

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Asia Environment Lecture 2015: World expert on green market transformation Christine Ervin shared insights on the next phase in greening Singapore's built environment**

*Singapore, 6 November 2015* – The third annual Asia Environment Lecture (AEL) was held at the National University of Singapore (NUS) today. Ms Christine Ervin, an internationally renowned authority for nearly twenty years on topical environmental issues such as green market transformation, delivered the keynote lecture at the AEL. The event was attended by policy makers, environmental practitioners, Faculty members and students.

Ms Ervin is the first President and CEO of the influential US Green Building Council and former US Assistant Secretary of Energy leading the nation's billion dollar portfolio of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Ms Ervin is widely recognised as a major force behind the vibrant green building market in the United States.

Today, Singapore is one of the greenest cities globally and it is at the forefront as a model of green building for planners and developers in the Asia Pacific region. Ms Ervin's lecture was timely, as Singapore seeks to accelerate its push for sustainable development following the launch of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA)'s 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Building Masterplan.

In her lecture, Ms Ervin noted that today's vibrant green building market is a key driver for clean and resilient economies. Ms Ervin shared her perspectives on green building trends and developments, the drivers and barriers to adopting green building practices, and how green buildings help to address environmental and social challenges that are increasingly interconnected, especially in rapidly urbanising Asia. She also shared about lessons learnt from best practice projects in the United States and Asia and discussed how key policies could enhance efforts to green the urban landscape in Asia.

Professor Heng Chye Kiang, Dean of the NUS School of Design and Environment said, "The Asia Environment Lecture is an annual event initiated by two NUS multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary environment programmes – the Master of Science in Environmental Management (MEM) and the Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) –, and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) at the NUS Faculty of Law. It is an excellent example of the effective collaboration of nine faculties and schools in NUS in environmental education and endorses NUS' view that effective management of the environment requires an integrated multi-disciplinary approach. This year's lecture, the third in this series, focused on green buildings and is co-hosted by

the Building and Construction Authority and City Developments Ltd (CDL). It is also generously funded by CDL. The Lecture explored how real progress can be achieved by adopting a fresh perspective of the issues and seizing the opportunities which exist to address the challenges. While much has been achieved in green buildings, especially in Singapore, Ms Ervin rightly pointed out that there is still some way to go."

Dr John Keung, Chief Executive Officer, Building and Construction Authority of Singapore, said, "A decade since its launch, the BCA Green Mark scheme has emerged as the leading green building rating system for the tropics and sub-tropics. Today, we have many top developers leading corporate sustainability rankings in the world. Our "green collar" workforce is also well sought after by local and overseas green building project management. This year, we are glad to co-host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Environment Lecture with NUS. The event is a platform for local stakeholders to gain insights about the environmental and social aspects of the global green building market. We hope that participants will take home the knowledge and the drive to embrace our journey in shaping a sustainable built environment in the future."

Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Deputy Chairman, City Developments Limited, said, "In Singapore, green buildings play a very important role in our national vision for a more liveable and sustainable country. As part of the Sustainable Singapore Blueprint 2015 and Green Building Masterplan, there is tremendous potential for green innovations and solutions to improve the way buildings sustain life and create business value. CDL is glad to partner NUS and BCA for the Asia Environment Lecture to advocate the importance of environmental conservation for our future generations. This is an excellent platform for knowledge sharing by world leaders of sustainability to inspire greater environmental stewardship and green solutions."

Ms Ervin is also an advocate on the importance of private-public partnerships in developing a green economy. Achieving a sustainable green environment is a collaborative effort that requires commitment across the value chain, from policy makers, to building owners, developers, facility managers and tenants. Dr Keung said, "Moving forward, we will seek to increase active involvement from end-users of buildings. Such partnerships are critical to drive Singapore's green agenda going forward. There is growing demand for green interior spaces, which improve indoor environmental quality, leading to better health, well-being and productivity. Promoting green buildings in Singapore and the region also has the potential to produce energy savings while mitigating the impacts of global warming, since green buildings are designed to reduce energy consumption."

Mr Kwek Leng Joo added, "The intensified global effects of climate change are real. Increasingly, countries across the world are finding it challenging to balance development and sustainability. There is strong focus, particularly on greening the built environment as globally, buildings account for 40% of energy consumption and 30% of carbon emissions. This could double or triple by 2050 if nothing is done to mitigate emissions. In Singapore, the building sector alone consumes up to 38% of the nation's electricity. There is an urgent need for the world to reduce its emissions significantly, and green buildings can help us do so."

