

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING BUILT ENVIRONMENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

- BCA develops a three-part television commercial series to raise awareness of the attractiveness of built environment sector and its careers
- More support for local built environment professionals to upgrade themselves

**28 July 2015** – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA), in partnership with industry firms, presented a record 190 scholarships to undergraduates and diploma students at a scholarship award ceremony today. Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and National Development was the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

2. About 40% of the award recipients this year are females. Both Margaret Ee and Bernice Lee are among the female recipients who will join construction firms upon graduation. They enjoy hands-on experience which will help them understand the actual ground work to learn and develop their potential to oversee building and infrastructure developments in future (please refer to Annex B).

#### **Initiatives to encourage more to join the built environment sector, with more support for skills upgrading**

3. To encourage more Singaporeans to join the sector and raise awareness of the attractiveness of built environment sector and its careers, BCA is developing a three-part television commercial series to showcase the significant roles which the built environment sector and its professionals play in nation building, as well as the transformation of sector moving forward.

4. In addition, BCA has further enhanced its scholarship and sponsorship programmes to support skills deepening and provide more progression opportunities for built environment professionals. Under the new part-time Postgraduate Sponsorship and part-time Diploma Sponsorship programmes, industry professionals will have their course fees fully funded by their sponsor firms and BCA when upgrading their skills. Applications for these new sponsorship programmes will open early next year (please refer to Annex A).

5. BCA's post-diploma and post-ITE development programmes have also been structured to align with the Government's SkillsFuture Earn-and-Learn Programme, to provide fresh graduates with structured development and industry training to build up their technical competencies and enhance their career progression prospects.

6. Dr John Keung, CEO of BCA said: "With the rapid transformation in the built environment sector, those working in the sector have to continuously keep up with the changes and upgrade their skills and competencies to remain relevant. Over the years, BCA's education arm, the BCA Academy, has progressively introduced more courses to equip our workforce with the necessary skills to support advancements in the sector. Companies can leverage on the new part-time Postgraduate Sponsorship and part-time Diploma Sponsorship to retain and upgrade your employees."

**Issued by the Building and Construction Authority on 28 July 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](http://www.bca.gov.sg).

**For media queries, please contact the Corporate Communications Department:**

Sherlyn Chen  
Executive Communications Manager  
DID: 6325 7721  
Email: [sherlyn\\_chen@bca.gov.sg](mailto:sherlyn_chen@bca.gov.sg)

### **BCA-Industry Built Environment Undergraduate Scholarship**

1 BCA has been offering the BCA-Industry Built Environment Undergraduate Scholarships in partnership with leading industry firms since 1993. The objective of this scholarship programme is to offer young people of high calibre and vision an opportunity to take up the challenge of a career in the built environment sector.

2 Details of the undergraduate scholarship scheme are as follows:

#### **Value of Award and Bond**

- Minimum S\$18,000 per year for each scholar who is either a Singapore Citizen or Singapore Permanent Resident with at least 1-year bond with the sponsor company
- Minimum S\$14,000 per year for each scholar who is a foreigner (for engineering courses only) with at least 1-year bond with the sponsor company

#### **Eligibility**

- Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents
- All other nationalities in relevant engineering courses
- Open to 'A' level, Polytechnic students and undergraduates
- Outstanding academic results
- Excellent CCA records

#### **Courses Available for Application (NUS, NTU, SIT, SUTD, BCAA)**

- Architecture
- Building Services
- Civil Engineering
- Construction Management
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Project & Facilities Management
- Real Estate

## **BCA-Industry Built Environment Diploma Scholarship**

1 The Diploma Scholarship is a partnership between BCA and industry firms to offer young people of high calibre an opportunity to take up full-time built environment courses at the local Polytechnics and the BCA Academy.

The programmes are structured in two stages. Stage 1 provides financial incentives during diploma study. Stage 2 provides a clear progression path and attractive salary for diploma graduates.

