

**The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Third Quarterly General Meeting
16 September 2021**

President's Report

Dear Members,

Thank you for attending the third Quarterly General Meeting of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) in 2021 and your participation in HKIA's affairs. Our Institute is established by Members for the advancement of architecture and to serve the needs of Members. The Institute values your input, and your opinions matter.

The third quarter in a year marks the election period for the Council. This year, since the four candidates for 2022-2023 are elected ipso facto, the results formal announced after I have given my report will offer no surprise – in fact, their names and statements of their aspirations have already been published in HKIA website since 10 August, right after the close of nomination period. I welcome the new additions to Council and appreciate their willingness to serve the Institute together with me and other Council members. We shall serve our Members, our profession, and our society to the best of our ability.

In my welcoming speech to new Members joining HKIA on 7 August, I shared the following quote by Winston Churchill: "We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us." My message is simple, and I would like to share with all of you again: as architect, what we do matters. How architects build and inspire people to live a meaningful life is the corner stone of human civilisation. Together, thru architecture, our Institute and our Members can create a better world and inspire people to live to their full potential.

Two years ago, none of us could ever have imagined that a microscopic virus would change the world as we know it. Despite these are times unlike any of us have experienced before, our design training in architecture has prepared us well to face the uncertainties and unprecedented challenges, because it would have taught us to ask questions, be a good listener, not be over-confident in our own knowledge, and, despite the limited resources and pressing deadline, it is within our capability to come up with innovative solutions when the problem seems insurmountable. We shall step out of our comfort zone so you can continue to grow and advance the architect's role in building a better future. We need to be multi-disciplinary and work collaboratively. We need to think more deeply about building a safer and sustainable city for all so we can live happily together.

To ensure our voices being heard, HKIA has been engaging in the communication with policy makers and key stakeholders either via our representatives in various public bodies, or via the liaison of the members of our Council, Boards, or Committees. We have worked in collaboration with external stakeholders on promoting architectural excellence to the public in this summer. We have also taken up key roles in local and international events in the architectural field.

Engaging in Policy Making

Over the past quarter, we have been liaising with the authorities on major issues including:-

- The implementation of the spirit of Security of Payment Legislation (SOPL) in public works contracts is scheduled to launch by end of this year. To uphold the leading role of architects in construction projects, HKIA has submitted application to the Development Bureau (DEVB) for being an Adjudicator Nominating Body (ANB) for SOPL.
- Meeting with DEVB and Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) officials on reviewing the minimum entry criteria for Consultants Lists of the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board (AACSB).
- Follow-up discussion with Buildings Department on our written submission on practical means for addressing statutory approval problems faced by Members.
- Submitting HKIA's "wish list" in response to the 2021 Policy Address consultation, based on the views collected from various Boards and Committees.
- Engaging in the consultation for a number of studies or review of policy/work practice, such as the draft manual of BEAM Plus for Existing Schools, Study on Active Design for Healthier Lifestyle, Invigorating Island South Developments, Yuen Long Barrage Scheme and Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah, etc

Promoting Architectural Excellence

Architecture Exhibitions in Mainland and Overseas

I am glad to inform Members that HKIA is applying public funding for staging architecture exhibition in Mainland cities, for showcasing Hong Kong's creative talents and innovative designs. These include:-

- Architecture Exhibition in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of 2022 in Beijing and Hangzhou, in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.
- Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\ Architecture (UABB2022) with two concurrent exhibitions in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, tentatively scheduled for March or April 2022. Elements of celebrating the HKSAR's 25th Anniversary of establishment, as well as HKIA's 65th Anniversary, would be included.

The roving exhibitions for the Cross-Strait Architectural Design Symposium and Awards 2019, which have been postponed due to the COVID pandemic, are now confirmed: the exhibitions in Guangzhou or Shenzhen is scheduled for the 4th quarter this year, and the one in Malaysia will be turned into a virtual exhibition.

With the support of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects Biennale Foundation, HK architects have been able to show case their creative works from 22 May to 21 November this year in Venice, Italy at the Hong Kong Collateral Event, "Redistribution: Land, People and Environment", for the Venice Biennale 17th International Architecture Exhibition. A response exhibition in Hong Kong at the City Gallery is presently being planned to be held at the end of 2021.

Public Education and Promotion

We have also put in efforts in promoting architectural excellence to the local general public. Thanks to the keen participation of mainly the Heritage and Conservation Committee members, this summer, HKIA has involved in:

- **HKIA-Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) Joint Public Lecture Series**
Six free public lectures were arranged under the theme of: “NOT Fixed to the Styles — Exploring Architectural Styles of Built Heritage in Hong Kong” (《吾肯定格 — 探尋香港建築遺產的建築風格》). Staged in July to September at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre with live broadcasting, the lectures have received very good response. The last lecture will be held next Saturday, 25 September. Don't miss the chance.
- **Radio Programme Series on Architectural Conservation**
The 13 episodes of Cantonese radio programme have started to broadcast every Thursday since 12 August at the RTHK Radio 5 programme “Enjoy Learning” (《學在其中》). Even if you have missed the broadcasting, I invite you to review the programmes at the RTHK online archive.

