around an architectural startup studio and the struggles behind this creative establishment located in the USA.



WAEPA Talk Sessions on Engineering

WAEPA sessions on engineering encompassed the struggles and challenges for women in different engineering fields such as development sector, industrial sector, academic and research fields and innovations. Distinguished speakers from various backgrounds and vast experiences shared their own stories and discussions revolved around the ways to tackle the challenges and way forward.

WAEPA Talk Sessions on Planning

WAEPA had the pleasure to hold experience sharing sessions from distinguished planners who talked about the challenges in the field as women professionals and the discussions provided pointers on shaping up a successful career as a planner.



WAEPA Provides the Professional Development Platform

WAEPA organized a much needed session on continuing professional development which hosted discussants from architecture, engineering and planning fields and engaged the participants to discuss the needs and ways to enhance development.



Sign in to start your session

Enter Your Email **your email ID**



Enter Your Password **User123**



Become a Member of WAEPA

If you are a female technical professional in any of the fields of architecture, engineering or planning, please visit the website of WAEPA and follow the membership instructions at

http://waepabangladesh.org/member_registration

WAEPA Enlightens Regarding Legal Support in Technical Fields

WAEPA Talks platform also hosted a distinguished female lawyer in an enlightening session on legal support for technical professionals. The informative session involved sharing of much required legal steps, procedure and the subsequent importance of the knowledge for those for women in technical professions.

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