

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW PROGRAMME ENABLES ITE GRADUATES TO DEEPEN THEIR SKILLS

- BCA offers more than 120 built environment scholarships to ITE students

17 Feb 2015 – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has awarded more than 120 scholarships to students pursuing built environment courses at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE). This is part of its efforts to attract more locals and talents into the built environment sector.

According to the BCA, construction demand will remain strong and is expected to sustain between \$26 billion to \$37 billion per year for the next five years. About half of the firms BCA recently surveyed are planning to fill their job positions with fresh graduates this year. In-demand jobs include those at the professional, managerial and executive level to technical and associate professional, as well as foreman and junior supervisory roles.

“We need a bigger pool of local talents to support the industry’s transformation and the strong pipeline of construction projects. BCA’s manpower development programmes, comprising scholarships, sponsorships and apprenticeships, offer students multiple pathways to progress in the built environment sector. These pathways will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed regardless of their starting points,” said CEO of BCA, Dr John Keung.

To deepen the skills and create more progression opportunities for ITE graduates joining the built environment sector, the BCA will be partnering industry firms to introduce a post-ITE development programme as an enhancement to the current ITE Scholarship scheme. Under the programme, ITE students may further develop their knowledge and skills competencies upon graduation. The programme comprises

structured on-the-job training through mentorship by sponsor firms, and part-time industry-recognised training in areas such as Building Information Modelling (BIM)¹, design work and construction supervision.

“The programme caters to ITE graduates who prefer a competency-based learning pathway. It helps them acquire deep-skills and valuable work experience to grow in the sector. We encourage firms to come on board this programme to attract more local talents,” Dr Keung added.

The BCA has also conducted a pilot run of the Teachers' Attachment Programme (TAP) for ITE lecturers, customised to their areas of discipline. This enables teachers to keep abreast with the latest developments in the built environment sector, and hence provide better career guidance to students.

Teachers were exposed through sharing sessions by built environment firms, site visits and networking opportunities with industry stakeholders. More sessions will be rolled out for teachers at the polytechnics and ITE.

Issued by the Building and Construction Authority on 17 Feb 2015

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 of the Built Environment, 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.

About ITE

¹ Building Information Modelling (BIM) is a three-dimensional (3-D) modelling technology that allows building professionals of various disciplines (architects, structural engineers, mechanical and electrical (M&E) engineers and contractors) to explore the building project digitally through an integrated process, before it is even built. It enables a more efficient and collaborative workflow, giving stakeholders a clearer understanding of the project and increases their ability to make better informed decisions.

The **Institute of Technical Education (ITE)**, Singapore, was established as a post-secondary education institution in 1992 under the Ministry of Education. ITE is a principal provider of career and technical education and key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards to enhance Singapore's workforce competitiveness. Under its "**One ITE System, Three Colleges**" Model of Education and Governance, ITE has three Colleges, comprising **ITE College Central, ITE College East and ITE College West**. For more information, visit: www.ite.edu.sg.
For media queries, please contact the Corporate Communications Department:

BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship

1. The Built Environment ITE Scholarship is offered by BCA, in collaboration with ITE, to students pursuing full-time built environment courses at the ITE. Through this programme, scholars will be able to embark on an exciting and rewarding career following their graduation.

2. Details of the Built Environment ITE Scholarship:

Value of Award and Bond

- Scholarship covers full course fees and provides a \$500 monthly allowance to the recipient during the course duration.
- Scholars will serve a 2-year bond in the built environment sector after graduation and completion of national service, if applicable.

Eligibility

- Locals (Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents)
- Good academic results (GCE N-level, O-level or ITE results)
- Excellent CCA records

Tenable ITE Full-Time Courses

- Higher Nitec in Civil & Structural Engineering Design
- Higher Nitec in Electrical Engineering
- Higher Nitec in Facility Systems Design
- Higher Nitec in Facility Management
- Higher Nitec in Mechanical Engineering
- Higher Nitec in Space Design Technology
- Nitec in Electrical Technology (Power and Control)
- Nitec in Facility Technology (Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration)
- Nitec in Facility Technology (Mechanical & Electrical Services)
- Nitec in Facility Technology (Vertical Transportation)
- Nitec in Mechanical Technology
- Nitec in Space Design (Architecture)
- Nitec in Space Design (Interior & Exhibition)

3. For more details on BCA's manpower development programmes, please visit www.buildingcareers.sg

Harnessing BIM technology to turn ideas into reality

1. Yun Ling's love for design started in secondary school when she had friends who studied landscape architecture. Under their influence, Yun Ling became interested in how good design can enhance spaces and make a difference to the quality of living for the community. "A home provides much more than just shelter. A well-thought design can shape a positive experience for the users. I hope to be able to create cosy home designs, which can give occupants a sense of peace and tranquillity." Hence, pursuing architecture at the ITE College Central was a natural choice for Yun Ling after she completed her 'N' Levels.

