



同濟大學

TONGJI UNIVERSITY

1239 Siping Road, Shanghai 200092, China

www.tongji.edu.cn

Prof. Lou Yongqi

Vice President, Tongji University

Address:

Rm.27, Tongji D&I, 281 Fu Xin Road

Yang Pu, Shanghai, 200092

P. R. China

Tel. +86 21 6598 3432

Fax. +86 21 6598 3432

Email. louyongqi@tongji.edu.cn

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Endorsement for Prof. Philipp Heidkamp's Re-election to the Cumulus Executive Board

Dear Cumulus Secretariat, Member Community, and General Assembly,

I strongly recommend Philipp Heidkamp for re-election to the Cumulus Executive Board after a years' break where Philipp served as board advisor. My personal and professional relationship with Philipp Heidkamp spans over 15 years, during which we co-developed a seminal Double Degree Program in 2014 between Tongji University and TH Köln. This program continues to be an outstanding example of innovation and success in international collaboration.

Philipp Heidkamp built an extensive international network and has proven remarkable success in the development of new formats in both teaching and research from a design academics perspective. His leadership experience is vast, having served as Dean, Head of the MA Integrated Design Research Program, and currently, Vice Dean for Internationalization. These underscore his profound impact on fostering a global academic community.

In his time as Vice President of Cumulus from 2019-2022, Philipp Heidkamp, contributed significantly to the organization's transformation into an independent entity. He has approached this process with vision and passion, integrity and inclusivity, ensuring the active involvement of the member community. His diplomatic leadership style fostered a sense of unity and purpose among members.



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Beyond serving on the board, Philipp Heidkamp has been a committed ambassador for Cumulus over the past three years, expanding international contacts and supporting the association's global orientation. His achievements with the Leadership & Strategy Working Group that he leads since the 2019, highlight his innovative approach to developing online formats and continuously refining the group's profile. His efforts have been and are very relevant in engaging university leaders in Cumulus's activities.

Moreover, his recent appointment to the Editorial Board of She Ji, Journal of Design, Economics and Innovation stands testament to his ability to bridge interdisciplinary dialogues within the research community. This further amplifies his capacity to connect and unify diverse academic perspectives.

As a former Board member and Cumulus Vice President, I am confident that Philipp Heidkamp's experience, foresight, and principled leadership will significantly benefit Cumulus in the coming years. His contributions will undoubtedly lead the organization towards continued success and growth.

In light of these achievements and his strong dedication to our association, I want to endorse Philipp Heidkamp's re-election to the Executive Board. His visionary leadership is what Cumulus needs to navigate the complexities of global design education in a world of uncertainty.

Best regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lou Yongqi' in Chinese characters.

Prof. Dr. LOU Yongqi

Vice President, Tongji University

Past Vice President of CUMULUS

Founding Co-Editor-in-Chief, She Ji. The Journal of Design, Economics, and Innovation

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