

Foreword

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Chair and CEO, Arts Council Korea, Commissioner

Arts Council Korea (ARKO) has been trying to put contemporary Korean art and architecture into the spotlight of the international art scene since the establishment of the Korean Pavilion at the Giardini in Venice. The 15th International Architecture Exhibition, 2016 Venice Biennale will be the 10th biennale for ARKO since the Korean pavilion became the 26th and last national pavilion at the Giardini, and so it will be a meaningful event for examining our works and achievements so far.

For this exhibition, Alejandro Aravena, a Chilean architect and winner of the Pritzker Prize, has announced the theme 'Reporting from the Front', and is asking us to think about the role of architecture on the front lines of our lives. His question refers to how our society understands and processes current issues through architecture, and the role of architecture in bringing positive change to people's lives in the process. In other words, it's about the fundamental value of architecture.

Sung Hong KIM, the art director of the Korean pavilion, answers this with a theme intrinsic to the battle being waged on the front lines of Korean architecture, entitling it 'The FAR Game: Constraint Sparkling Creativity'. The theme indicates that 'Floor Area Ratio' has a very deep and close relationship with Koreans' daily lives and so with contemporary Korean society. The Korean pavilion, through the analysis of enormous amounts of data on six hundred thousand buildings in Seoul, will attempt a shrewd study of the FAR game and its deep roots in Korean society. Through this study, we will be able to come to understand the FAR game within a socio-cultural context, and at the same time, we will be able to witness an exciting application of architectural fundamentals related to Aravena's suggested theme.

Based on a global network and a knowledge base which has been built up over the last 20 years of operating the Korean pavilion, ARKO will continue its efforts to making the Korean pavilion a stepping stone to overseas expansion of Korean art and architecture.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Sung Hong KIM, the art director and curator, the 5 co-curators, participating artists, staff, generous sponsors and all other individuals who have given support and energy to the Korean pavilion for the 2016 International Architecture Venice Biennale.