2. At the ITE, Yun Ling is passionate about learning computer-aided design, particularly Building Information Modelling (BIM). Yun Ling is fascinated with how BIM allows design ideas to be effortlessly translated into a three-dimensional (3D) model, allowing better visualisation of designs before construction. She foresees that BIM will be an important tool in her everyday work when she joins the built environment sector. "I can use BIM to help my clients to understand my designs better as well as enhance my management of projects, saving time and cost during construction."

3. Yun Ling has already made notable achievements in the area of architecture and BIM. Participating in the BIM Shoot-Out Competition at the Singapore Construction Productivity Week 2014, her design of a log house integrated with nature, created with BIM, impressed judges. She was one of the top individual award winners in the architectural category. The award serves as a motivation to Yun Ling; she is determined to further hone her competency in BIM and her proficiency in drafting designs. Yun Ling looks forward to putting her skills to use when she starts work in the built environment sector, and also to realise her aspiration of creating a dream house of her own one day.



Lim Yun Ling, 17

- BCA Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Currently pursuing Nitec in Space Design (Architecture), Year 2, at ITE College Central
- One of the top winners (architectural) in BCA's BIM Shoot-Out Competition 2014

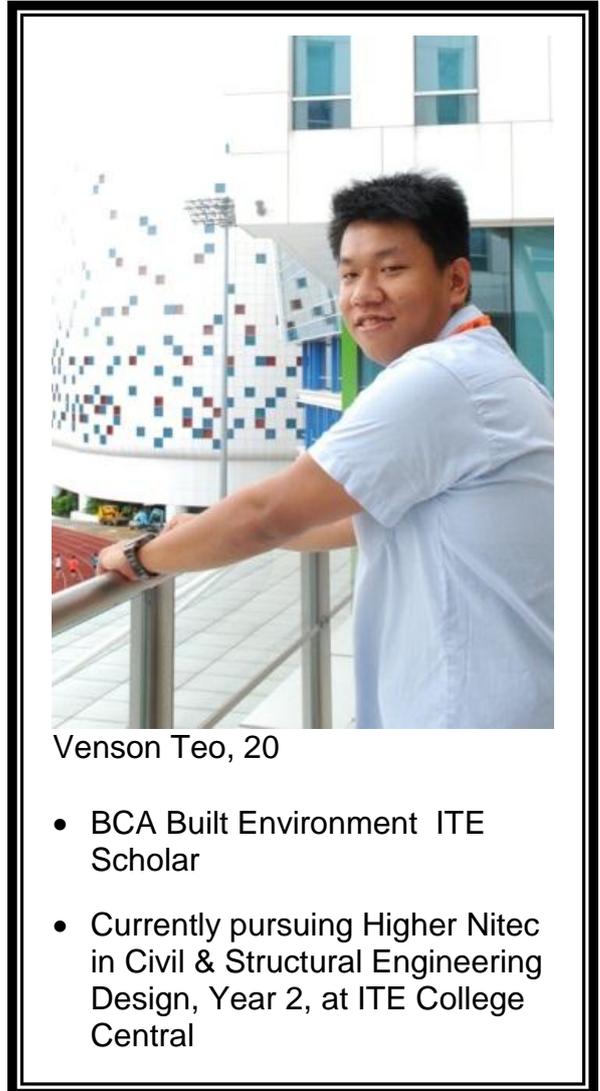
Excited about Career Prospects

1. Venson's course of study is of little surprise given his family background. Venson's father runs a construction firm where his family members help out in the daily operations. His frequent visits to the firm to observe construction had aroused his interest in the built environment sector, leading him to enroll in the Nitec in Space Design (Architecture) course at the ITE College Central and subsequently, his current Higher Nitec in Civil and Structural Engineering Design course.

2. The Nitec course in Architecture provided Venson with a broad appreciation of building designs. During which he developed a keen interest in how building structures come together, Venson decided to deepen his knowledge by specialising in civil and structural engineering design.

3. Venson believes his education is preparing him well for his future. "With my foundation in architecture and the deepening of knowledge in the engineering aspects, I have a better understanding across the various disciplines in the built environment sector. This will come in handy when I work with the different stakeholders along the value chain when I start my career."

