

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ORGANISATIONS AND STUDENTS PLEDGE FOR A GREENER BUILT ENVIRONMENT AT INAUGURAL GREEN BUILDING CARNIVAL**

- *Seven organisations pledge to green at least 20 tenant premises within three years*
- *BCA and NLB launch new storybook to reach out to young children*
- *Swap an incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulb for an energy efficient light bulb for free at BiG Day Out 2015*

**Singapore, 27 June 2015** – 315 pledges from 12 secondary schools and nine tertiary institutions were written on pledge coasters and hung on a Singapore map at the inaugural “Build it Green (BiG) Day Out” carnival at Dhoby Ghaut Green. The pledges include the aspirations of students to pursue a green career, actions for a greener built environment and ideas of what a green building should be, among other commitments to go green.

2 Guest-of-Honour Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Trade and Industry, launched the carnival which aims to raise awareness on green buildings and green living in our community through fun and games. The carnival consists of 14 stations such as game stalls, a photo booth, sand and tattoo art stations, and snakes and ladders game to bring across the green message.

3 The event is jointly organised by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), and the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC). Together with Dr John Keung, CEO of BCA, and Mr Chia Ngiang Hong, President of SGBC, Mr Lee Yi Shyan was invited to pen his thoughts and hang his pledge on the map.

#### **More organisations to green their tenant premises**

4 Besides support from the public, a number of organisations are also stepping up their efforts to go green. Mr Lee commended and honoured seven organisations who have pledged their support for the BCA Green Mark Portfolio Programme (refer to Annex A). They have committed to green at least 20 of their tenant premises within three years. For instance, some of these premises will be fitted with energy efficient features such as LED lightings and motion

sensors to reduce energy consumption. Low volatile organic compound (VOC) paint is also used to improve the well-being of occupants.

5 DBS Limited is the first bank in Singapore to come on board the Programme. They are also one of the first banks to actively encourage customers to adopt eStatements instead of paper statements. Other green initiatives include promoting less use of paper at bank branches by implementing iPads/e-forms tablets, and introducing good as new notes and e-red packets through DBS PayLah! to reduce the need for more new notes to be printed during the Lunar New Year.

6 In its own office premises, e-storage solutions and recycling bins are also readily available. More than 10 million documents were digitalised before DBS moved to its new office. In 2014, as a result of greater employee awareness, DBS recycled 50% more materials than the previous year. On top of this, DBS implemented an office design that maximised the use of natural lighting, and installed LED energy-saving light bulbs and energy-efficient fluorescent lighting in most meeting rooms and office areas respectively.

7 “DBS has been greening its offices as we believe this helps foster collaboration and co-creation, in turn creating happy and healthy employees. Going forward, we are extending our green efforts, and aim to achieve Green Mark certification for our retail branches. We hope that more organisations will follow suit to help build a sustainable Singapore for future generations,” said Mr Erwin Chong, Senior Vice President, Corporate Real Estate Strategy & Administration, DBS.

8 DBS’ strong support for the green building movement is also echoed by other retail organisations like Cold Storage, under Dairy Farm Singapore. Ms Patricia Lee, Director of Corporate Communications, Dairy Farm Singapore, said, “We are pleased to pledge our support for the BCA Green Mark Portfolio Programme. Dairy Farm Singapore has always been an ardent supporter of the Green movement. Protecting and caring for the environment and ensuring sustainability is a key component of Dairy Farm Cares, our corporate social responsibility programme. We strongly believe in energy conservation and many of our supermarkets have already received the Green Mark certification including Giant Hypermarket, the first hypermarket in Singapore to achieve this certification.”

9 Other organisations that have committed to green their spaces are CapitaLand Limited, City Developments Limited, Keppel Land International Ltd, McDonald's Restaurant Pte Ltd and NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Limited.

10 "Through this carnival, which features educational green-themed games, we hope to engage and educate the public on sustainability in a fun and interactive manner. I hope parents and their children can have an enjoyable time playing and learning together. I am also very heartened by the strong support of this public and private partnership and look forward to see more of such meaningful collaborations to further push the envelope for environmental sustainability," said Dr John Keung, CEO of BCA.

### **Go green with LED light bulbs**

11 In partnership with Panasonic Singapore, visitors can exchange an incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulb for a free energy efficient LED one at the carnival, while stocks last. The Swap a Bulb booth will be open on 27 June (12.30pm – 6pm) and 28 June (11am – 6pm) as part of BiG Day Out 2015.

12 All the old light bulbs that are collected will be sent for recycling as part of BCA's efforts to create a greener environment.

### **New storybook to engage the young on sustainable living**

13 BCA and the National Library Board also jointly launched a new storybook to raise awareness on the importance of an environmentally friendly home among young children. Written by Gwen Lee, a local author with architectural background, "The Adventures of Greco and Beco: The Glass House" tells the tale of sustainable living and the importance of saving water and energy for a greener future.

14 Four story-telling sessions of the book were held at libraries in March this year and were well-received. The book is now available for loan at four regional libraries, and will also be distributed to primary school libraries islandwide.

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### **About Building and Construction Authority**

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore. BCA's mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a

significant influence. In doing so, it aims to differentiate Singapore's built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, its vision is to have "a future-ready built environment for Singapore". Together with its education arm, the BCA Academy, BCA works closely with its industry partners to develop skills and expertise that help shape a future-ready built environment for Singapore. For more information, visit [www.bca.gov.sg](http://www.bca.gov.sg).

## **Annex A - Fact sheet on BCA Green Mark Portfolio Programme**

### **About the BCA Green Mark Portfolio Programme**

The BCA Green Mark Portfolio Programme was launched on 6 September 2013. It is designed to meet tenants' needs for a streamlined approach to certify similar spaces across a portfolio of projects. The programme — through the use of prototype standards — allows tenants to simplify the Green Mark certification for multiple spaces of a similar type, achieving certification faster and at a lower cost compared to individual project certification.

### **Objective**

To encourage the adoption of energy efficient design, technologies, and good environmental management system among tenants.

### **Why**

Beyond buildings, users or building occupants also have a significant impact on the amount of energy consumed. Due to large number of building tenants and their growing awareness on environmental sustainability, there is demand from the industry for BCA to provide a more streamlined, efficient, and cost-effective approach in certifying tenanted area.

### **Key benefits**

- Helps organisations set green policies and adopt green practices upfront
- Enables organisations to better plan and manage the greening of their space
- Depending on the number of projects in the portfolio, the cost for certifying each project can be reduced by more than 70%
- Faster certification process due to reduced repetitive auditing procedure that otherwise would be done on all the projects

### **Who can participate**

Companies that are willing to commit to certify at least 20 projects within a three-year time span can participate in this programme.

Multiple tenants within a single building using shared and common air-conditioning and lighting systems (or other applicable common facilities) can also participate. The programme is only applicable for projects pursuing the following occupant -centric Green Mark schemes:

- Supermarkets
- Retail
- Restaurants
- Office Interior

### **How it works**

The certification for projects under Green Mark Portfolio Programme has two phases:

#### **A. Prototype Pre-certification**

The participant, in consultation with a Green Mark assessor, forms a prototype that will be applied across a portfolio of projects. The prototype consists of a set of common criteria, which are Green Mark prerequisites and other common features. Once the prototype has achieved precertification, the applicant will enter into Project Certification phase.

#### **B. Project Certification**

During this phase, each individual project under the portfolio will be assessed and certified based on the prototype plus individual project specific features that are not included in the prototype.