

**Workshop Themes**  
**IRCC Meeting - Japan**

**Workshop 1**

**“Building Code Requirements - Care Facilities and Housing for the Elderly”**

**13<sup>th</sup> MAY – (9:00 am – Noon)(Closed Workshop Session with IRCC)**

**Introduction**

Because of the significant increasing in the average age of the world’s population, the demand for allowing elderly peoples to continue to live in own houses instead of entering any institution has become very desirable. In addition, “Group Homes” (several aged people having no family relationship live together in houses where social care is provided) is becoming increasingly popular. These emerging changes have created an increased concern about appropriate fire and life safety requirements for these types of buildings housing the elderly occupants. Just recently in Japan, there was a fire that killed seven (7) elderly people on this type of housing. In general, under the Japanese Building Code, a “Group Home” is classified as a “boarding house” with stricter building code requirements. This has created several issues for which Japan would like input from IRCC member countries on how this has been address in their country.

Primary issues include the following:

1. Has your country experienced the demand to allow “Group Homes” with differing building code requirements from more traditional stricter requirements applied to institutional type buildings?
2. Are you experiencing an increased trend where people are not submitting applications for a change of use of buildings intended to house several unrelated elderly occupants?
3. Do you have regulations that more clearly define the difference between normal housing and “Group Homes”?
4. Are your regulations sensitive to the cost of alteration of normal housing to “Group Homes”?
5. What is the public and political acceptance experience regarding the regulations?
6. What is your perception as to the adequacy of the current regulations in terms of providing fire and life safety protection for the elderly occupants?
7. Are there any other important features of how you handle “Group Homes” beyond just the building code requirements?

Japan would like to report the Japanese situation and requests members to make short presentations about the differences of building code classification/ requirements between an aged care facility and a normal housing and how to treat “Group Homes” in the building code in a rational way that provides reasonable safety and political acceptability.

## **Workshop 1 Agenda**

Workshop Moderator – Rainer Mikulits

9 am – 9:30 am

Japan report on current situation

9:30 am – 10 am

European Experience (Bill Dodds)

10 am – 10:30 am

Australian Experience (Mike Balch)

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am – 11 am

Netherlands Experience ( IJsbrand van Stralen)

"Care Facilities and Housing for the Elderly - The Dutch Situation"

11 am – 11:30 am

United States Experience (Jon Traw)

11:30 am – Noon

General Discussion (Moderator – Rainer Mikulits)

