

**The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Annual General Meeting 2021
9 December 2021**

President's Report

Dear Members,

Thank you for attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) in 2021. This AGM also marks the midway through my Council's term of office, and is thus a good time to look ahead on what the Institute and our Members can work hand in hand in the coming year for the advancement of architecture, our profession, and our society.

In the new year of 2022, a series of initiatives for celebrating the HKIA 65th Anniversary throughout the year are in the pipeline. Themed "Architecture for People 人人建築", the activities of "past", "present" and "future" are to reiterate the humanity side of Hong Kong architects and architecture. As a whole, these activities are from the Members, for the Members, with the Members; and I have no doubt would be supported by the Members.

For example, under the "past" category, we are to produce the Humanity Bank, which is to collect and celebrate our fellow architects' contribution in humanity and community over the past 65 years. We need our Members to help submitting information of the projects, which can be voluntary works, community workshops, building projects, etc. Those selected by our advisory panel will be showcased in the 65th Anniversary Exhibition in the fall of 2022. Yet, that's not the end. Rather, the Humanity Bank will keep growing, as we intend to call for submission annually. The deadline for this very first round of submission falls on 31 December, and I plead for your support.

As for the "present" category, we would ask for Members to initiate or to join a series of voluntary work and community programmes that can put your expertise into good use for building a more inclusive and liveable community. We may also ask for your support in opening your offices for visit by the public, so as to unveil the mysterious image of architects in laymen's mind. Just more than two weeks ago, on 21 November, we had staged the charity movie screening of "*Anita*" with post-film sharing session by the film director and his production team. We have raised about HK\$11,000 for donation to the Hong Kong Cancer Fund. More information on voluntary and community works would be posted in HKIA platforms throughout the coming year. Please stay tuned.

Vision for Anniversary Celebration

Anniversary celebration is much more than taking stock of our good works. Building on the solid foundation of over six decades, we set our vision on the future, on succession, on our young generations. The planned initiatives under "future" category include, student competitions, Young Architect Award, and Architect's Talks for fellow Members to return to their alma mater to share their experiences.

On succession, the legislature is also to turn a new page, with the Legislative Council General Election to be held on 19 December. HKIA has held jointly with other three institutes an election forum for the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape (ASPL) professionals to meet the two candidates of ASPL functional constituency on 6 December. I have no doubt that Members would base on the candidates' manifestoes, track records, and performance at the forum to cast your sacred vote for the one whom we trust can work for the benefit of not just our profession, but the Hong Kong society as a whole.

In 2021, the first half of our term of office, despite facing the persistent pandemic challenges, my fellow Council members have worked diligently to accomplish our pledge for serving the needs of Members, and enhancing communication with Members. As I have kept Members informed of our works through various communication channels and my President's Reports in the quarterly general meetings, instead of running through the whole laundry list, let me offer you the highlights of our endeavours over the past quarter.

Ensuring our Voices Being Heard

The Institute has arranged two rounds of Experience Sharing Sessions with Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) mainly for HKIA Band 3 Architects in the year. About 20 consultants have joined to present their projects and experiences.

To make good use of the regular bi-annual communication meetings between HKIA corporate members and ArchSD and Development Bureau (DEVB), starting from this year, the Institute is to arrange a pre-meeting with our Band 1, 2 and 3 firms a month before meeting the Government. It is expected that by collecting and coordinating your views, we can prepare better in reflecting our consolidated stances, and to speak with one strong voice.

HKIA has submitted application for being an Adjudicator Nominating Body (ANB) for the Security of Payment Legislation (SOPL). The processing by the DEVB is still undergoing. We would work on securing the ANB status, so as to uphold the leading role of architects in construction projects.

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

- Publishing HKIA's Initial Response to the 2021 Policy Address, based on the views collected from various Boards and Committees
- Exchanging views with Urban Renewal Authority (URA) on the District Study for Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok
- Exploring with friendly institutes on presenting joint views, if with consensus, on the Yuen Long Barrage Scheme and Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah projects
- Engaging in the consultation for a number of studies or review of policy or work practice, such as the draft manual of BEAM Plus for Existing Schools, BEAM Plus Interiors Major Revision, draft practice note on Innovative Noise Mitigation Designs against Road Traffic, Lantau Tomorrow Vision, etc

Enhancing HK Connections in the Globe

Recognition of UK academic qualifications

HKIA and Architects Registration Board (ARB) of HKSAR have been liaising with Architects Registration Board UK (ARB UK) for possible agreement on mutual recognition of each other's accreditation systems. I am glad to inform Members that the progress looks optimistic, but further discussion on details of agreement would still be required in the coming months.

However, enrolment process of UK schools for 2022/23 programmes has started. To facilitate students and parents to make studies choices, HKIA and ARB have endorsed extending the 2-year transitional arrangement of recognition of UK architectural programmes for an additional one year. In other words, those who commence UK architectural studies in 2022/23 academic year would be recognised as fulfilling the academic requirement for taking the HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment upon graduation.

We do hope the discussion on mutual recognition agreement will bear fruit soon. Yet, before reaching confirmation, we would review the issue of extending the grace period regularly. We will keep Members and the public posted of the progress.

International Union of Architects (UIA)

The new term of UIA leadership has been in place. Over the past quarter, HKIA has made more than 20 nominations for our representation in the various Work Programmes and Commissions of UIA for the new term of 2021 to 2023. Throughout the nomination exercise, we have incorporated strategic plans for succession and for expanding members' engagement.

