

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **PUSHING GREEN FRONTIERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: THE BCA CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS COLLABORATES WITH THE GLOBAL BUILDINGS PERFORMANCE NETWORK**

**Singapore, 7 May 2014** – The BCA Centre for Sustainable Buildings (BCA CSB) and the Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), reinforcing their commitment towards deep energy savings and reductions of carbon dioxide emissions from buildings. The MOU will define the framework for partnership projects to identify, validate and share policy and technology best-practices for minimising the energy demand of buildings in hot and humid climates. The partnership will bring together BCA CSB’s regional network and understanding of local and regional policies and GBPN’s expertise in performance data tools and analysis to develop benchmarking tools and support projects for energy efficiency in the building sector in Asia.

2. The Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) provides policy expertise and technical assistance to advance building energy performance and realise sustainable built environments for all. The GBPN is a globally organized and regionally focused non-profit organisation.

3. “Asian countries are experiencing rapid urbanization and with it an increased demand for comfortable, affordable and low-carbon buildings. With more than 70% of the required building stock in 2050 in emerging economies including those in S.E. Asia yet to be built, there are significant opportunities to meet these demands sustainably, and reduce pressure on the global climate. Building energy policies are fundamental to ensuring international best-practices can be part of mainstream building practice in this region. This MOU brings together GBPN’s international expertise in policy best-practices, benchmarking and performance assessment and BCA CSB’s regional expertise and capacity building experience. Together we will support efforts by countries to implement building performance policies that achieve development goals

while tackling climate change. This new partnership will strengthen GBPN's Asian programs and complement our strong EU and US programs. We are very happy that BCA CSB will now be playing a central role in our global network." said Dr Peter Graham, Executive Director of GBPN.

4. BCA CSB was formed in 2011 as a joint initiative between UNEP and the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore (BCA), to develop and deliver policy advice and outreach assistance to countries for sustainable development in the building sector. The Centre will build on its current and past projects in Southeast Asia and engage its regional network to inform project activities under this collaboration.

5. "This MOU marks a significant phase in Asia's expanding green building movement, towards quantifiable building energy performance and benchmarking studies to support policy development. Reducing buildings' energy consumption is important, given that buildings account for 40% of the world's total final energy consumption. BCA CSB is pleased to embark on this journey with GBPN to drive sustainable energy use in the building sector in Asia through joint initiatives and projects. With BCA's expertise in green buildings, BCA will support the BCA CSB to serve as a regional platform for knowledge sharing and capacity building for growing economies to balance their resource needs with climate mitigation activities. We hope that this collaboration creates a ripple effect to engage more countries in climate mitigation work." said Dr John Keung, Chairman of BCA CSB.

6. The collaboration encompasses potential activities to maximise energy efficiency of individual buildings, groups of buildings, city scale projects, and other initiatives on greening of buildings and the construction supply chain. The objectives of the partnership will be to accelerate these improvements in South and Southeast Asia by exchanging expertise and best-practices and adapt experiences from other parts of the world in the development of benchmarking tools and policies in this region.

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## **About BCA Centre for Sustainable Buildings (BCA CSB)**

The BCA Centre for Sustainable Buildings (BCA CSB) was established and designated as a Centre Collaborating with UNEP under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 14 September 2011. It is an endorsement of Singapore's concerted efforts in driving sustainability in the built environment and in building up capabilities, regionally and internationally.

Being the first in Asia and one of the few collaborating centres with UNEP, the Centre is well equipped to develop and deliver policy advice and outreach assistance to countries for sustainable development in the building sector. This assistance would be provided through the identification of successful policies, strategies and technologies at the regional and national level as we strive to grow the Centre into a hub for green buildings in the region and contribute to global climate mitigation efforts. For more information, please visit <http://www.csb.sg>

## **About Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN)**

The Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) is a globally organised and regionally focused organisation whose mission is to provide policy expertise and technical assistance to advance building energy performance and realise sustainable built environments for all. The GBPN's goal is to contribute to the building sector achieving its full energy savings and CO2 mitigation potential of more than 2.1 Gt by 2030.

The GBPN was founded in 2010 with the mandate to advance knowledge and expertise globally on building energy performance and the structure to achieve it. It is coordinated by a global centre based in Paris, and is represented regionally with an office in Beijing, and partner organisations in Brussels, Washington D.C. and Delhi helping achieve the transformational changes required in the building sector to tackle climate change while promoting economic and social wellbeing. The GBPN has developed extensive partnerships with international organisations, governments, industries, research institutes and NGOs (Our Partners). Our project partners also extend our reach to South East Asia, while our experts' network includes Latin American and African expertise. For more information please visit <http://www.gbpn.org>