

Foreword

Myung Jin PARK, Chair of Arts Council Korea

Arts Council Korea (ARKO) is trying to push the boundaries of Korean contemporary art and architecture in the international art scene since the establishment of Korean Pavilion at the Giardini in Venice. The 15th International Architecture Exhibition of 2016 Venice Biennale will be the 10th biennale for ARKO since the introduction of Korean pavilion as the 26th and the last national pavilion at the Giardini, and so it will become a meaningful event to examine our works and achievements so far.

For this exhibition, Alejandro Aravena, the Chilean architect who has won the Pritzker Prize, has announced the theme 'Reporting from the front', and he is asking to think about what is the role of architecture in the front line of our lives. His question is about how our society understands and processes present issues through architecture, and what is the role of architecture which can bring positive changes into people's lives during the process. In other words, it's about the fundamental value of architecture.

To this question, Sung Hong KIM, the art director of Korean pavilion, answers with a theme reported from the front of Korean architecture, entitling it as 'The FAR Game: Constraint Sparkling Creativity'. And the theme is about FAR that has been making a very deep and close relationship with every Korean's daily lives so with the contemporary Korean society. Therefore, the Korean pavilion, through an analysis on enormous amount of data of 600 thousand buildings in Seoul, will attempt a shrewd study on the FAR game deeply rooted in Korean society. And through the study, we will be able come to understand the FAR game from the perspective of socio-cultural context, and at the same time, we will be able to witness the exciting process approaching closely to architectural fundamentals related with the suggested theme of Aravena.

Based on a global network and Know-how which have been built up during the last 20 years of operation of the Korean pavilion, ARKO will put continuous efforts into making the Korean pavilion as a steppingstone leading overseas expansion of Korean art and architecture.

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