2 Details of the diploma scholarship scheme are as follows:

### **Value of Award and Bond for Stage 1 (Diploma Study Phase)**

- Annual allowance of \$15,000 per scholar per year with at least a 2-year bond with the sponsor firm

### **Minimum Monthly Salary and Incentives for Stage 2 (Post-Diploma Development Phase)**

- Sponsor firm will provide the graduate with a structured on-the-job training in the first year and enrol the graduate in a part-time Specialist/Advanced Diploma in the second year

#### **Local Diploma Graduate**

- First year – minimum monthly basic salary of S\$2,200
- Second year – upgrading incentive of up to S\$2,300 on a 6-monthly basis together with a minimum monthly basic salary of S\$2,400
- Sponsor firm pays for unsubsidised portion of Specialist/Advanced Diploma course fee, after MOE/WDA subsidy (where applicable)

#### **Diploma Graduate of other Nationalities**

- First and second year – a minimum monthly basic salary of S\$2,200
- BCA provides up to 40% course fee subsidy for Specialist/Advanced Diploma

### **Eligibility**

- Singapore Citizens, Singapore Permanent Residents, or other nationalities
- 'O' level / ITE school leavers and polytechnic students taking full-time built environment diploma courses
- Outstanding academic results and excellent CCA records

## **Courses Tenable for Diploma Scholarship**

### **Stage 1 (Diploma Study Phase)**

- Full-time built environment Diploma courses at BCA Academy and Polytechnics

#### BCA Academy

1. Architecture (Technology)
2. Construction Engineering
3. Construction Information Technology
4. Design (Interior and Landscape)
5. Electrical Engineering & Clean Energy
6. Facilities Management
7. Mechanical Engineering (Green Building Technology)
8. Quantity Surveying

#### Nanyang Polytechnic

1. Electrical Engineering with Eco-Design
2. Space and Interior Design

#### Ngee Ann Polytechnic

1. Clean Energy Management
2. Electrical Engineering
3. Environmental & Water Technology
4. Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management
5. Mechanical Engineering
6. Real Estate Business
7. Sustainable Urban Design & Engineering

#### Republic Polytechnic

1. Green Building Energy Management

#### Singapore Polytechnic

1. Architecture
2. Civil Engineering with Business
3. Electrical & Electronic Engineering
4. Energy Systems and Management
5. Environmental Management & Water Technology
6. Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management
7. Integrated Events & Project Management
8. Interior Design
9. Landscape Architecture
10. Mechanical Engineering

#### Temasek Polytechnic

1. Clean Energy

2. Environment Design
3. Green Building & Sustainability
4. Integrated Facility Management
5. Interior Architecture & Design

## **Stage 2 (Post-Diploma Development Phase)**

- Part-time Specialist / Advanced Diploma

### BCA Academy

1. Specialist Diploma in Architectural Technology
2. Specialist Diploma in Building Cost Management
3. Specialist Diploma in Building Information Modeling (BIM)
4. Specialist Diploma in Construction Management
5. Specialist Diploma in Construction Productivity
6. Specialist Diploma in Facility & Energy Management
7. Specialist Diploma in Interior & Landscape Design
8. Specialist Diploma in M & E Coordination

### Ngee Ann Polytechnic

1. Diploma (Conversion) in Facility Management

### Singapore Polytechnic

1. Advanced Diploma in Building Automation & Services
2. Specialist Diploma in Energy Efficiency and Management

### Temasek Polytechnic

1. Specialist Diploma in Energy Management & Sustainable Design

## **BCA-Industry Built Environment Postgraduate Sponsorship (Part-Time)**

1 The Postgraduate Sponsorship (part-time) is a partnership between BCA and industry firms to offer practitioners and professionals an opportunity to deepen their expertise in niche areas of specialisations, through part-time postgraduate studies at the local universities and the BCA Academy. The programme will support industry firms in enhancing capability and retaining talent.

2 The Postgraduate Sponsorship (part-time) is structured as follows:

### **Value of Award**

- Participating firms will sponsor 30% of the full course fees, with BCA co-funding the rest. For cases where the sponsored employee is eligible for Government subsidies, participating firms and BCA will co-fund the remaining courses fees.

### **Eligibility**

- Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents
- In-service personnel intending to pursue part-time built environment postgraduate degree courses at local universities or BCA Academy

3 More details on the tenable courses, application procedures and the bond period will be disclosed at a later date.

## **BCA-Industry Built Environment Diploma Sponsorship (Part-Time)**

1 The Diploma Sponsorship (part-time) is a partnership between BCA and industry firms to support in-service personnel in upgrading their technical knowledge and skills, through part-time diploma courses at local polytechnics and BCA Academy. The programme will support industry firms in the grooming technical specialists and supervisors.

