



CHIBA UNIVERSITY

Takayuki Higuchi

Letter of Motivation for Cumulus Executive Board

Dear Colleagues of the Cumulus Community,

I am a professor at the Design Research Institute of Chiba University in Japan. Since my initial participation in Cumulus at Schwäbisch Gmünd in 2007, I have attended various conferences and utilized Cumulus's warm and powerful potential to develop international design activities by building friendships with professors, directors, administrative staff, and individuals from organizations and professional fields worldwide. When visiting member universities, I have always been warmly welcomed as a Cumulus colleague, which has deeply touched me. Through Cumulus, I established inter-university exchanges and developed and implemented numerous collaborative workshop programs where students conducted short-term mutual visits. Now, I wish to give back to Cumulus and those who have supported me by sharing my experiences and know-how, and by helping new member institutions thrive within Cumulus.

During this time, thanks to the efforts of Presidents Yrjö, Christian, Luisa, Mariana, and Lorenzo, whom I affectionately call them, as well as the Boards, Secretaries and the proactive activities of member institutions, Cumulus has truly expanded into a global network. If elected to the Board, I am committed to continuing their efforts and working closely with the next boards to take the following steps forward:

Enhancing Platform Functions: Assist members in supporting touchpoints for information exchange between universities, especially for new members who are still in the early stages of making contacts.

Sharing Exchange Programs and Promoting Student Mobility: Collect and share know-how on short-term programs. Develop schemes for research visits by master's and PhD students and share best practices.

Promoting Regional Exchanges: Address language barriers, particularly for students who are less proficient in English, and promote active exchanges. Address regional common issues and facilitate discussions, especially in the Asia-Oceania region.

I also leverage Japan's cultural and technological strengths. Although the number of Japanese members is small, I aim to promote cooperation with them in Japan's cultural, crafts, and artistic aspects, as well as engineering and information technology aspects.

I believe in the importance of diversity and communication, and I envision Cumulus as a family-like organization where everyone can benefit and engage in meaningful exchanges.

Sincerely,

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