

The Hong Kong Institute of Architects
2nd Quarterly General Meeting 2024
President's Report

Dear Members

It's my great pleasure as the President of HKIA to extend a heartfelt greeting to all of you for joining our 2nd QGM of 2024. As introduced in my report in the 1st QGM, we have planned a series of major events this year, many fall under BIA's portfolio. In fact, tomorrow will be the opening of the first of such events, 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. While registration for physical attendance have already closed, interested Members could still join the event online via the What's On link on our website. We look forward to gaining some insights on the future of our profession amidst the influx of technological advancements from the group of prominent speakers.

We are also launching two major competitions, the HKIA Annual Awards and the HKIA 2024 Cross-Strait Architectural Design Awards (CADA) 海峽兩岸暨港澳建築設計大獎. Participation details of the two Awards have been posted on our website, and the electronic submission platform will be open next week. Members should all be very familiar with the Annual Awards, which I won't explain further. As to the biennial CADA which was inceptioned in 2013 and stopped during COVID, the Council has decided to resume its organization owing to a strong demand from architects working in the region. We expect an excellent participation rates of these two Awards among our Members.

Regarding the Young Architect Award, the deadline happens to be today, and we have some 30 young members competing for this Award. We will soon go to the judging stage, and the result should be announced at the Annual Dinner to be held on 6 November. The venue for this year's Annual Dinner cum Annual Awards and Gold Medal Presentation Ceremony is Convention Centre in Wanchai, which allows us to accommodate more members to participate in these HKIA's signature events. We expect to see you all there. Please mark your diary!

Owing to the closure of KITEC, this year's New Member Certificate Presentation Ceremony will also be held at Convention Centre. The date is 13 July when we will be welcoming over 110 new Members joining the architectural profession. I love to attend this event as well as other Sports events so that I can mingle with our young Members because it is the injection of new bloods which helps sustain the vibrancy and continuity of the Institute.

Talking about admission of new Members, BEdA has never stopped to make enhancements to our Professional Assessment system to cater for candidates' needs. Study Guides are published as well as lectures are organized on different papers. Our Young Members Committee also conducts a sharing session on their experience of getting through Professional Interview. This year we are starting the revamp of the HKIA Website to serve better our members, including the Professional Assessment system, which hopefully will improve cost-efficiency, enhance candidates' user experience, and raise the whole system to a new level when finished.

On the policy and regulation front, the most important issue has to be the first reading of the SOPL Bill at LegCo. While the draft Bill does incorporate some of our suggestions, we remain concerned regarding the implementation details. As such, the HKIA Task Force comprising BP and BLA members will continue working with other professional institutes via our LegCo Rep Tony TSE and direct dialogue with DEVB to reflect our views and contribute inputs so as to minimize the impacts of the final version of the Bill to market practitioners of the construction industry. The discussion on Design for Safety is another challenging topic which the Council would follow up closely and we shall update Members on the latest development. Meanwhile, we will also keep close tabs on the progress of the Northern Metropolis and Kay Yi Chau Artificial Islands projects.

Both BExA and BMA remain active in events both within Hong Kong and beyond. For BExA, their focus this year will no doubt be the Belt and Road International Symposium to be organized on 20 to 21 September which is going to be part of the Government's first-ever Belt and Road Festival held in Hong Kong. They are also working on our participation in the ARCASIA Forum22 to be held in Sri Lanka in September and UIA Forum in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia in November. As to BMA, there have been frequent cross-boundary interactions with our Mainland counterparts, with the main focus obviously in the Greater Bay Area. One important development that Members should take note of is that HKIA has launched an official HKIA account in Xiao Hong Shu (小紅書), in addition to the existing official account in facebook, Instagram, WeChat and LinkedIn. Members should visit one of these social media platforms to learn about the latest HKIA events and announcements.

In view of the full set of events in the rest of 2024, I am sure Members will take time to join most of them if not all.

Last but not least, the call for nominations to the new Council has commenced in mid-May. The nomination deadline is mid-July. HKIA as a Member-driven organization is a Members' Institute. We need the support and participation of Members to sustain its healthy growth. As such, may I invite Members, especially young Members, who would like to contribute their time and efforts in propelling HKIA forward to consider participating in the Council election.

This is my report for the second quarter of 2024. Thank you.

Benny CHAN Chak Bun, *FHKIA, R.A.*
President
13 June 2024