



CHIBA UNIVERSITY

29th Jan. 2025

To Cumulus General Assembly,

It is great pleasure I recommend Professor Philipp Heidkamp for next Cumulus Executive Board for the years 2025-2028. I currently serve as the Professor of Chiba University in Japan. I also serve in the Cumulus Executive Board now. I personally know Prof. Heidkamp for years along with academic projects, initiatives and Double Degree Program between KISD and Chiba University.

Professor Philipp Heidkamp had been the head of school at KISD between 2002-2006 and is the dean of the Faculty for Cultural Sciences at TH Köln, University of Technology, Arts, Sciences since 2006. Chiba University established CODE program, an international design higher-education program, in 2011 and KISD has been a great and important partner of it to enforce collaborative educations with state-of-the-art design fields. KISD and Chiba University have conducted nine collaborative design workshops which focused the areas from social engaged issues to digital innovation challenges. KISD and Chiba University have conducted collaborations with industries of both of Europa and Asia. Besides, KISD and Chiba university launched a Double Degree Program for Master which encourages students' ability in innovative design and progressive engineering. During working for these collaborations, Professor Philipp Heidkamp has always responded me with his visionary, richly-experienced, and deep insight perspectives in not only design activities but also university systems, scientific researches and contemporary industries. He knows well about design education program around the world and this knowledge will contribute for CUMULUS association to create new network in the future.

The contributions Philipp made as a member of the Cumulus Executive Board and Vice President from 2019 to 2022 were highly important in times of transition. He opened up the opportunity for members to collaborate in times of pandemic with an online platform and later a new website. He made outstanding contributions to reshape the Cumulus Working Groups. At the end of his term, he contributed to the new opportunities of Cumulus becoming a registered association Finland. His leadership skills, his open-minded attitude, his passionate engagement and stewardship for our association and his large international network make him the perfect candidate for the next Cumulus Executive Board. His experience is invaluable and his ability to connect and build bridges so important in the next years to come. I am wishing him all the best!

According to this, I believe that his large approach and vision will give a great contribution to the next board, helping to consolidate and implement our network. He must propose and take actions to enhance collaborative educations, researches in design higher-education. For these reasons, I am strongly supporting Professor Philipp Heidkamp to be elected for the Executive Board of Cumulus and believe he will do well servicing the entire association for the next three years.

Sincerely yours,

Makoto Watanabe, D.Eng
Professor
Chiba University
Cumulus Executive Board