2 The Diploma Sponsorship (part-time) is structured as follows:

### **Value of Award**

- Participating firms will sponsor 30% of the full course fees, with BCA co-funding the rest. For cases where the sponsored employee is eligible for Government subsidies, participating firms and BCA will co-fund the remaining courses fees.

### **Eligibility**

- Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents
- In-service personnel intending to pursue part-time built environment diploma courses at local polytechnics or the BCA Academy

3 More details on the tenable courses, application procedures and the bond period will be disclosed at a later date.

**Scholars Stamping their Mark on the Built Environment Sector**

1. The significance of a scholarship is best realised when scholars graduate from school and start serving their bond in their sponsor firm. These scholars are able to look beyond their studies and develop their careers.

2. Qian Xue Jia was awarded the Undergraduate Scholarship jointly offered by BCA and City Developments Limited (CDL) in 2005. Xue Jia has continued to stay on with her sponsor firm after serving her bond. It has been 8 years since she started her career as an officer in CDL's Projects division in 2007.

3. Over the years, Xue Jia has been actively involved in the development of several green building projects such as City Square Mall, Singapore's first eco-mall, and My Tree House – the world's first Green Library for Kids, a collaborative project by CDL and the National Library Board.

4. She is a mother of one and is an example of a successful female professional in the built environment sector who is able to manage her family commitments while advancing her career.

5. Another scholar who has carved out a meaningful and satisfying career for himself is Alan Yeo. He was awarded the Undergraduate Scholarship jointly offered by BCA and Teambuild Engineering and Construction in 2006. Like Xue Jia, Alan has been working with his sponsor firm since graduation.

6. Six years ago, he began his career as an Assistant Project Engineer and has worked on various building projects since then, such as the construction of Punggol Secondary School, a BTO Housing Development in Clementi and the Haite Aviation Factory. This year, his aspirations were realised when he was promoted to a Project Manager.



Qian Xue Jia

- Undergraduate Scholarship jointly offered by BCA and CDL in 2005
- Graduated with a Degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering from Nanyang Technological University in 2007
- Received Master's Degree in Environmental Management from National University of Singapore in 2012
- Manager, Projects at CDL, since 2014

7. Both Xue Jia and Alan are currently working on CDL's The Brownstone Executive Condominium project at Canberra Drive, which comprises eight 10 to 12-storey blocks with 638 units constructed using some 5,000 building modules. The use of Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC) for the project is the first of its kind in Asia, and is likely the world's largest application for a large-scale residential project. Beyond managing the daily operations on site, they have to possess good people management skills, including good communication skills as project managers in order to collaborate closely with the various stakeholders to ensure that a project can be delivered successfully.

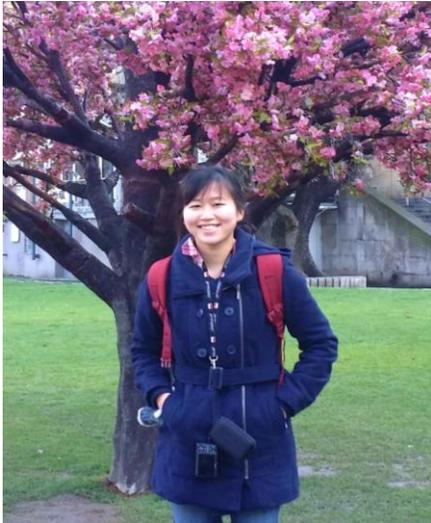
8. With the increasing use of new productive technologies and advanced construction methods, careers in the built environment sector can only get more exciting. Successful built environment professionals like Xue Jia and Alan are role models to inspire young passionate graduates to take the lead in being part of the sector's transformation.



Yeo Hock Kwan, Alan

- Undergraduate Scholarship jointly offered by BCA and Teambuild in 2006
- Graduated with a Degree in Civil Engineering from Nanyang Technological University in 2009
- Project Manager at Teambuild since 2015

## More Female Scholars Choosing Built Environment Sector as their Career Choice



Margaret Ee Jing Jing, 25 years old

- 2015 BCA-HLS Built Environment Undergraduate Scholar
- Pursuing Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering, Year 4 at Nanyang Technological University, for the coming academic year



Lee Ser Li Bernice, 19 years old

- 2015 BCA-SDC Built Environment Diploma Scholar
- Pursuing Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business, Year 3 at Singapore Polytechnic

1. The built environment sector is transforming, with more female scholars at different levels of study having a strong passion and seeking career opportunities in this sector. Two such scholars are Margaret Ee, who has been awarded the Undergraduate Scholarship by Hock Lian Seng Infrastructure Pte Ltd and Bernice Lee, who has been awarded the Diploma Scholarship by Sembcorp Design and Construction Pte Ltd (SDC).

