

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

First Quarterly General Meeting 2025

President's Report

Dear Members,

It is my honour and privilege to address you at our **first Quarterly General Meeting of 2025**. The year has begun with remarkable momentum, and I am delighted to share updates on our recent activities and initiatives.

I would like to highlight a few major initiatives that we are making progress on.

Following the announcement of the launch of HKIA Academy at the Spring Reception on 10 Feb, we are rolling out programs in the 2nd quarter for SOPL Adjudication, NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract (ECC), and BIM Pro Full Training courses. This evening we have also invited DevB to come and inform our members on the current status; so those who are interested in the courses please look out for the program details to be put up.

For position papers, we have furnished our comments about the “Regulatory Regime on Basic Housing Units” on 17 Feb; BO Amendments on UBW and construction safety on 28 Feb, and Govt 2025-26 Budget on 11 Mar. Papers are uploaded on HKIA website. Some of the key points suggested is for Govt to consider conducting “Due Diligence Report /Inspection Report” for purchase of properties to identify and irregularities/ UBW; and “Inspection Report” for BHU – Basic Housing Units, as there remains a challenge for signing “Certification” vs “Licencing” substandard units.

I would like to highlight from the Budget that DevB had, through CIC granted a 150M funding for graduates across 10 disciplines professional bodies. The scheme name is “Construction Industry Degree Graduate On-the-Job Training Subsidy Scheme”. Interested “Practices” should look into this. Basically the subsidy is a one off grant. Each graduate (max age 35) can be subsidized \$5000 per month for 12 months, there are terms that the employer need to observe. The fund will be channelled to employer direct. For details, you can refer to government website, or check it out under “What’s On” of HKIA website.

We have signed the MOU agreement with the Guangdong Institution of Engineers with regard to “Mutual Recognition Framework. Note that the terms and conditions for an applicant still requires him/her to fulfil 2-3 year local practical experience and pass Paper 1 & 2 of the “Professional Assessment” plus interview, the same current requirement for the NLAP(GroupB) path stipulated.

For upcoming new initiatives and events, we have successfully coordinated with PolyU representative to grant us access to their “Material Resource Centre” of which they display new researched construction materials, including sustainable recycled products, amongst other interior furnishings as well. It is a very resourceful centre. We have come up with a trial pilot scheme to admit all Council & Committee first, registration is open until end of March, PolyU will grant us QR code, the member would need to show his/her HKIA membership for verification, and access would be granted. If successful, we will work out how to roll out access for members who are interested, but prior registration for PolyU QR code is mandatory.

We will be disseminating a practice survey to registered practices soon, focusing on current business environment status, please return them soonest so we can do some analysis and reflect our views to relevant bodies as needed.

Furthermore, we are invited by Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) – the National Games Coordination Office (Hong Kong) to co-organise a design competition to engage local architects to create two sets of commemorative decorations, one set to be installed at Central and Western District Promenade (Central Section) and the other set at two locations of Kai Tak Station Square.

At a recent interview with a Chinese newspaper, I have reflected our views that we should advance the program of Northern Metropolis, and Govt should consider setting up an “authority” (or whatever the name is called) with authority to coordinate cross discipline bureaus and departments to speed up the progress. At the HKCPS luncheon, the Honourable Mr Paul Chan had sounded out that enterprise should take lead, and we concur. And for smaller enterprises, govt should consider flat rate waiver fee/ STT/ licencing fee to shorten administration processing time and facilitate small scale recreation & cultural facilities to flourish, thereby creating more jobs and stimulate the economy.

As we advance into 2025, I appeal for all members’ support and engagement with our initiatives. We encourage your active participation in our upcoming events and I am sure the benefits would be mutual.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to the Council, Boards and Committees, and every member for your unwavering support and dedication.

Best regards,
Ar. Julia LAU, *CHKIA, JP*
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
17 March 2025