



IFLA CTLAS  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

4F.-1, No. 307, Dunhua N. Rd., Songshan Dist., Taipei City 105, Taiwan  
(T) +886.2.2351.7745  
(F) +886.2.2351.6497  
landscape.org@gmail.com

## In Memory of Professor Yu Kongjian

The Chinese Taiwan Landscape Architects Society (CTLAS) expresses our deepest sorrow at the passing of Professor Yu Kongjian, an internationally renowned landscape architect, professor at Peking University, and one of the most influential figures in our field.

Professor Yu tragically passed away on September 23, 2025, in a plane crash in Brazil while attending the 14th International Architecture Biennale of São Paulo. He was 62 years old.

Throughout his life, Professor Yu redefined landscape architecture and urban planning as “the art of survival.” His groundbreaking Sponge City concept—rooted in ancient Chinese wisdom—emphasized nature-based solutions for urban water management, including wetlands, permeable surfaces, and green spaces to absorb, filter, and store rainwater. His vision has profoundly influenced national policies in China and has been applied globally, evolving into the idea of a “Sponge Planet,” advocating for the ecological restoration of wetlands, rivers, and coastal zones worldwide.

A recipient of the IFLA Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Award (2020) and many other honors, Professor Yu was not only a visionary practitioner and scholar but also a generous mentor. His advocacy for ecological civilization and his belief in a deeper connection between humanity and nature will continue to inspire generations worldwide.

On behalf of CTLAS and the Taiwanese landscape architecture community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Professor Yu’s family, colleagues, and students. His passing is an immeasurable loss, yet his vision and contributions will endure through the landscapes he created, the ideas he championed, and the generations he inspired.

May his memory be a blessing, and may his dream of a more resilient, sustainable, and harmonious world continue to guide us.

Hao Teng

President of Chinese Taiwan Landscape Architect Society (CTLAS)