

MEDIA RELEASE

ABOUT 7,000 FIRMS TO BENEFIT FROM S\$450 MILLION BOOST FOR CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTIVITY

- Second Construction Productivity Roadmap to focus on higher capital investment and enhancing workforce quality

10 March 2015 – S\$450 million has been set aside for the second tranche of the Construction Productivity and Capability Fund (CPCF) in the next three years to help the built environment sector make higher investments in impactful productive technologies and improve the quality of its workforce. This is in addition to the current \$335 million committed to help drive productivity in the sector.

2. The additional funding is expected to benefit about 7,000 built environment firms. This is part of the initiatives under the Building and Construction Authority's (BCA) second Construction Productivity Roadmap to drive higher productivity gains in the sector over the next few years.

3. Based on an industry survey, more than half of the firms have embarked on their productivity journey to explore alternative ways to build smarter, as a result of the productivity measures under the first Construction Productivity Roadmap. Site productivity, which measures the floor area completed per manday, has also been improving at an increasing rate. The average site productivity improvement is 1.4% per annum from 2010 to 2014.

4. "Moving forward, our goal is to have more projects adopting a greater extent of Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA). By transforming construction into a manufacturing process with greater prefabrication off site, there will be less noise and dust during construction. With greater automation in factories, construction can also be faster, less laborious and achieve better quality control," said Dr John Keung, CEO of BCA.

5. “To support the shift towards DfMA, we need a strong core of professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) to lead the advancement of the sector, and a bigger pool of at least 30% of higher skilled workers to anchor the workforce,” Dr Keung added.

6. To support the adoption of impactful construction technologies, the funding limit of the Productivity Innovation Projects (PIP) scheme under the CPCF will be raised from S\$5 to S\$10 million.

7. Firms will also have more incentives to upgrade their workforce as locals can receive enhanced subsidies of up to 90% under the Workforce Training and Upgrading (WTU) Scheme of the CPCF. The WTU Scheme will also support more productivity-related courses to equip the industry with the necessary knowledge and skills in adopting advanced technologies.

8. In line with the national SkillsFuture movement to attain mastery of skills, BCA will work with WDA to introduce a SkillsFuture Earn and Learn programme for the built environment sector, targeted at fresh ITE graduates. This new programme will help ITE graduates to deepen skills sets and attain relevant work experience and skills valued by the industry, building up a stronger pool of competent supervisors to improve site management as well as Building Information Modelling (BIM) specialists to support better collaboration across the construction value chain. The Earn and Learn programme will complement the existing BCA scholarship for ITE students to build a sustainable pipeline of skilled talents to meet the manpower demands of the built environment sector.

9. BCA will also introduce two part-time programmes – a Diploma Sponsorship and Postgraduate Sponsorship, to support more pathways for upgrading. More details will be announced later.

10. The above enhancements to the schemes under the CPCF will take effect from June 2015.

11. For government projects, BCA will be working with key public agencies to operationalise their productivity roadmaps through a structured framework, to guide them in meeting the national productivity target.

12. To incentivise consultants and contractors to be more productive, a higher productivity weightage has also been implemented under the tender evaluation for government projects.

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About BCA

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.