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ARCASIA President's Report to the 45th Council Meeting

It feels like only yesterday that we held our last Council Meeting No. 44 during Forum 22 in Colombo on 13 January 2025. This was necessitated by unavoidable circumstances, as Forum 22 could not be held in 2024.

Since the 44th Council Meeting, I, as President, together with all Committee Chairmen, have been actively organizing and attending events to ensure that ARCASIA members and Institutes remain well-informed and connected throughout this council year.

As President, I have done my best to stay engaged whenever possible-through direct interactions with Member Institutes, delivering addresses, and supporting events organized by various bodies to promote ARCASIA.

February/ March

The first event was in Lahore, Pakistan, organized by ADA (Architecture Design and Art Publication) and Getz Pharma, Founding Partner of the prestigious ADA Awards. I served as a juror for the ADA Awards 2024-2025, which recognized and celebrated Pakistani creative works in architecture, design, and arts. The event was held from 10-13 February 2025 at the Historic Shalimar Gardens. I also had the opportunity to meet IAP President Fawad Suhail Abbasi, EAROPH President Jahangir Khan, and many past IAP Presidents.

On 11 February, I attended a seminar at Beaconhouse National University with all ADA Award jurors, where I spoke on ARCASIA's role and activities.

From 28 February to 1 March, I was in Hong Kong at the invitation of HKIA for the HKIA Belt & Road International Symposium 2025, themed *The Tapestry of Cultural Diversity & Universality*. I delivered the opening speech alongside the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, HK SAR Government, and participated in a panel discussion on *Complexity, High Density Living and Mixed-Use Typology*. I shared with the participants ARCASIA Member Institutes' experience on this very interesting topic.

I was also a presenter at the HKIA Cross-Strait Architectural Design Awards.

On 8 March 2025, we were all shocked by the devastating earthquake in Myanmar. A Donation Drive appeal to Member Institutes was launched; though regrettably, only PAM has so far contributed.

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April

From 4-6 April, I was invited by IIA Jodhpur Centre to the MBM University Auditorium for a knowledge exchange programme themed *Shaping the Prospective History of Architecture of South Asia - Creating a Legacy with Responsibilities*. I also attended the ARCASIA Zone A meeting chaired by VP Ar. Devendra Nath Gongal.

From 8-10 April, I attended the UAP Golden Jubilee celebrations together with other ARCASIA members and Past Chairman Datuk P. Kasi. An International Leaders' Forum was held on 9 April.

From 13-15 April, part of the ARCASIA Office Bearers visited Incheon, Korea, for the Pilot Tour of venues for the upcoming 21st ARCASIA Congress in September 2025. Other than myself, the delegates include the Hon. Secretary, Vice President Zone C, ACAE Chairman, and the 2 Advisors. Besides visiting the proposed venues, the delegation was briefed by ACA21 Convenor Donghee and his KIRA team, who presented their preparations for ACA21.

It was a fruitful discussion which included concerns on visa issuance to some Member Institutes and the participation of Member Institute KAU. All were confident ACA21 will be a memorable event.

May

From 3-5 May, ASA hosted the 37th ASA Architect Expo, themed *Past, Present, Perfect*. As part of the Expo, a Presidential Forum on Marginalised Community was held with wide participation from ARCASIA Member Institutes. There was also a dialogue between ASA and ARCASIA. Together with Advisor Tan Pei Ing, I represented ARCASIA in this important dialogue. Issues discussed include participation of ASA in ARCASIA events, and how ARCASIA can assist ASA on matters concerning the profession.

From 8-9 May, ASC hosted the OB/CC Meeting in Beijing. Alongside the OB/CC sessions, there was an academic exchange with the School of Architecture at Tsinghua University on *Planning and Design for Campus Carbon Neutrality*, including site visits to Tsinghua's Zero-Carbon Space and Shougang Park.

On 31 May, I launched PARAS, a book documenting 100 years of hospitality and hotel architecture in Bali, published by Atelier International, in Kuala Lumpur. It was an honour to inaugurate this publication, which highlights Asian architecture and heritage. I sincerely hope for more books of similar vein to be published.

July

From 21-26 July, PAM invited ARCASIA OBs to KLAF 2025 and DATUM:KL 2025 in Kuala Lumpur. The ARCASIA OB Meeting, hosted by PAM, was held on 24 July, with updates presented by both ACA21 and Forum 23 Convenors.

Due to scheduling constraints, I was unable to attend several important events, including IAI Arch:ID 2025 from 8-11 May 2025, AIA 25th Convention in Boston from 5-8 June 2025 and AUA 2025 Congress in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo from 27-30 August 2025.

The 5 ARCASIA Committees have also remained active, promoting ARCASIA's mission and vision for the 2024-25 Council term. Each Committee Chair will report on their respective progress.

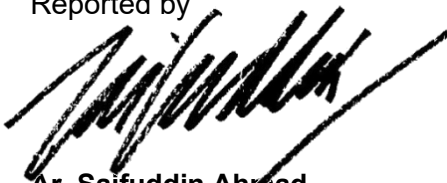


The year 2025 has been eventful, and with three months remaining before the end of my term as ARCASIA President, I sincerely hope I have fulfilled your expectations. I extend my apologies for any shortcomings, and I thank you for your support. Let us continue working together to strengthen our beloved Council for the years to come.

As the late President John F. Kennedy said: *"Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."*

And to conclude, I leave you with the words of Martin Luther King Jr.:
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Reported by



Ar. Saifuddin Ahmad
President