Prof Heng Chye Kiang said, "At NUS, we are bringing up a new generation of built environment professionals who will plan, design, build and manage our buildings and infrastructure using materials and technologies which are sensitive to the natural and physical environment. We are also doing cutting-edge research to develop novel technologies and processes which are relevant to Singapore and countries in the tropics. Through our collaboration with BCA and CDL, we are also fulfilling our objective of continuous learning for practitioners and public outreach. We also seek to educate users and to influence their way of life. We are very pleased to note that so many practitioners attended this lecture. It has provided an opportunity for cross-fertilisation of ideas and inter-mingling across generations, which has also benefitted our students".

"NUS has been leading by doing in the area of green building. Many of our buildings have won the higher Green Mark awards and the university has been declared a Green Mark Champion. The NUS School of Design and Environment (SDE) has finalised work on the design of its new building, SDE4. The process, which involved Faculty members with different relevant specialisations working with the professional designers, has resulted in a concept for a living laboratory which will showcase some of the most advanced technological and other solutions," he added.

The AEL was chaired by Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who has received international recognition for his environmental contributions. Prof Koh also chairs the Advisory Committee for APCEL and the MEM programme.

### **The Asia Environment Lecture**

The Asia Environment Lecture is an annual event initiated by two NUS multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary environment programmes – the Master of Science in Environmental Management (MEM) and the Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES) – and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL) at the NUS Faculty of Law.

The APCEL was established in 1996 and was the first centre to be set up by the Law School. APCEL members play a leading role in environmental law education at the national, regional and global levels and serve on the governing board of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law.

In 2001, NUS started the MEM programme, which is jointly offered by nine faculties and schools at NUS. The programme is hosted by the NUS School of Design and Environment, in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS), Engineering, Law, and Science; NUS Business School, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at NUS, NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and the NUS Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. The BES programme was launched in 2011 and is co-hosted by FASS and the Faculty of Science, in collaboration with the same faculties and schools that are involved in the MEM programme.

For media queries, please contact:

**National University of Singapore**

GOH Yu Chong  
Manager, Media Relations  
Office of Corporate Relations  
National University of Singapore  
Tel: (65) 6601 1653  
Email: [yuchong.goh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:yuchong.goh@nus.edu.sg)

**Building and Construction Authority**

Leong Ee Leng  
Director, Corporate Communications Department  
Email: [LEONG\\_Ee\\_Leng@bca.gov.sg](mailto:LEONG_Ee_Leng@bca.gov.sg) / DID: 65 6804 4165

Rena Pang  
Executive Communications Manager, Corporate Communications Department  
Email: [Rena\\_PANG@BCA.gov.sg](mailto:Rena_PANG@BCA.gov.sg) / DID: 65 6804 4156

**City Developments Limited**

Tan Hock Lee  
Senior Manager, Corporate Communications  
Email: [hocklee@cdl.com.sg](mailto:hocklee@cdl.com.sg) / DID: 65 6428 9312

**About National University of Singapore**

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore's flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 16 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 26 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore's fifth RCE. NUS shares a close affiliation with 16 national-level research institutes and centres. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. It also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

This year, NUS celebrates its 110th year of founding together with Singapore's 50th year of independence. As the island's first higher education institution established by the local community, NUS prides itself in nurturing generations of leaders and luminaries in Singapore and Asia.

For more information on NUS, please visit [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg). Details on NUS' 110th Anniversary celebrations are available at [nus110.sg](http://nus110.sg).

## **About Building and Construction Authority (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](http://www.bca.gov.sg).

## **About City Developments Limited (CDL)**

Singapore's property pioneer City Developments Limited (CDL) is a listed international property and hotel conglomerate with over 36,000 luxurious and quality homes to its name. Having established its ethos of 'Conserving as we Construct' in 1995, CDL has been leading the industry with green building innovation from first-of-its-kind sustainable developments that inspire eco-friendly lifestyles to industry-changing methods that promote recycling, reduce waste and raise productivity. CDL is the first developer conferred the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) Green Mark Platinum Champion and Built Environment Leadership (Platinum) Awards. It has also achieved over 80 BCA Green Mark buildings to date, the highest among Singapore developers. Globally, CDL remains the first Singapore corporation to be listed on three of the world's leading sustainability benchmarks - FTSE4Good Index Series (since 2002), Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World (since 2010) and Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (since 2011). In the Channel NewsAsia Sustainability Ranking 2015, CDL was named Top Property Developer in Asia, Top Singapore Corporation, and among the top 10 sustainable companies in Asia. For more information, visit [www.cdl.com.sg/csr](http://www.cdl.com.sg/csr)