

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects  
Annual General Meeting 2023  
President's Report

Dear Members

The year of 2023 started with the gradual calming down of the COVID saga, and we have been more or less back to normal in the fourth quarter. Fulfilling my duties as the President of the Institute, I have participated in a number of HKIA activities and also overseas events as well.

I attended the Belt and Road Global Forum Annual Roundtable organized by HKTDC on 15 September. I also joined ARCASIA 20<sup>th</sup> Asian Congress of Architects (ACA 20) on 17-23 September in Manila, together with 15 HKIA delegates, with 2 papers being presented by HKIA members at the Congress. On that occasion, Hon Sec Thomas Cheung was elected as the ARCASIA Zone C Vice President 2024-25. Congratulations to you, Thomas!

Immediately after the ARCASIA event, I served as the HKIA representative in the Hong Kong Green Building Award 2023 Adjudication Panel on 24 September. And then from 27 to 29 September, I participated in the National Day Delegation from the engineering, construction and surveying sectors to Beijing.

Created by the UIA in 1985, World Architecture Day is celebrated annually on the first Monday of October 2023 in parallel with UN World Habitat Day. The UIA Council chose the theme "Architecture for Resilient Communities" for this year's World Architecture Day. I joined the HKIA World Architecture Day Event held on 2 October 2023, at Laundry Steps, Tai Kwun.

As to the Awards, I chaired the Jury Panel of HKIA Annual Award 2022-23, and the Jury adjudication was held in September 2023. The results were announced at HKIA Annual Ball 2023 held on 8 November. There were 1 Medal of the Year, 11 HKIA Awards, 17 Merits, 3 President's Special Prizes, 12 Special Awards and 20 Finalists. I was a member of the Selection Panel for HKIA Gold Medal which met on 12 August and selected Dr Donald Liao as the 2023 Gold Medal recipient. The Medal was presented to Dr Liao at the HKIA Annual Ball held on 8 November. Meanwhile, the Jury Panel for Young Architect Award met on 3 June 2023 and decided on the winners, with the presentation ceremony also taken place at the Annual Ball.

The HKIA Annual Ball 2023 attracted some 700 participants, including senior government officials, members, friends from other professional institutes, students and other guests. With Deputy Financial Secretary Michael Wong being the Guest of Honour, the event featured musical performance by our fellow architects and presentation of awards as aforementioned.

For external competitions, I served in the judging panel of HKBIM Future Public Housing Design Competition, and the panel met on 7 October to decide on the winners. I was also honoured to be a Jury Panel member of the Young Professional Design Award 2023.

As you know, ex-Council Member Nicholas Ho was appointed as the Commissioner for Belt and Road by end of August. Nicholas and his Belt and Road Office colleagues paid a courtesy visit to HKIA on 5 October. We exchanged ideas on cooperation opportunities, and Nicholas

encouraged HKIA Members to apply for PASS funding for projects to increase exchanges and cooperation between Hong Kong's professional services and international counterparts, promote relevant publicity activities, and enhance the standards and external competitiveness of Hong Kong's professional services.

After attending the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing on 17-18 October 2023 as a member of the HKSAR Government delegation, I participated in HKIA's Nanjing Exhibition and Hangzhou Exchange on 19-22 October 2023, celebrating the grand opening with 16 exhibitor teams and officiating guests from Nanjing Government and ASC, meeting with Nanjing University, Southeast University and Hangzhou Exploration & Design Industry Association, and visiting some smart practices run by young Mainland architects.

We issued the HKIA Response to Policy Address 2023 on 3 November 2023. While the Policy Address responded to some of our recommendations contained in our August submission, we shared our views on issues of concern touched upon in the Policy Address. On the important proposed SOPL Bill, we made a submission to DEVB on 22 November and the Development Panel of LegCo on 28 November respectively to explain our concerns. A major focus of Hong Kong's future is Northern Metropolis. We organized the Future City Vision - Northern Metropolis Forum 2.0 on 18 & 25 November 2023 respectively at HKIA Premises, recording 140 participants in person and 170 by Zoom.

On Educational matters, I met with representatives from Hong Kong Polytechnic University on 24 October, and with HKU SPACE representatives on 3 November on their intention to start new architectural programmes.

HKIA was a supporting organization of the inauguration ceremony of 港澳发展联会(联动分会) organized by Guangzhou Exploration & Design Association (广州市工程勘察设计行业协会) and held on 1 November. I joined the ceremony and participated in the discussion session. I also attended the 2023 Qianhai Global Investment Promotion and Talent Conference organized by the Qianhai Authority (前海管理局) and held at Qianhai International Convention Centre on 8 November 2023.

This is a summary of my works for HKIA in this quarter. Thank you.

Benny CHAN Chak Bun, *FHKIA, R.A.*  
President  
14 December 2023