

**The Hong Kong Institute of Architects**  
**Second Quarterly General Meeting**  
**9 June 2022**

**President's Report**

Dear Members,

Thank you for attending the Second Quarterly General Meeting (QGM) of The Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) in 2022.

With the subsiding of the fifth wave of COVID-19 Omicron, HKIA is gradually returning to normal operation. The Institute shall continue to do its best to provide needed services and support to our members and the profession.

Before my reporting on works done by the Institute, I would like to announce on behalf of the Council that Mr. Watson Chan, who joined the HKIA Secretariat as Deputy Chief Operating Officer on 2 February 2022, has been officially appointed as Chief Operating Officer, commencing 4 May 2022. As introduced at the March Quarterly General Meeting, Watson is a veteran senior executive with profound experience in policy research and association management. We are glad to have Watson taking a leadership role in building a stronger Secretariat team to serve HKIA.

**Ensuring our Voices are Heard**

**Letter to Chief Executive-elect**

We look forward to the starting of a new chapter by the sixth term HKSAR Administration. With the “result-oriented and solution-driven approach” adopted by the Chief Executive-to-be, I, on behalf of the Institute, submitted a proposal to Mr. John Lee for building a better Hong Kong through promoting a sustainable and resilient city design, pursuing architectural excellence, and constructing a more liveable and vibrant future with our members’ professional expertise.

Mr. John Lee has replied and indicated that he would look forward to working with HKIA in building a more liveable and vibrant Hong Kong in the years to come.

## **Liaison with Government and allied organisations**

We have been in close liaison with various government departments and allied organisations on different topics for the good of the profession and construction industry.:

- Our views on Optimising the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance Process were submitted to the Environment Bureau.
- Our views on Streamlining Development-related Statutory Processes were submitted to the Development Bureau. A consultation session was held with the Development Bureau to exchange views on the legislative proposal.
- Our views on Revitalizing Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme and Financial Assistance for Maintenance Scheme on Built Heritage were submitted to the Commissioner for Heritage's Office.
- Our views on Preserving the Bishop Hill Underground Cistern and other heritage sites were submitted to Water Supplies Department, after a meeting with the Director of Water Supplies Department.

## **Expanding our representation**

The Institute is expanding our representation at various consultation committees and organizations to enhance our professional influence in the community. We've nominated representatives to multiple external and government organisations for timely and constructive inputs to tackle various issues:

- Mr. Lam Wo Hei will represent the Institute at *Technical Committee on Plumbing of Water Supplies Department* for the coming 3 years.
- Mr. Chiu Hon Hang will represent the Institute at the *Fire Safety Committee and Advisory Committee for the Fire Safety (Buildings) Ordinance and Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance* for the coming 3 years.
- Mr. Ho Lik Chi Nicholas will represent the Institute at the *Board of Review (Inland Revenue Ordinance)* from 2023 to 2025.
- We also have extensive representation at the Construction Industry Council (CIC):
  - Mr. Chan Hui Man Truman will continue representing the Institute at the *Taskforce on Design for Safety* for the coming year.
  - Mr. Lo Chun Wai Dicky will represent the Institute at the *Committee on Construction Business Development* for the coming 2 years
  - Mr. Ho Lik Chi Nicholas and Mr. Franklin Yu will represent the Institute at the *Committee on Productivity* for 2 years
  - Mr. Leung Man Kit will represent the Institute at the *Committee on Environment* for 2 years.
  - Mr. Chan Chung Yee Albert and Mr. Chan Chak Bun will represent the Institute

at the *Committee on Construction Safety* for 2 years.

## **Upholding Professional Standards**

### **Unreasonable fee issue**

The Institute is aware of the fee diving fee issue in the industry. We have communicated with various parties on this undesirable situation which is harmful to our profession. We notice that small improvements have been achieved with the recent adoption of the fee-diving control mechanism by the Government.

### **HKIA/ARB Professional Assessment**

Under the receding COVID-19 pandemic environment, the Professional Assessment is the first Institute project to resume physical format, in order not to interrupt the career path of our prospective architects.

The Professional Interview will be held this Saturday on 11 Jun. A total of some 200 eligible candidates will take part in this final stage to be registered architects. Thanks to the Young Members Committee, an online session was held on 26 May to share members' experience and ease candidates' stress in coping with this important examination. May I wish all candidates come out with flying colours.

Written examinations will be held in Jul and Nov as scheduled. Additional sessions of Papers 3, 4 & 5 would be arranged for compensation of the cancelled sessions originally scheduled for Mar 2022, and helping our prospective members to get licensed.

### **Revalidation of architectural curricula of local tertiary institutions**

The Institute is busy with works of revalidation and interim review of architectural courses provided by 4 local tertiary institutions this year. The revalidation process is of utmost importance to ensure a smooth path of nurturing architects for the profession. We shall keep members posted of the results once the revalidation visits and reports are completed.

### **Support to members in the Mainland**

The Institute is also eager to provide support to members in the Mainland. A series of forums were held in the first two quarters to keep our members updated with the

most recent legislations and opportunities in the Mainland. We are also in close liaison with relevant authorities to organise accredited CPD courses for members to maintain their PRC Class 1 Registered Architect Qualification.

