

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NEW SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTRACT ITE STUDENTS TO BUILT ENVIRONMENT SECTOR**

- Companies intend to hire as many locals as possible for jobs according to BCA survey

**28 January 2014** – The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has awarded 163 scholarships to students pursuing built environment courses at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE). This is the first time the BCA is awarding scholarships to ITE students, to draw them into the built environment sector, which has sustained growth prospects.

2. In a recent manpower survey by the BCA, more than half of the 1,000 built environment firms surveyed indicated that, to cope with the sector’s booming prospects, they are planning to hire this year, with jobs including site supervisors and foremen that ITE graduates can apply for, in strong demand. The companies intend to fill at least 60% of their job vacancies with locals.

3. The BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship covers a student’s full course fees and provides a monthly allowance of \$500 during their course of study. Upon completing their studies, scholars will serve a two-year bond with firms in the built environment sector.

4. Dr John Keung, CEO of BCA said: “The ITE Scholarship is an important initiative to attract and bring in a sustained pipeline of local talents at technical and supervisory levels for the built environment sector. The ITE graduates will play a key role in helping to steer technological advancement and productivity improvements in the built environment sector.”

5. Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE, shared, “ITE students are well-equipped with hands-on skills and knowledge to play a key role in shaping the future landscape of the built environment. The scholarship will provide them with a clear and structured progression pathway and give them an impetus to contribute towards the growth of the sector.”

6. Muhammad Asyraf, a student from the *Nitec* course in Facility Technology (Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration) at ITE College East, believes that the BCA scholarship will provide financial relief and pave the way for his future career in the built environment sector. He became interested in facility management to pick up skills in mechanical and electrical components, which had helped him save costs in repairing electrical home appliances.

7. About one in four recipients of the ITE scholarship this year are females. Hannah Zhang, an ITE College West student from *Higher Nitec* in Electrical Engineering course said that the electrical engineering course at ITE offers her practical skills in the operation and maintenance of electrical installations. This prepares her for employment in technical and supervisory roles in the built environment sector. She hopes to contribute to the built environment by making buildings more energy efficient and reducing its carbon footprint.

8. “The built environment sector offers new entrants many opportunities and good career prospects. For those seeking meaningful careers, they can make a positive impact to the built environment by spearheading the sector’s push for a greener and more inclusive built environment. The young and technologically savvy will also get to work with advanced and game-changing technologies as the sector uses more advanced and productive construction methods,” added Dr Keung.

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**Issued by the Building and Construction Authority and the Institute of Technical Education on 28 January 2014**

#### **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).

### **About ITE**

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](http://www.ite.edu.sg).

## BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship

1. The Built Environment ITE Scholarship is offered by BCA in collaboration with ITE, to young talents pursuing full-time built environment courses at 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 are as follows:

### Value of Award and Bond

- Scholarship covers full course fees and provides a \$500 monthly allowance per student per year 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 and O-level or ITE results)
- Excellent CCA records

### Courses Available for Application (full-time courses at ITE)

- *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)

## **Determined to Succeed Despite Difficult Childhood**

1. Faced with difficulties at both family and school, Asyraf's childhood was unlike those of his peers. The loss of his father to cancer meant that he had to sacrifice his studies at a tender age of 10, so that he could care for his depression-stricken mother and keep the household in order. A three-year absence from school saw little chance of Asyraf resuming formal education.

2. However, Asyraf had not forgotten the importance of education. He had self-studied and did work sent by his former teachers, in hope of returning to school someday. His efforts paid off when he was accepted into a skills certification programme offered by Mendaki. Asyraf passed the course with flying colours and this helped paved the way for enrolment into NorthLight School. His teachers saw him as someone with great potential and perseverance; they were not surprised when he topped his cohort and was accorded with Outstanding Pupil Awards in 2009 and 2010.

3. Armed with determination to improve himself, Asyraf enrolled in the Facility Technology course at ITE. He explained his choice of course had to do with reducing household expenses, "The course offered skills in mechanical and electrical components. These can help to save cost in repairing home electrical appliances such as the water heater." The filial teenager continued to earn excellent grades in his Nitec course. In 2012, Asyraf's positive character development and exemplary learning attitude were recognised when he received the Lee Hsien Loong Award for Special Achievement.

