

President's Report for the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Dear Members, good evening.

On behalf of the entire HKIA Council, I wish to express our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of the casualties and all those impacted by this incident.

The tragic **Tai Po Fire Incident** has deeply affected our community. In response, we appealed to our members for **volunteer support**, and were genuinely moved by the overwhelming and immediate compassion shown. **More than 300 members** expressed their willingness to assist, a testament to the strong spirit of service within our profession. This list has been formally submitted to the Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS). Furthermore, recognising the long road to recovery, the Council has approved a cash donation to **support essential counselling services** for the affected individuals and families.

In our continuing role to foster informed civic engagement, the HKIA was pleased to facilitate The Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau in organising an **election forum** for the Legislative Council General Election in the Architectural, Surveying, Planning and Landscape (ASPL) functional constituency on 18th November at Olympic Square, Central, with approximately 100 HKIA Members attended the event. To further encourage dialogue within our broader sector, we **jointly organised a second forum with HKIS, HKIP, and HKILA** on 21st November at the Zero Carbon Building, Kowloon Bay. This collaborative event was well-received, attracting approximately 300 participants.

I am deeply humbled to have been elected to serve as the Legislative Council member for the ASPL constituency. This is an honour that carries great responsibility. I pledge to serve as a representative for all four disciplines and relevant stakeholders in the constituency, to listen diligently to stakeholders' views and concerns, and convey the voice at LegCo, and to strive tirelessly to advocate for the best interests of our professions and the community we serve.

Our Institute's voice on critical issues continues to be articulated through our formal position papers. I wish to briefly highlight three recent papers. The first, **Building Safety and Rehabilitation**, advocates for a comprehensive policy framework to enhance mandatory building inspection and support rehabilitation. The second paper provides **recommendations on the Policy Address**, including proposals to accelerate the development of the Northern Metropolis (NM) and promote a Sustainable and Liveable City by balancing developmental needs with environmental stewardship and community well-being. The third outlines our stance in the **Objection to the Proposed Smart and Green Mass Transit System in Kai Tak**. Detailed versions of all position papers are available on the HKIA website.

A significant milestone for our members' cross-boundary recognition was achieved through the **2024 Greater Bay Area (Hong Kong and Macao) Engineering Professional Title Assessment**. HKIA facilitated the interview process for the Mainland Government department on 7th June. We are delighted to report that out of 138 applications, 103 of our members were successful: **51 as Professorate Senior Engineers, 22 as Senior Engineers, and 30 as Engineers**. A joint ceremony with HKIE and HKIS was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 24th November to celebrate elected Members among the Institutes.

In other developments crucial to industry practice, the Development Bureau (DEVB) officially granted HKIA the status of an **Adjudication Nominating Body (ANB)** under the Security of Payment Ordinance on 14th October. This authorises us to nominate adjudicators for payment disputes, promoting fairness in construction contracts. The HKIA ANB has been duly formed with the Council's approval.

Recognising the evolving nature of our profession, the Institute has launched the **HKIA Project Manager (Architect) / PM(A)** designation on 25 September 2025. This initiative addresses the growing demand for specialised project management expertise within the construction sector and provides a recognised status for members who excel in this domain. I am pleased to congratulate the **105 Members** who have been elected as the inaugural HKIA Project Managers (Architect).

Celebrating excellence within our community, the HKIA Annual Awards Presentation Ceremony and Annual Dinner was held on 31st October at the Rosewood Hotel with full house participation. It was with immense pride that we presented the **2025 HKIA Gold Medal** to **Ar. HO Sing Tin Edward, FHKIA, SBS, OBE, JP** in recognition of his lifetime achievement. Our warmest congratulations go to Edward and all award recipients.

Looking forward, we are excited to commence celebrations for the **70th Anniversary of the HKIA in 2026**. A logo design exercise has been organized and we received 21 creative entries. **HKIA International Symposium**, the **Cross-Strait Architectural Design Awards**, and the **HKIA Annual Dinner**, are scheduled to be held on 24th November 2026.

To foster global connections, we are organising member delegations to major international forums, including the **2026 UIA World Congress in Barcelona** in June 2026 and the **ARCASIA Forum 23** in India in September 2026.

Lastly, I note the upcoming events organised by the HKIABF: the **UABB Opening Symposium on 16th December 2025** (1:15 Registration & 1:45 Opening) at East Kowloon Cultural Centre, and the Venice Biennale Roving Exhibition in Bangkok from 31st January to 13th February 2026.

This past year has been one of service, advocacy, achievement, and forward planning. My sincere gratitude extends to the Council, all committee members, and each of you for your unwavering support and active participation. Together, we continue to strengthen and advance our profession.

Thank you.

Ar. Julia LAU, FHKIA, CMILT, CStJ, JP

President

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects

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