Concept Note
Regional Training Module for Practitioners on the Architecture MRA in East Africa
15th -16th April 2014
Kigali Rwanda

I.   Background

Architectural services like any other trade in professional services are often conducted via the movement of individuals to supply the services.   Even with the existence of market access commitments in professional service markets, lack of recognition of foreign qualifications and experience acts as a core impediment to trade in professional services, hindering the free movement of professionals across borders either in their capacity as individuals, or as professional firms. In the absence of recognition of qualifications in the evaluation of credentials for entry into and/or practice of a profession, foreign professionals would be required to repeat the array of qualification requirements in the host country that they have already completed in their home or third country, in order to be accredited to practice in the host country.

The notion behind the recognition of professional qualifications is that if a professional can provide services lawfully in his/her own country, s/he can do the same in the participating member jurisdictions. The regulations applied in the home country, though not identical to those applied in the host country, are regarded as equivalent to the latter. Recognition of professional qualifications thus encompasses both formal and informal education, work experience and expertise, and it refers to both the recognition of the equivalence of the content of the training, as well as the recognition of the home country's authority and competence to certify such training through the granting of diplomas or other evidence of qualifications.

Pursuant to Article 11 of the East African Common Market Protocol (CMP), EAC Partner States have undertaken to mutually recognize the academic and professional qualifications granted, experience obtained, requirements met, licenses or certificates granted in other Partner States. EAC Partner States have negotiated the Annex VI on Mutual Recognition which provides the modalities through which Article 11 of the EAC Common Market protocol will be implemented. To date, three MRAs have been signed, which are on the architecture, accounting and engineering sectors.

Though the EAC Partner States have managed to negotiate and sign three MRAs, there is room to improve on implementation and awareness in the region. It is based on this background the ITC in collaboration with EABC is conducting training and sensitization programmes with respect to MRAs. This particular training workshop will focus on the Architecture MRA in East Africa.

II. Objective

The objective of the training is to bring together stakeholders who are actively involved in the MRA such as competent authorities, architecture practitioners, members of professional boards and EAC officials with aim of training them on the functioning of the EAC agreement and best practices from other regions.

Specifically, the training aims to:
a. Develop an understanding of Architecture MRA in general, its purposes and the benefits it can bring to the region
b. Train competent authorities for architects on practical issues of implementation relevant to the Architecture sector
c. Identify and present best practices in implementing MRA, in order to derive lessons learnt from existing MRAs, by examining successes, difficulties and challenges of implementation, management, monitoring and assessment of MRAs;
d. Share the best practices from other regions which the EAC architects can take advantage of.
e. Raise awareness and provide information about the architecture MRA to stakeholders

III. Expected Outputs

a. Architecture stakeholders are trained on Architecture MRA, its potential benefits and applicability to the architectural sector.
b. The Architecture stakeholders share the challenges and experiences faced in implementing Architecture MRA in the EAC region
f. Architecture stakeholders derive lessons from the best practices from other regions.

IV. Expected Outcome

It is envisaged that the training will stimulate the implementation of the existing Architecture MRA hence resulting in enhanced free movement of architects in the EAC region

V. Programme of the Training

DAY 1

TIMINGS	CONTECT	ACTITIVITIES/OUTPUTS
08.30-09.00	Official Opening	Remarks from: • Andrew Luzze , Executive Director (EABC) • Vice Chairperson – Rwanda Chapter • ITC – Representative
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome and Introductions	Recap on learning objectives Outline of how to use the Training Manual and draft MRA

		Reference Handbook
09.30-10.45	**Session1: What is an MRA?** Key component	Revision of preparatory materials Participants have necessary information to complete section 1 of Handbook
10.45-11.15	**COFFEE/TEA BREAK**	
11.15-13.15	<u>Session 2: Domestic Issues</u> Practical issues of implementation: • Registration/eligibility (obligations of both applicant and competent authority) • Disciplinary issues-procedure at local level and appeal level Feedback/discussion	Participants are encourage to think about how they would deal with practical issues that might arise in the implementation of the MRA: What are the obstacles? What processes/forms need to be developed? Participants work in groups to deal with key issues. Participants have the necessary information to complete section 2 of the Handbook
13.15-14.30	**LUNCH BREAK**	
14.30-16.00	<u>Session 3:</u> **Regional Issues** Further feedback from morning exercises and discussion if required followed by: Supporting the MRA at regional level: • Regional coordination/communications (EAC Version of SOLVIT, for instance) • Problem solving • Education standards • Information management/sharing (keeping lists of institutions up to date)	In groups, participants consider how region wide procedures might be developed and the tasks that could usefully be taken on by a regional level body assisting in the coordination of the MRA. Participants have the necessary information to complete section 3 of the Handbook
16.00-16.30	**TEA BREAK**	
16.30-17.30	**Session 4: The Evolution of the MRA** • Development of a regional mechanism for sharing work opportunities • Joint initiatives and law	Drawing on examples from other regions, participants will be asked to share their ideas on the evolving agenda and capacity building of regional cooperation mechanism.

	reform activity to promote supportive legislative initiatives (e.g. for architects-progressing joint public procurement, encouraging complementary MRAs e.g. of Quantity Surveyors) • Sharing experience/developing best practice etc. • Accommodating new parties into the MRA?	
17.30-17.45	**Conclusion and recap on Day 1**	

DAY 2

Timing	Content	Activities/Outputs
09.30-11.00	**Session 5: Communicating the MRA-Part I** Promote, explain and defend MRAs. What message and to whom • The internal (workforce)- how to explain to own organisation • The domestic profession • The migrant profession Feedback/discussion	Participants will determine the target audiences for communication about the MRA. They will also work together to agree on what these different audiences need to know. Participants are able to put together information packs for each target audience.
11.00-11.30	**COFFEE BREAK**	
11.30-13.00	**Session 6: Communicating the MRA –Part II** How? Identify channels of communication and ways in which participants can raise awareness of the MRA.	Participants will have the opportunity to apply the principles of a communication strategy to some practical scenario.
13.00-13.30	**Session 7: Conclusions-What next**? This session will aim to ensure that the practical outputs of training are taken up and used	Each participant to highlight what practical next step they will take in order to support the implementation or promotion of MRAs in the EAC Region
13.30-14.30	**LUNCH**	
	DEPART	