### **HKIA 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Architecture for People**

Projects of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are gradually unveiling with the stabilizing pandemic situation. And we are appealing for your participation.

#### **HKIA 65<sup>th</sup> Exhibition, Gala Dinner and Commemorative Publication**

Creativity and innovative ideas are needed to curate Exhibition, Gala Dinner and Commemorative Publication for the HKIA 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The 3 events are the highlights of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration series with an aim to showcase members' works and contributions to humanity over the years, in addition to celebrating architects' achievements in the construction industry. Please stay tuned for related information to be released soon.

#### **Outreach and support to the needy**

While we are celebrating our achievements, we do not stop caring for the community. During the first half of the year, we've sent a total of 650 care bags of anti-pandemic supplies, daily necessities and stationeries to the under-privileged via NGOs. May I thank our collaborators for assisting in the distribution of the care bags. They include:

- Society for Community Organization (SoCo)
- The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council
- Caritas Hong Kong
- North District Secondary School Headmasters Conference

I would also like to thank our member volunteers for your donation to the care bags campaign and participation in packing and delivering the care bags.

#### **HKIA 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Student Ideas Competition “Post-COVID [ ] Space”**

To echo the theme of our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, “Architecture for People – PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE”, a competition is held exclusively for architecture students. Through the Competition, we wish to discover green architectural talent, to invigorate potential design talent in tertiary institutions, and to showcase the young talent to the public. We look forward to design proposals by architecture students.

## **Promoting Architectural Excellence**

### **HKIA Annual Awards 2021**

May I congratulate all the winning teams of the HKIA Annual Awards 2021 one more time. After one-and-a-half-month assessment, the 4-member jury panel decided to award 6 projects with 7 awards. Prize Presentation was held on 20 May 2022 at HKIA Premises. We were honoured to have our Juror representative Mr. John Tsang and HKIA Gold Medal 2021 recipient Prof. Patrick Lau to present the Annual Awards, together with Young Architect Award and Student Medal to the recipients. An exhibition showcasing all the awarded and finalist entries, as well as winning entries of Young Architect Award and Student Medals were held at the Central Market in end May. 2 public workshops on producing lightbox of Hong Kong's skyline were organized and attended by over 80 participants. The Institute received an overwhelming response on the awarded projects, the exhibition and the workshops. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Jury Panel, composed of Mr. John Tsang, Prof. He Jianxiang, Prof. David Tseng and Ms. Irene Cheng, the Annual Awards 2021 Committee and the Exhibition Designer Team for making the Annual Awards 2021 a great success.

### **HKIA Gold Medal 2021 Prize Presentation Ceremony**

The HKIA Gold Medal celebration has been downsized due to the pandemic social restriction. With the relaxation of social distancing, the Institute is organizing a more formal Prize Presentation Ceremony in August to honour the recipient and provide an occasion for him to share his wisdom with our fellow members. On the same occasion, we are launching the "Architectural Excellence Fund" which aims to support architectural education via scholarships and requires members' support. Details will be available soon and I look forward to your generous support.

### **HKIA Architecture Exhibitions for HKSAR 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration**

In celebration of the HKSAR 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Institute will stage a series of offshore exhibitions to showcase Hong Kong's architectural excellence to the world. Members are encouraged to visit these exhibitions and promote them to your friends and business partners:

1. 28 Aug – 8 Sep 2022, Hangzhou (Ooeli 天目里)
2. 19 Sep – 30 Sep 2022, Beijing (Choi Centre 蔡冠深文化交流中心)
3. 10 Oct – 25 Oct 2022, New York (Storefront in Greenwich OR 866 United Nations Plaza)
4. 26 Nov – 23 Dec 2022, Hong Kong (Chantal Miller Gallery, Asia Society Hong Kong Centre)

## **Enhancing global connection**

HKIA keeps her active participation in the ARCASIA and UIA arenas to connect to the world. We attended 6 meetings and forums of UIA in the past quarter for discussion and sharing on various topics, ranging from architecture for all to conservation of culture and heritage.

To widely promote the Sustainable Development Goals, the Institute invested resources on translating the SDG Guidebook 2.0 to traditional Chinese, for ease of reading by the general public. The traditional Chinese version will be launched this month.

## **Looking Forward**

With the subsiding of the fifth wave of COVID-19, we are gradually returning to regular operation and resuming our normal life. In the remaining 6 months of my presidency, I will continue to work with the Council to deliver as many services and activities as possible to serve our fellow members, as well as the public interests in our local community.

Members' voice and inputs are vital to the Council and HKIA. You are the driving force for us and I look forward to your active participation in our Institute's affairs. The annual HKIA Council Election will start soon. I appeal and invite all members to consider joining the HKIA Council, to serve our Institute, and work together to strive for the best for our profession and members, especially the younger generations.

We are also in the final stage of moving forward with the renovation of our HKIA premises to make it a social gathering place for members to enjoy. It will also be a healthy workplace for our Secretariat and members.

Before closing my report, may I wish you all good health. Let's stay creative and be optimistic in facing the challenges of our professional work and social change.

Donald CHOI Wun Hing, *CHKIA, R.A*  
President  
9 June 2022