

President's Report for Second QGM 2008

Dear Members,

1. Sichuan Relief

The earthquake measured at 7.8 on the Richter Scale has devastated the densely populated areas of Sichuan Province with many deaths, casualties and sufferings.

HKIA has appealed to all members to donate to relief agencies of their choice and I thank you for responding generously.

A taskforce under Tony Tang, Chairman of the Board of Mainland Affairs has been set up to organize a team of volunteers to help in the redevelopment of the affected areas. As at 30 May 2008, 41 HKIA members and 14 non-HKIA members have signed up to spring into action once the Mainland allow us to be of service to them. The taskforce is making liaison with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development to inform them that we are ready to help.

The Institute also sent condolence letters to the counterparts and members in Sichuan to express our concerns about their present situation. Five members in Sichuan replied that they are fine and were not injured in the disaster. Colleagues in Beijing also help and follow up with these members.

On 26 May 2008, Mrs Carrie Lam, Secretary for Development, held an urgent meeting with the Presidents of HKIA, HKIE, HKIS, HKIP and HKILA

together with the Directors of the Development Bureau for a brainstorming session.

HKIA together with the other Institutes have been invited to be founding members of the forum suggested to be called “Hong Kong Construction Sector 5.12 Reconstruction Joint Conference”.

Of all the ideas, the most urgent that we can do as a group is to buy monitors for monitoring via satellite the safety conditions of several dams in the affected areas. Research has been carried out by the Civil Engineering Department and the cost is HK\$2 million plus. By consensus all those present agreed to underwrite this cost so the monitors can be purchased and shipped to Sichuan at once with the knowledge and assistance of the Mainland Government.

At the Council Meeting on 27 May 2008, this idea was approved. In addition, the Council approved that the Institute will raise HKD500,000 in its name for the earthquake relief through the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of the PRC.

This is to show our sincere care for the people affected by this disaster and to further build on our good relationship with the MOHURD.

HKIA shall provide HKD100,000 from our reserve and shall appeal to all our members to top up the difference for this very important and meaningful cause.

2. Mr Leung Kam Kong

The late Mr Leung was a Graduate of Architecture gaining a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Adelaide after a Bachelor of Science (Architecture) from City University.

He unfortunately fell to his death from the roof of a housing estate while trying to persuade his high school classmate out of a serious depression.

With the support of 240 HKIA Members, a sum of HK\$347,940 was raised for Mr Leung's family who is dependent on him.

AIA and HKIS joined us to present their cheque donation of HK\$72,500 and HK\$50,000 respectively to the family on 16 May 2008.

We mourn for the loss of a potential member and a good architect with a bright future having been in the winning team for the Hong Kong Pavilion at the 2010 World Exposition in Shanghai. May he rest in peace.

3. Management Review

The Council will be proceeding with the "Immediate Items" to be completed in six months.

These are:

- a) Operation Manual for the work for the Institute.
- b) Operation Manual for the work of the Secretariat.

The target date for the completion of the work is the end of August 2008.

These Manuals will be the initial ones and will form the basis to strengthen our Corporate Governance of the Institute and the Secretariat in the years to come.

4. Member's Forum on Change of Election Rules

In order for the President to act as soon as he or she takes office and to widen the net for the candidacy of the President, it is proposed that the position of a President Elect (PE) be introduced.

This position will be for one year and will give the person more time to be familiar with the working of the Institute and to be a part of and share in the direction of the Institute.

The term of the Immediate Past President (IPP) will be reduced from two years to one year.

Two forums were arranged for Tuesday, 6 May 2008 and Monday, 26 May 2008 to enable the members to have a better understanding of the proposal and to share your thoughts.

The SGM for members to vote on this change will be on Tuesday, 17 June 2008 at 7 pm at the HKIA premises. All are welcome.

5. Liaison with Partnering Institutes/External Bodies

a. Overseas Engagement

RAIA National Conference and AIA National Convention

I represented the Institute to attend the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' National Conference "Critical Vision 08" in Sydney in April as well as the American Institute of Architect's National Convention "We the People" in Boston in May, both on a self-financing basis.

