

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
3rd Quarterly General Meeting 2024
President's Report

Dear Members

I am pleased to present the President's Report for the Third Quarterly General Meeting of HKIA. Over the past few months, we have made significant strides in advancing our mission, engaging with our community, and promoting excellence in architecture. Here, I will outline the key activities and initiatives organized by HKIA.

In view of the tightening regulatory environment and hardship the profession currently facing, HKIA has been actively involved in policy discussions with the Government on various topics such as SOPL and site safety. The HKIA Policy Address Submission was delivered to the Chief Executive's Office in early September, highlighting dives in both fees and industry projects, manpower and talent issues as well as other challenges while making recommendations to address such issues. Good news is that due to our persistent lobbying efforts via different channels, our proposals on streamlining government procedures have been well received by government agencies. And we shall continue to engage with policymakers to influence positive changes.

We have organized a series of CPD workshops and seminars aimed at enhancing the professional skills of our members and updating them on latest development in the industry. Notably, the seminars on ESG, sustainability and openBIM, featuring experts who shared insights on integrating sustainability and technologies into architectural projects, all attracted hundreds of participants. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are committed to continuing these valuable learning opportunities to equip our architects with cutting-edge tools to enhance their practice.

We have successfully hosted several events to raise awareness about the role of architecture in society. In particular, I am happy to report that the first-ever HKIA Annual Conference with the theme of Design in the Digital and AI Era: is this the end or just the beginning was a great success. The Conference showcased innovative ideas on applying technologies to address urban challenges, drawing significant industry and public interest and media coverage.

Our outreach programmes to engage younger audiences have also been fruitful. Later in this meeting you are invited to vote for the motion of waiving the annual subscription fee for student members so as to attract more students joining HKIA. Meanwhile, we have continued to provide forums for emerging architects to share their vision and ideas among themselves and with counterparts in the Government and across the border. We also encourage more young architects to involve in our committee work and sports, music and community activities. We shall continue to work with schools to inspire the next generation about the possibilities within architecture.

We strengthened our ties with international architectural bodies through joint initiatives and knowledge exchange sessions. In particular, we signed an MOU with the UKARB on 28 August, which allows for the mutual recognition of relevant architectural qualifications in the UK and Hong Kong, and makes moving and working between the UK and Hong Kong easier for eligible

graduates and architects. Another MOU was signed between HKIA and China International Contractors Association (中國對外承包工程商會) on 12 September, which should help open up more job opportunities for our practices, big and small.

Our collaboration with the international architectural community through our membership in ARCASIA and UIA continue to be a highlight, fostering cross-cultural insights and learning. While ARCASIA Forum 22 has been deferred to mid-January 2025, some of us will be participating in the UIA Forum to be held in mid-November in Kuala Lumpur.

Thanks to members' support, both HKIA Annual Awards and HKIA 2024 Cross-Strait Architectural Design Awards (CADA) 海峽兩岸暨港澳建築設計大獎 have received enthusiastic response. Both Awards celebrate outstanding achievements in architecture, recognizing innovative projects that exemplify excellence and creativity. While the Annual Award results will be announced in the Annual Dinner on 6 November, I do believe this year's winners have set new benchmarks in design quality, inspiring our community to strive for even greater heights. Talking about the Annual Dinner, you don't want to miss the opportunity of mingling with fellow architects, industry practitioners and government officials. While both tables and individual seats are still available, they are going fast. So get a ticket right away!

Looking ahead, HKIA will be organizing the UIA World Architecture Day in early October, an event which aims at engaging the public and students. The "2024/25 Hong Kong & Shenzhen Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture" will kick start in November as the Architecture Reading Month in Shenzhen, with the exhibition targeting at March-May 2025 in both Shenzhen and Hong Kong. As to another new HKIA initiative, the "Belt and Road International Symposium," it will be held on 28 February to 1 March 2025 at Asia Society.

As you know, HKIA's computer system was attacked by a malicious ransomware in early July, which was reported to both the Police and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data. Fortunately no personal data leakage incident has been reported so far, and we have already moved all our data on cloud to increase the security protection. An external forensic expert has been hired to investigate the attack, and we shall update members on any further development.

In conclusion, I am proud of the progress we have made and the vibrant community we continue to build. Our activities over the past quarter reflect our commitment to excellence, sustainability, and collaboration. I am grateful for the dedication and support of our members, partners, and Secretariat staff, without whom these achievements would not be possible.

The new Council will be announced at the end of this meeting. I am sure they will continue to engage members and the community, and contribute with all their hearts to elevate the practice of architecture and make a positive impact on our city and beyond. One last happy note to end my speech is that the HKIA football team has won the championship in yesterday's Joint Professional Football Tournament. Congratulations to the Team!

Benny CHAN Chak Bun, *CHKIA, R.A.*

President

30 September 2024