2. Margaret's choice of her degree came about when she worked at a Quantity Surveying firm after her Diploma studies. The times when she went on site with her mentor spurred her interest and curiosity of building projects. She learned about how the work environment was different compared to an office setting and how different groups of people communicated at site. This eagerness and enthusiasm prompted her to pursue a Civil Engineering degree at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

3. During her studies at NTU, she took up an internship in a leading contractor firm which further reaffirmed her interest and inclination for a career in the built environment sector. “The engineers and other seniors shared valuable knowledge and were very forthcoming in their willingness to teach and guide me. I am definitely certain about my career choice and the built environment sector is where I want to be in,” said the enthusiastic undergraduate.

4. Margaret is deeply honoured and glad to be awarded the Built Environment Undergraduate Scholarship by BCA and Hock Lian Seng Infrastructure Pte Ltd. She looks forward to being involved in challenging infrastructure projects which will be a new area for her to explore. She believes that this scholarship will help her realise her dreams and achieve significant milestones in her career.

5. For Bernice, her passion for engineering was cultivated since young as she came from a family of engineers. Both her father, who is an electrical engineer and her sister who also pursued an electrical engineering course in Singapore Polytechnic, encouraged her to pursue her Diploma in Civil Engineering with Business.

6. In her last semester, she served her three-month internship at a leading local construction firm. She was attached to a HDB project – West Terra @ Bukit Batok. “The internship has benefitted me greatly, providing me with first-hand experience and knowledge of a Prefabricated Volumetric Construction project on site which is a new method of construction not taught in the classroom. This has inspired me to look forward to being part of the transformation of the built environment sector upon graduation.”

7. Bernice, who has been awarded the BCA-SDC Built Environment Diploma Scholarship, is looking forward to kick-start her career with her sponsor firm and is positive of her career prospects in the built environment sector. With Sembcorp Design and Construction Pte Ltd actively expanding their business in the region, she is excited about her opportunities to gain experience in overseas projects.

8. Site conditions do not affect these two female scholars. In fact, they enjoy being on site and see their future careers of having to devote substantial periods of time outdoors to be a rewarding one. They also understand the importance of knowing what is happening during actual ground work in order to learn and develop their potential to take on leadership roles in future.

### **Going All Out to Realise his Dreams**

1. Aslam has been very interested in buildings since young. This ignited his passion in architectural design.

2. Aslam pursued his education and completed his 'A' Levels at Serangoon Junior College. Failing to qualify for enrolment into the Bachelor of Arts in Architecture in the National University of Singapore, he decided against taking up another degree course. Upon completion of his National Service (NS), he enrolled himself in the Diploma in Architecture in Singapore Polytechnic.

3. Seeing the potential in Aslam, SD Architects awarded him the BCA-SD Architects Built Environment Diploma Scholarship in 2012. Aslam was the pioneer batch of graduating students in 2014 from the diploma scholarship programme and is currently working with his sponsor firm as an architectural draughtsperson. Apart from drafting related work, he was also exposed to project management. He has gained valuable experience and technical competencies in architecture through the on-job-training which is part of the place-and-train initiative under the programme. As part of the programme, he is currently sponsored by SD Architects to pursue the Specialist Diploma in Architectural Technology at BCA Academy which provides him with competency-based upgrading. This is in line with the objectives of the SkillsFuture Earn and Learn programme.

4. During his time with SD Architects, Aslam has been involved in a wide range of projects including Land Transport Authority and Singapore Power projects. Sharing his experience, he said, "I am glad that I have taken up this opportunity to be a BCA-Industry scholar as I am able to gain valuable experience and technical knowledge in the architectural field which will provide me with an advantage if I decide to further my studies. The stage 2 programme provides a platform for me to upgrade the skills that I had picked up in polytechnic."



Aslam Bin Salim,  
25 years old

- 2012 BCA-SD Architects Built Environment Diploma Scholar
- Serving his bond with SD Architects & Associates Pte Ltd
- Pursuing Specialist Diploma in Architectural (Technology) at BCA Academy