We have no doubt that through the HKIA representatives, we can further strengthen our relationship with architectural peers in different countries or regions.

Architects Regional Council Asia (ARCASIA)

HKIA has keenly engaged in the ARCASIA Awards for Architecture and Ar. Barry Will Award – both with result announced on 31 October 2021. Over the past months, our Members have also engaged in various activities, including the ACA 19 Friendship Night at which our members sung a celebration song composed by our member Tony Wong, Student Jamboree, Forum, Webinar for COVID pandemic, etc.

Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Housing (EAROPH)

HKIA has joined EAROPH as Organisational Member since September this year. A non-governmental multi-sectorial organisation encompassing the private, public and academic sectors, EAROPH works in foster exchanges of insights and experiences among countries in Asia, Australasia and the Pacific region.

By joining as a member, HKIA hopes to bring more opportunities for our Members in exchanges with peers in the region in planning, development and management for improving the quality and sustainability of human settlements. Through contributing the Hong Kong experiences, HKIA also aspires to help Hong Kong secure our foothold in the region.

Promoting Architectural Excellence

Venice Biennale International Architectural Exhibition (VB2020)

The Hong Kong Response Exhibition at City Gallery, Central was launched on 20 October, and will open for the public till 15 December 2021. The opening ceremony was officiated by the Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Dr. Bernard Chan Pak-li as the Guest of Honour. Under the theme of “Redistribution: Land, People, and Environment”, the exhibition displays the perspectives of architects on climate change, scarce land resources, heritage conservation and talent development. I urge Members to visit the exhibition to view in first-hand the physical exhibits which also offer you with interactive virtual experience.

Alongside with the exhibition, there is also a series of workshops, symposium in the pipeline and closing ceremony to be held tomorrow (10 December). Please closely follow the HKIA platforms for forthcoming details. We hope to see you all, physically or virtually, at the various activities.

Architecture Exhibitions in Mainland and Overseas

Funding applications for several architecture exhibitions for showcasing Hong Kong’s creative talents and innovative designs are undergoing processing. With details to be confirmed, we are exploring staging them in later half of 2022.

- Architecture Exhibition in Beijing and Hangzhou and New York, in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, with response show in Hong Kong tentatively planned for September.
- Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\ Architecture (UABB2022) with two concurrent exhibitions in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, tentatively scheduled for November.

Cross-Strait Architectural Design Symposium and Awards (CADSA 2019)

The roving exhibition originally planned for staging in Guangzhou or Shenzhen needs to be cancelled due to the quarantine policy and measures against pandemic. Nevertheless, we are to stage a physical exhibition from 15 to 17 December 2021 at V Gallery of Vessel, Kwun Tong Promenade, so as to enable the public to appreciate in person the many creative exhibits. A virtual exhibition will also be uploaded to the event website by end of December this year.

Looking Forward

As stated in my very first President’s Report at QGM, this Council is committed to serve HKIA members and fulfil our social contract to serve not only ourselves and our clients but also the public. We also pledge to make HKIA more relevant to our Members, our profession and our society.

For better serving Members through effective and efficient use of space, resources and upgraded equipment, we have decided to renovate the HKIA Premises, which has been serving Members for more than 15 years at the current location. Renovation period is tentatively scheduled for February to April 2022. We have to ask for your indulgence during the period for the Secretariat’s likely restraint in providing full services and physical space for Members. Nevertheless, I am sure that Members

would welcome the new premises, which will have Member-friendly designs and upgraded audio-visual and lighting systems fit for not only lectures, meetings, but also Members' sharing, networking and even simply stop-over for a cup of tea.

For more effective use of the Institute's resources, our HKIA-Beijing Representative Office will move to a new venue in 2022 starting from 1 January (Room C05, 3/F, Building A, Parkview Green, No.9 Dongdaqiao Road, Chaoyang District), with establishment downsized. Yet, rest assured that its services for Members, both in Mainland and in Hong Kong, would not be affected. It will continue to keep us closely posted on the latest information of Mainland policies, practices, projects, etc related to architectural practices and profession, especially for the Greater Bay Area.

Since this Council have been elected, throughout this year, defying the pandemic challenges, I and my Council Members have made great efforts to realise our commitment. We have confidence that by working together with HKIA Members, we are forging ahead in the right direction, and we are advancing architecture for the benefit of our society.

I must thank all my Council peers, who have put in time, efforts, talents to make the works of the past year most meaningful and fruitful. My special gratitude goes to Mr. Albert CHAN and Mr. Joseph Francis WONG, whose tenure with the Council will expire on 31 December 2021. It has been a great pleasure to work with them, who have contributed a lot in particularly in the local affairs and educational affairs of the Institute long before I serve as President. I have no doubt that HKIA can continue to count on their expertise and support in future.

I sincerely thank all our Members, who have given valuable diverse views and staunch support to the Institute. My gratitude also goes to our partners in various organisations and departments, who have joined hand with the Institute for making Hong Kong a better home to live in. Lastly, my heartfelt thanks to members of the Secretariat, who have helped in putting our words into deeds.

Looking ahead, with the pandemic challenges subsiding, I am confident that the Hong Kong community, economy, as well as our profession would revive and grow in no time. I look forward to meet you all face-to-face in the various events of the Institute, ranging from educational seminars, sharing sessions, to sports and social networking activities, as well as the numerous Anniversary initiatives in 2022.

May I wish HKIA Members Merry Christmas, and a Peaceful and Fruitful New Year.

Yours sincerely,

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