



Message from 2016 AIA Japan President

December 31, 2016

2016 is about to come to a close. It has been a milestone year for the AIA Japan. The Chapter celebrated our 10th anniversary of the founding in 2006. Michel Van Ackere, AIA, the Inaugural President of AIA Japan, tells us that the fourth chapter to be established off shore was launched on June 7, 2006. AIA Continental Europe, AIA United Kingdom and AIA Hong Kong were active then. Today AIA Middle East and AIA Shanghai joined in to make up the International Region formed in 2013.

As the 2016 President, I had a privilege to attend the AIA National Convention in Philadelphia along with Amy Cole, 2016 Secretary of our Chapter. The keynote speakers this year included actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus, designer Neri Oxman and architect Rem Koolhaas. It was an interesting lineup of speakers, especially in the U.S. election year with Louis-Dreyfus who became well known in the long-running television series Seinfeld taking the stage of the AIA National Convention. She plays a female U.S. Vice President in the series the "Veep". Another amazing woman, Neri Oxman, with her creative design insights awed the audience, while Rem Koolhaas made an impressive commentary on the state of the global society through his presentation of his works.

There were activities related to the International Region (IR) with a workshop on the international practice and a meeting of the IR Board. I also attended the annual AIA-Japan Institute of Architects (JIA) Meeting representing our Chapter. The 2017 National Convention will be held from April 27 through 29 in Orlando, Florida. We look forward to seeing many of you on the floor of the Convention next spring.

To summarize 2016, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the generous support of our sponsors. Without your support, the Chapter will not be here celebrating our first decade of existence. Also, my thanks go to the 2016 Executive Committee and the Members of the Chapter Board, i.e. Scott Gold, AIA, Amy Cole, AIA, Richard Moriwaki, AIA, Hisaya Sugiyama, AIA, Michel Van Ackere, AIA, Daishi Yoshimoto, AIA, Tomoaki Tanaka, AIA, Jim Lambiasi, AIA and our newcomer and the 2017 Chapter Secretary Akira Nakamura, AIA, for a tireless support to make the AIA Japan move forward into the second decade.

Finally, we look forward to the leadership of Scott Gold, AIA in 2017!