4. Aware of the sustained construction demand and on-going transformations of the sector to become more technologically advanced, Venson is excited about the strong career prospects that the built environment sector holds. He believes the BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship helps to boost his chances of a successful career head start. "Receiving this Scholarship supports my passion for the built environment and enhances my employability by prospective employers. As buildings get taller and deeper and designs becoming bolder and more innovative, I'm looking forward to play a role in achieving greater engineering feats, creating a lasting legacy in the built environment."



Venson Teo, 20

- BCA Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Currently pursuing Higher Nitec in Civil & Structural Engineering Design, Year 2, at ITE College Central

Hardship Spurs Drive to Succeed

1. Maisurah's childhood was not a smooth one. Maisurah's parents had separated when she was still very young, leaving her mother as the sole bread-winner to support a family with three young children. Maisurah had to handle many chores independently as her mother had to juggle between caring for the family and working multiple shift jobs in order to make ends meet.

2. Despite the family's difficult situation, they sought very little financial assistance as they preferred to be self-reliant. Both Maisurah and her elder sister were sensible children and understood the family's plight. When they were in secondary school, they started working part-time jobs to ease their family's financial burden. Balancing commitments between work and studies was no easy feat, but Maisurah managed to pass her 'N' Levels and took up the Nitec in Mechanical Technology at the ITE.

3. In her first year at ITE, Maisurah had a lung infection which was serious enough to warrant intensive care. While she recovered from the illness, she started a bout of depression which plagued her for two years. Fortunately, Maisurah received strong support from her classmates and teachers, who helped her both academically and emotionally. She managed to complete the Nitec course and went on to undertake the Higher Nitec in Mechanical Engineering course to deepen her skills.

4. A proud recipient of BCA's Built Environment ITE Scholarship, Maisurah's motivation to succeed has brought her a long way. She has no intention of resting on her laurels and is driven to work harder to achieve a bright future. Through her training in Mechanical Engineering, she also hopes to be able to contribute to the environment and community through green building designs. "I am grateful to receive this Scholarship which will help to relieve my family's financial burden as well as pave the way for my future career in the built environment sector. I believe the sector offers good job prospects." When asked if she foresees difficulties in working at construction sites as a female, she replied, "Being more of a hands-on person, I welcome the challenge of handling works on-site and look forward to gaining the satisfaction of completing a building project."



Maisurah Bte Mohammed Ali, 20.

- BCA Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Currently pursuing Higher Nitec in Mechanical Engineering, Year 2, at ITE College East

Developing Skills through Apprenticeship

1. Roszaly has always been fascinated by the technology of engineering systems. It is evident in his choice of tertiary education, a Higher Nitec in Mechanical Engineering course offered by the ITE. Armed with the technical know-how in machinery and equipment, Roszaly started work with a facility management firm as a mechanical and electrical (M&E) technician.

2. As an M&E technician, Roszaly was put in charge of the maintenance of lifts and ventilation systems. While the systems were familiar to him, he found that there were much technical knowledge and skills which had to be acquired on-the-job and through hands-on experience. Roszaly was fortunate to receive guidance from some of his senior colleagues, picking up valuable tips which he still applies today.

3. After working two years in the sector, Roszaly decided to upgrade his technical competency through BCA's Built Environment Apprenticeship programme, a place-and-train programme aimed at developing construction supervisory skills. Roszaly was job-matched with China Jingye Construction Engineering (Singapore) Pte Ltd, a building contractor. He served as an M&E apprentice with the company and concurrently, attended a part-time upgrading course, the Trade Diploma in Electrical Technology, offered by the BCA Academy. Just as before, Roszaly had mentorship from his more experienced colleagues at China Jingye, in learning the ropes of supervising M&E works.

4. Roszaly completed the two-year Apprenticeship in 2014 and is now a M&E supervisor, handling on-site progress, conducting inspections and rectifying defects in works. He feels that the benefits of the programme are immense. "The Apprenticeship has helped to equip me with the skills to become a registered construction foreman and to manage the workers better. Not only did I earn a higher remuneration, I also received good guidance and gained work experience which develops me to take on a greater role at work. The programme has definitely provided me with good career progression prospects."

5. Mr Tan Zhi Yong, Managing Director at China Jingye Construction Engineering (Singapore) Pte Ltd, is pleased to partner BCA in the Apprenticeship programme. "The programme has helped to attract locals to join us, building up our pool of competent and skilled construction supervisors who are essential to ensure quality and productivity on-site."



Muhammad Roszaly Bin Anip, 28.

- Completed BCA's Built Environment Apprenticeship in 2014
- Holds Trade Diploma in Electrical Technology from BCA Academy, Higher Nitec in Mechanical Engineering from ITE
- Currently a M&E Supervisor with China Jingye Construction Engineering (Singapore) Pte Ltd