The speakers, discussion participants and associated informal as well as formal activities together provided an excursion into the imagination to see architecture in the future and its contribution to global culture.

As architects, we are involved directly with issues to do with social and environmental sustainability. Our works collectively influence most things that are designed or managed in the built environment and how we as professionals can be more effective “change agents” through our work.

23rd UIA World Congress and 24th UIA General Assembly

The 23rd UIA World Congress and 24th UIA General Assembly will be held in Turin, Italy from 29 June 2008 to 6 July 2008. Mr Joseph Kwan, Council Member of UIA and I shall attend.

Dr Zhou Chang of the Architectural Society of China will run for Council and HKIA shall support his bid.

Corporate Members' Visit to Beijing

On 27 April 2008, a courtesy visit to Beijing was made by 24 Corporate Members for 2 days. The purpose was to inform and to introduce HKIA's newest category of membership to the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction, United Front Work Department of CPC Central Committee, Ministry of Commerce, Hong Kong & Macao Affairs Office of the State Council and the HKSAR Beijing Office.

Points discussed were our desire to set up firms and to practice in Mainland China and to be permitted to sign and approve plans.

CEPA

On 5 May 2008, HKIA together with the allied professions met with Development Bureau to individually and collectively explain our stagnate position with regard to practicing in the Mainland. Negotiation at our level has been futile and it has to go to a much higher level for any hope of a breakthrough.

Venice Biennale

This year's Venice Biennale will be held from 14 September 2008 to 23 November 2008 in Venice.

We have secured 50% of the HK\$3 million required on a matching basis and we are very eager to raise the balance to enable this project to proceed.

Please contact the Institute or Alice Yeung, Chair of the Board of Internal Affairs if you can assist in this Biennale.

b. Local Participation

Architecture Academic Advisory Committee's Visit to CUHK

On 24 April 2008, I represented the Institute in attending the two day visit of the Architecture Academic Advisory Committee to the Department of Architecture at CUHK. A report is being prepared and a summary will be made available to the Institute in due course.

RIBA

On 10 June 2008, Mr Richard Hastilow, the Chief Executive of RIBA is coming to Hong Kong to have preliminary discussions on establishing a RIBA Chapter in Hong Kong for some 700 members in Hong Kong.

12th Graduation Show, ARCH, CUHK

On 20 June 2008, there will be an Opening Ceremony of the CUHK 12th Graduation Show at Pacific Place and all are encouraged to see the excellent works of the students.

Degree Show, Department of Architecture, HKU

On 12 June 2008, there will be a Reception and Preview of the Degree Show of the Department of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong. The exhibition will be open to public from 13 to 27 June 2008 on Third Floor, Knowles Building, Pokfulam Road.

6. Mutual Recognition with Mainland China

The Fifth and Final Architectural Professional Examination under CEPA will take place in Xian on 8 and 9 July 2008.

From last year's quota of 60 candidates, we negotiated for a substantial increase in number but were only given 80 places. Needless to say, applications exceeded the quota and it was a very hard job for the Mutual Recognition Committee to select the 80 candidates.

I would like to thank those who applied and wish them the best of luck in passing the forthcoming examination and to the Mutual Recognition Committee for dedicating their time and effort in performing this worthy task without much appreciation.

7. **Dr Cecil Chao Architectural Design Award**

Please check the website www.ccadaward.com and be reminded to submit your projects for this Award by noon, 1 September 2008.

The prize of HKD500,000 will be presented by the Chief Executive, Donald Tsang on the evening of our Annual Ball on Saturday, 22 November 2008.

8. **HKIA Conference Cum Annual Ball**

This is the first HKIA Conference to be organized on 22 November 2008.

The theme is “Shang-Kong Ny-Lon”.

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The Annual Ball will be on the same evening.

9. **Third QGM**

This will be held on Tuesday, 9 September 2008 at 7 pm on 75/F, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Wanchai.

Mr Frederick Ma, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, will be the guest speaker.

Dr Ronald Lu, *FHKIA*

President

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

30 May 2008