Architectural Competitions

The following two are on-going competitions that HKIA co-organizes for providing our Members the opportunities of showcasing talents

- **Design Competition on Green Link, Wong Chuk Hang**
HKIA co-organizes the competition with the Invigorating Island South Office (IISO) of DEVB and ArchSD. Registration has just started on 10 September. It is quite an interesting site, linking the MTR station up to the Country Park, which has considerable room to accommodate innovative place making ideas. Don't miss the submission deadline of 20 November, if you are interested. I expect to be wowed by the submissions, and I invite Members to keep track of the results.
- **Design Competition for Transformation of Sensory Garden at Kwun Tong Promenade**
HKIA co-organizes the competition with the Energizing Kowloon East Office of DEVB and ArchSD. Although the launch is scheduled for December, still some months away, our diligent representatives in the organizing committee have already involved in the public engagement activities. I urge Members to stay tuned for the updates by HKIA.

Enhancing HK Connections in the Region

Securing foothold in the Mainland

HKIA endeavors to help Members explore and secure the opportunities for providing services in the Mainland. Our efforts in the past quarter include:-

- Ten HKIA representatives have joined the Belt and Road Forum organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) in early September. At the Belt and Road Global Forum Annual Roundtable, I also represented HKIA to share the profession's experiences in the region.

- Offering support for the webinar hosted by DEVB and Qianhai Management Authority for introducing the projects in Qianhai and the related tendering procedure to our Members.

Canberra Accord

HKIA has fulfilled our obligation of being a full signatory of the Canberra Accord on Architectural Education to host its General Meeting in 2021. Due to global travel restrictions under the COVID pandemic, the meeting was held online on 24 to 25 June. Core members of the education and accreditation arms of both HKIA and Architects Registration Board (ARB) attended.

I am glad to inform Members that Rosman WAI, Deputy Chair of the HKIA Board of Educational Affairs, has taken up the Canberra Accord chairmanship for the term 2021-2023. I have no doubt that under her leadership, our connections with other Canberra Accord signatories would be further strengthened.

Union of International Architects (UIA)

HKIA representatives have participated in the 27th UIA World Congress of Architects (UIA 2021 RIO) ran from 18 to 22 July in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Due to the global pandemic situation, it was held entirely virtual and was joined by about 88,000 attendees from 188 countries/regions.

At the Congress, the *Responding to Natural Disasters & Emergencies: Proposed Inclusive Design Guidelines for Architecture and Urban Planning* was released for discussion. Our heartfelt thanks to HKIA Fellows Joseph KWAN and Tony WONG, as well as ArchSD, for their input in the research and the guidelines through the UIA Architecture for All Work Programme. They have not only helped make the Hong Kong cases visible in international arena, but also offered our real-life experience to help our counterpart fellows in other countries to address the issues.

Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA)

We have nominated HKIA representatives for the different ARCASIA committees for 2021. Throughout the past quarter, HKIA has also keenly engaged in the promotion and adjudication of ARCASIA competitions or awards, including the Students Architectural Design Competition, Thesis of the Year Award, Ar. Barry Will Award.

Supports for Members

BIM Pro Qualifications

To support our Members in gaining the qualifications for leading in architectural practice, HKIA has continued to organize BIM Pro Top-up Training Programme. Our Secretariat has also worked on enhancing the efficient processing of Member's application for HKIA BIM Professional Certification. The approved members with BIM Pro and BIM Coordinator qualifications have been uploaded on HKIA website.

Support for Hiring Fresh Graduates and Assistant Professionals

The second-year of the Government subsidy training scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund, was commenced on 18 June 2021. The application for Assistant Professionals was closed on 31 August, while the deadline for application for Graduates falls on 30

November. The architectural sector is tentatively allocated 250 subsidy places for each of the two streams. I urge Members to take note of the deadline. HKIA will continue to provide DEVB with advice and assistance in application processing, and serve as the bridge between our corporate members and Government.

For the long run, HKIA is working on a proposed Architectural Graduate Training Scheme. The scheme aims to support Hong Kong architectural graduates to find positions with Registered Practices (RPs), and to support the RPs in providing fresh graduates the training activities and experiences required for taking Professional Assessment. We will also liaise with the Government to secure providing regular public funding for RPs under the scheme. While the details are still on the drawing board, core members of the Council, Board of Educational Affairs and Board of Practices would gear up their planning work for liaising with Government and related parties. We would further update and consult Members at the appropriate times.

Looking Forward

2021 marks the 65th Anniversary for HKIA. In fact, we have just passed our birthday, on 3rd September.

I am happy to report that we have launched our 65th Anniversary celebration on 11 September, last Saturday, with a workshop in Tsuen Wan among local residents and HKIA Members to discuss the role of architects in enhancing neighborhood livability. The attending HKIA Members, including me and Vice President Thomas CHEUNG, had lively exchanges with members of the Hong Kong Women Workers' Association.

Following the workshop, there will be year-long celebration activities, and preparations are now in full swing. We are to base on the three-pronged foci of "past, present, and future" to fully engage our Members. We are to commemorate HKIA and Members' contributions and architectural excellence over the past six decades. We are to make our celebration relevant by connecting with present community through meaningful voluntary projects of our Members. And, we are to forge ahead with the young generations through our signature initiatives such as Young Architect Award, HKIA Annual Awards, and various competitions/initiatives connecting with students. Further details will be released once having worked out by our dedicated Taskforce. I call on all Members to get involved in these memorable activities.

Looking ahead, I hope that the pandemic, together with the challenges it poses onto the Hong Kong community and our profession, would soon subside. I look forward to meet you all face to face in our various events, ranging from educational seminars, sharing sessions, site visits, to sports and social networking activities. In the meantime, stay healthy, stay active. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Donald CHOI Wun Hing, *FHKIA, R.A*
President
9 September 2021