4. Now a proud recipient of the BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship, Asyraf has greater dreams. He is spurred to work even harder and hopes to pursue further studies at a polytechnic, like his siblings. They have helped him along his rigorous journey, often coaching him in engineering and IT subjects. He said, "I am grateful to receive this scholarship which will help my family financially as well as pave the way for my future career in the built environment sector. I'm keen to work in facility management and apply the extensive knowledge acquired through my progressive upgrading pathway."



Muhammad Asyraf Bin Chumino, 19.

- 2014 BCA Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Recipient of Lee Hsien Loong Award for Special Achievement in 2012
- Nitec in Facility Technology (Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration), at ITE College East

## **Female Engineer in the Making**

1. Hannah has always been curious about how things work. Her father who is trained in electrical engineering, often repairs appliances at home and she will take the opportunity to understand the workings of the internal components. It is of little surprise that she chose to take up a Higher Nitec course in Electrical Engineering at the ITE College West.

2. Inclined to a hands-on approach, Hannah is most intrigued by experiments and practical lessons, especially in Physics subjects. She enjoys working with industrial electronics and testing equipment such as the oscilloscope. "I find myself learning better when I experience the actual operation of devices or machinery, rather than reading the manuals." She feels that her current engineering course offers her practical skills in the operation and maintenance of electrical installations, preparing her for employment in technical and supervisory roles. She also has the opportunity to learn about solar photovoltaic systems, an environmental-friendly source of energy.

3. Having a keen interest in the built environment sector, especially in the domain of green buildings, Hannah hopes to make buildings more energy efficient and reduce our carbon footprint significantly. She believes the BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship will help her achieve this, "The Scholarship is testament of my passion for the built environment and should make me more attractive to prospective employers. I'm looking forward to working in the engineering field and a meaningful career in improving our built living environment."

4. When asked if she foresees challenges for females joining a profession perceived to be male-dominated, Hannah simply shrugs it off, "I believe today's society offers equal opportunities. Being female does not mean I will be any less capable as an engineer. It is the work that I do which is more important than my gender. And most importantly, having a good attitude which will earn the respect of others for my chosen profession."



Hannah Zhang Shu Mei, 17

- 2014 BCA Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Currently pursuing Higher Nitec in Electrical Engineering, Year 1, at ITE College West

## Upgrading Paves Way for Success

1. Mr Lim Kok Hin knows age is no barrier to learning. At the age of 49, the Managing Director of Litewell Engineering Pte Ltd still looks out for training courses for himself as well as his employees. Mr Lim believes that skills upgrading is beneficial as he has experienced it himself.

2. Starting out as an electrician without secondary school qualifications, Mr Lim understood that he needed to improve his skills in order to earn a higher remuneration. He then set his eyes on the then National Trade Certificate Grade 3 (NTC3) for electrical fitting and installation. When Mr Lim discovered he could not enroll in the course due to his lack of basic education, he took up basic English and Mathematics modules which paved the way for enrolment in ITE's Nitec course in electrical fittings.

3. Obtaining the Nitec certificate was not enough for Mr Lim and he furthered his training through ITE's Higher Nitec and Post-Nitec courses for his trade. He was rewarded for his efforts as he rose through the ranks, from a technician to a supervisor and eventually, an assistant project manager, all in a span of less than a decade. His career progression saw him holding increasing responsibilities and receiving a higher salary. No longer performing hands-on fitting works, Mr Lim's role evolved to one of coordinating works and overcoming challenges which occurred more frequently as his projects grew more complex. Mr Lim had shown that his determination and passion for his profession could overcome many obstacles.

4. Remaining in the mechanical and electrical engineering trade till today, Mr Lim has a different role now as he meets clients and oversees the growth of his company. However, his passion for the trade has never wavered. Mr Lim still learns about the technicalities about his projects and encourages his staff to improve their technical knowledge through upgrading courses. "I have picked up valuable skills through the courses I attended and that helped me understand a lot more about my trade. If my staff also improve their skills, they will appreciate their work better and make greater contributions to the company."



Lim Kok Hin, 49

- Managing Director of Litewell Engineering Pte Ltd
- Obtained various ITE certifications:
  - Nitec in Electrical Fitting and Installation
  - Higher Nitec in Electrical Engineering
  - Post-Nitec in Advanced Air-Conditioning Cooling Level