

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects First Quarterly General Meeting 2025 President's Report

Dear Members,

It is my privilege to present this report at our second Quarterly General Meeting of 2025. Over the past three months, our collective efforts have driven significant progress in advocacy, professional development, and strategic collaborations. My report is as follows:

1. Global Representation

The HK Exhibition of Venice Biennale was kicked off on 9 May 2025. The Opening Ceremony was graced by:

- PRC Ambassador Mr. Guide JIA
- Hong Kong Arts Development Council Chairman Mr. Kenneth FOK *JP*
- Hong Kong Economic and Trade to the European Union, Brussels ETO, Special Representative Ms. Shirley YUNG *JP*
- International Union of Architects (UIA) Secretary General Mr. Rui LEÃO
- Macao SARG Cultural Affairs Bureau President Ms. Deland LEONG
- China's Pavilion Chief Curator Mr. MA Yansong
- Macao's Pavilion Chief Curator Mrs. Shu

The event has gained a lot of international media coverage.

- I was also a Panelist at European Cultural Centre at Palazzo Bambo on the topic of "Rethinking Regeneration".
- Middle East trip with the CE to Kuwait & Qatar on 29-30 May 2025
- Belt and Road Office – ASEAN Infrastructure and Construction Mission to Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur on 22-25 June 2025
- Besides, I represented HKIA at the Osaka World Expo on 29-30 May 2025 as a panel speaker for the topic of "Sustainability". The event was organized by AIA International and AIA Japan, and HKIA is a supporting organization. The Expo will last until 13 October 2025.

2. International Partnerships

HKIA is planning to sign Memoranda of Understanding with the Indonesian Institute of Architects and the Malaysian Institute of Architects in late June 2025, facilitated by the HKSAR Belt and Road Office. These agreements will establish collaborative frameworks for professional and cultural exchange, sustainable materials virtual libraries, vernacular architecture studies, and building standards harmonization across Southeast Asia.

3. Policy Advocacy

HKIA has driven critical policy advancements through comprehensive recommendations for the Northern Metropolis development, proposing university hubs in Ma Tso Lung and decentralized research clusters in Ngau Tam Mei. Additionally, we provided detailed feedback on the Nature-based Solutions Guidelines, advocating for multi-scale implementation frameworks and community co-design to enhance ecological resilience in San Tin/Lok Ma Chau.

4. Registered Fire Engineer Scheme

Our concern and requests regarding eligibility of Architecture Degree Holders under the Registered Fire Engineer Scheme were issued to FSD.

5. Education

PolyU organized an International Forum on Architectural Education for the AI ERA on 6 June 2025.

6. Professional Assessment Reform

It is now agreed with ARB that Papers 3-5 will be consolidated into a single integrated examination by Q1 2027.

7. SOPO – Update Status

HKIA submitted an Application for Admission to the Register of Adjudicator Nominating Bodies (ANB) under the Construction Industry Security of Payment Ordinance (Cap. 652) to the Development Bureau on 13 June 2025. The Ordinance will come into effect on 28 August 2025. So far 20 members has completed the HKIA/HKIS Adjudicators Training Course and 12 members completed the Adjudicator course at AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre, hence a total of 32 new Adjudicators. There are 37 other members who has completed the Adjudicator course back in 2019 under the SOP Provisions, these members will be recognised as an Adjudicator under the current SOPO after completing a top-up course.

8. Competitions and Awards Deadline

- HKIA Annual Awards (6 June – 18 July 2025)
- HKIA Young Architect Award (29 May – 4 July 2025)
- ARCASIA Ar. Barry Will Award 2025 (30 June 2025)
- URA & HKIA: Idea Competition for the Urban Renewal for Yau Ma Tei & Mong Kok (29 August 2025)

9. Annual Awards Restructuring

The HKIA Annual Awards 2025 introduces a restructured framework with 12 refined categories—including new classifications like House, Hotel, and Open Space—replacing the previous eight-category system. “Urban Design & Master Planning” and “Unbuilt Projects” are now presented

under Special Award.

10. Member Advancement

On 15 April 2025, an introduction of Mainland professional titles 內地職稱 was conducted. We have received 120 valid applications for interviews. Interview assessments were conducted on 7 June 2025, and results will be announced in due course.

The CPD Office collaborated with different boards of the HKIA to deliver approximately 20 professional development activities from January to June, with another 20+ additional sessions planned for the latter half of 2025. The HKIA Academy will soon conduct a training course survey to align future programs with member interests and industry demands.

11. Membership Renewal (Important Message)

At the last Council Meeting, it was deliberated that at most 3 soft reminders will be issued. Prior to the name being removed, 1 registered post will be issued.

As we advance, I urge every member to engage in our advocacy, competitions, and training programs. Your expertise remains pivotal to HKIA's impact on Hong Kong's built environment.

I extend deepest gratitude to the Council, Boards, Committees, and all Members for your unwavering dedication. Together, we continue elevating architectural excellence across global and regional stages.

With warm regards,

Ar. Julia LAU, FHKIA, JP

President

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects