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It would seem that mankind always wants to challenge themselves in pushing their technology and knowledge to the limits, particularly on skyscrapers. Today almost every developed country wants a piece of their own tallest standing structure on the face of the Earth. In fact the competition for such a title has become so stiff that there are now more than 20 structures constructed with heights surpassing 1,000 feet and higher. It has become an obsession for civil engineers, architects, wealthy building owners and even governments. I donâ€™t necessarily blame them after all it is a very good way to attract tourists to visit their country or city.

Whoâ€™s in the Top 10 List?

As we entered 2012 there were 10 tallest skyscrapers that took the worldâ€™s attention, and some are as marvelous as those ancient megalithic structures we find all over the world. Among them include:

10. Kingkey 100 â€“ located in Shenzhen, China. Composed of 100 stories with a maximum height of 1,449.76 feet. It is an imposing sight in the middle of Shenzhen City and had it not been on financial constraints and a tight deadline, the building would have been Burj Khalifaâ€™s equal â€“ currently the tallest standing structure on Earth.

9. Willis Tower â€“ the tallest building in downtown Chicago, USA. Built in 1973 it is still making news even today, and as you can see it still came in on the 9th place on our list with a height of 442 meters.

8. Nanjing Greenland Financial Center â€“ once again China is claiming its place among the worldâ€™s fastest developing countries, and to prove it they built this tower in Nanjing City giving it a height of 492.12 yards.

6 & 7.Petronas Towers 1 & 2 â€“ a surprising combo from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Petronas Twin Towers claimed the 7th and 6th spots simultaneously! Rising to a height of 45,200 centimeters it is visible for miles across the city.

5. International Commerce Center â€“ from Hong Kong, China this skyscraper is now the third entry of the Peopleâ€™s Republic of China into the world records for tallest buildings. Reaching a height of 19,055.11 inches, it is no less dominant among Hong Kongâ€™s financial district.

4. Shanghai World Financial Center â€“ Chinaâ€™s rising economy is obvious at the things it does. Among them is this building right in the heart of Shanghai standing at 1,313.76 feet, it is one of the most impressive structures in China, if not the entire world.

3. Taipei 101 â€“ Taiwanâ€™s one-shot building has made it to the top 3 spot in our list and itâ€™s located their capital city Taipei. Rising to a height of more than half a kilometer (508 meters), you would literally have to nod your head skyward 165Â° to see the edge of its rooftop.

2. Abraj al Bait (Mecca Royal Hotel Clock Tower) â€“ an unusual record for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but the income from the pilgrimage to Mecca as well as the need to accommodate thousands of guests paved the way for the Saudi officials to construct this tower. With a height of about a third of a mile (0.372 miles), this building is a massive structure in Mecca City.

1. Burj Khalifa â€“ finally the tallest structure in the world! Standing at a height of 828 meters (thatâ€™s almost a kilometer high) Dubai, United Arab Emirates has made a name for itself and is now accepting more than 2.7 million annually. And the Burj Khalifa is one of the most visited sites in all of Dubai.

There you have it! The 10 tallest structures on Earth and if you plan to visit them, then you should make reservations as soon as possible. In case youâ€™re wondering about the varying units in determining the height of each building, you may want to check out some of those online conversion tools or calculator that you can find on the internet.

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