

WDA Offers STEP Scholarships for Two Masters Degree Programmes for Building Professionals

A total of \$3 million set aside to benefit 108 Singaporean PMEs

Singapore, 27 March 2014 – The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) today announced scholarships for two part-time Masters degree programmes offered by BCA Academy, the education arm of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA).

The two Masters degree programmes are targeted at Singaporean Professionals, Managers and Executives (PMEs) who are working in the built environment industry and seeking to upgrade their skills. PMEs who are seeking a career switch to the built environment industry may also leverage on these programmes to acquire the necessary skills.

One of the programmes, the Master of Science (MSc) in Sustainable Building Design, is designed for students to gain the necessary skills in designing “green” or environmentally sustainable buildings. Conducted and awarded by the University of Nottingham, the programme comprises eight modules on various areas such as environmental design strategies, “green” technologies and renewable energy sources.

The other programme, the MSc in Facility and Environment Management, is tailored for students to acquire expertise in effective building management and maintenance. Conducted and awarded by University College London, the programme consists of nine modules that impart the necessary expertise and skills for maintaining building environments, facilities and support services.

WDA has set aside a total of \$3 million for both Masters degree programmes till 2015. The funding will be used to subsidise 90 per cent of the course fees of Singaporeans under WDA’s Skills Training for Excellence Programme (STEP). About 108 Singaporean PMEs are expected to benefit from WDA’s STEP scholarships for these two programmes.

Mr Ng Cher Pong, Chief Executive of WDA, said: “WDA is pleased to offer the STEP scholarships for these two Masters degree programmes. Through these programmes, we

aim to build a pipeline of skilled professionals to meet the immediate and long-term manpower needs of the built environment industry. WDA will continue to work with BCA Academy to introduce more skills upgrading initiatives that meet the industry's manpower needs.”

Dr John Keung, Chief Executive Officer of BCA, said: “Being a city state, we have a highly urbanised built environment in Singapore. Many of our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure need professionals with the expertise and skills to design, manage and maintain them well, or even such that they can be environmentally sustainable. These two Masters degree programmes will meet the growing demand for such expertise. Professionals who graduate from these programmes will benefit from these attractive career opportunities. I believe the STEP funding will convince our built environment professionals to seriously consider participating in the two Masters programmes.”

PMEs may visit www.bcaa.edu.sg to find out more and register for the programmes. Registration closes in April 2014 and classes will commence in September 2014.

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About Singapore Workforce Development Agency

The Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA) enhances the competitiveness of our workforce by encouraging workers to learn for life and advance with skills. In today's economy, most jobs require not just knowledge, but also skills. WDA collaborates with employers, industry associations, the Union and training organisations, to develop and strengthen the Continuing Education and Training system that is skills-based, open and accessible, as a mainstream pathway for all workers - young and older, from rank and file to professionals and executives – to upgrade and advance in their careers and lives. For more information, please visit www.wda.gov.sg.

About the Building and Construction Authority

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 BCA Academy

The BCA Academy of the Built Environment is the education and research arm of the Building and Construction Authority, Singapore. It is the leading institution in Singapore that provides a comprehensive range of training and education programs tailored to the needs of the building and construction industry. In support of the national effort to develop Singapore into a green and sustainable city, the BCA Academy is pioneering several initiatives in training and research on renewable energy, green building design and technology, and sustainable development. To enable our industry leaders and practitioners to learn from the experience and knowledge of leading experts in this field, the Academy collaborates with global leaders and institutions in running executive courses, academic programmes, seminars and workshops on sustainable development and green buildings.