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Cumulus International Association of Universities and
Colleges of Art, Design and Media
General Secretary Eija Salmi
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Changsha Jan. 23, 2025
To Whom It May Concern,

I am He Renke, Professor at the School of Design, Hunan University, and I've been an active member of the Cumulus Association since 2006. My school is one of the first members of Cumulus in China. I am honored to endorse Professor Takayuki Higuchi from Chiba University for the Cumulus Executive Board. I first met him twenty years ago at a Cumulus conference. Beyond our shared university ties, our common experience of studying at KADK fostered both a personal friendship and a close professional collaboration within the Cumulus community. Over the years, we have worked together as judges for Japan's Good Design Awards and as lecturers on design history at the M+ Museum in Hong Kong.

The design school of Chiba University, founded on the roots of Japan's oldest design education school, has produced numerous industrial designers who have significantly contributed to Japan's global manufacturing industry. It is also renowned for cultivating service and strategic designers who collaborate with the information industry. The university played a pivotal role in founding the Japanese Society for the Science of Design in the 1950s and continues to lead design research today. Chiba University has made a great contribution to the development of design education in Asia through exchanges between faculty and students.

As the coordinator for international exchange in design at Chiba University, Professor Takayuki Higuchi have forged partnerships with design schools all over the world, and have carried out collaborative workshops, promoted exchange programs with them, and secured government and corporate support for those activities.

Professor Takayuki Higuchi have been the representative of Chiba University at Cumulus for the past sixteen years. He have become acquainted with members of the Cumulus family from many countries, learned about various positions on design education, exchanged ideas with the people, and launched collaborative education. He have cultivated a global network extending beyond Asia to Europe, the United States, and beyond, deepening my appreciation for the immense value of Cumulus.

I strongly endorse Prof. Takayuki Higuchi for the Cumulus Executive Board. His presence on the Executive Board will maintain and strengthen Cumulus' connections with the Asian design education community while contributing to the global vision of our association.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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