



IFLA ASIA PACIFIC REGION REPORT

AGENDA ITEM №	:
TITLE OF THE REPORT	: IFLA APR President's Report
OFFICER NAME AND IFLA POSITION	: Damian Tang, Acting President (on behalf of President Takano)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT.

To update the Regional Council on the initiatives and activities of the IFLA APR during the 2020/2021 period.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

The key focus of the IFLA APR during this last year has been to continue the initiative launched in 2019, to connect with landscape architects in more of the nations in our region. Virtual meetings with groups of landscape architects and guidance on developing their constitutions will lead to new applications to join IFLA. Other activities include continued circulation of our monthly newsletters, delivering the 2021 Asia-Pac LA Awards and the Luminary Awards, and developing a community portal.

REPORT.

1. CONNECTING WITH MORE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS IN OUR REGION:

We have made contact with representatives of the profession in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Palau, Tonga, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam. They are all interested in IFLA's activities and look forward to working with us. Bangladesh and Mongolia are the most advanced, with associations in place and draft constitutions completed; we expect to see applications this year from at least one of them to join IFLA and take an active role in the APR.

Our Internship Programme initially attracted interest from several companies willing to take on young practitioners from other parts of our region or the world, but has stalled because of the difficulties in international travel arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. We believe that it is very important for the younger generation to experience landscape practice in different countries. Recognising differences in culture, tradition, nature, etc., provides an opportunity to return to the fundamentals of what underpins landscape design and landscape practice. We have not given up hope that the programme will be able to continue at some time in the future, when the sustainable movement of people internationally will be more achievable.



2. IFLA ASIA-PAC LA AWARDS 2021:

Numbers of entries have increased again this year, showing growing support for our annual event and the professional significance of gaining one of the prestigious awards for excellence in landscape design and planning. The e-publication that recognises all of the winning projects has become a great marketing tool for award winners and advertisers, a successful formula that we will continue to use to publicise the work of landscape architects and the profession of landscape architecture.

3. IFLA ASIA-PACIFIC LUMINARY AWARDS 2021:

Initiated three years ago, the Luminary Awards provide an opportunity to celebrate and honour the work of landscape architects and non-landscape architects in promoting environmental awareness, or actively developing policy to enhance sustainable outcomes in the landscape. This year, CHSLA provided the sole nomination for a luminary award, David Yuezhong Chen, founder and chief designer of ECOLAND Planning and Design Corporation. The review panel has agreed that he is a worthy recipient of the honour, which will be officially announced in early September.

4. APR ADVISORY GROUP AND PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Two recent initiatives introduced by the president have been approved by the APR Council. The first is to establish an APR Advisory Group to provide advice to the executive committee and the President. The second is to establish a President's award, providing an opportunity to recognise exceptional contributions to the development and/or management of the IFLA APR. Details of these initiatives will be announced at the APR Council Meeting.

5. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNITY PORTAL:

Our monthly e-publication has increased its readership over the last 12 months to over 12,000 subscribers, because of the breadth and relevance of material in the newsletter, and for the opportunity to focus on specific issues. In the last two years, the Earth has faced many challenges, including Australia's and North America's forest fires, the coronavirus outbreak, unprecedented massive rainfall damage in India, Bangladesh, China, and Japan. It has been challenging for the profession in how to respond to this and so the interviews with leading landscape architects from each of our regional associations about responding in a post-Covid world highlighted not only the challenges but also the opportunities afforded to the profession. As noted in those interviews, our roles as landscape architects are now more important than ever.

Our secretariat provider MCI has been active in developing further tools to enable new and better connections within our community of landscape architects. The latest development is a platform to allow broad discussions on urban planning or niche topics on cultural communities with others sharing similar views or indeed wishing to debate aspects of a range of issues. The handle is #findyourtribe, and we believe that it will be a valuable option to connect, particularly with our younger landscape architects.

RECOMMENDATIONS (MOTIONS TO VOTE):

1. That this report is received by the Regional Council.