

MEDIA RELEASE

BCA WORKING WITH INDUSTRY TO BUILD UP MANPOWER IN LIFT AND ESCALATOR SECTOR

13 Feb 2017 – To build manpower capabilities in the lift and escalator sector, a Sectoral Tripartite Committee (STC) will be set up to look into measures to attract, develop and retain locals in the sector. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to support manpower development in the lift and escalator sector was also signed today.

2. There are currently more than 2,000 technicians maintaining about 63,000 lifts and 6,000 escalators in Singapore.

3. The STC, comprising representatives from the Government, industry association and firms, as well as trade unions, will develop a training framework which sets minimum qualifications for new entrants and continual training requirements for existing workers. The STC will also explore career progression pathways by mapping out wages and skills at different levels as well as look into ways to improve the image of the lift and escalator sector and its professions to attract and retain locals. More details will be shared later.

4. “We need a strong core of skilled workers at all levels to ensure our lifts and escalators are regularly and properly maintained to meet the tightened lift and escalator safety requirements. Manpower is also needed to cope with the increase in lifts and escalators with more buildings in the pipeline. The STC will work closely with the industry to address the manpower needs of the sector,” said Dr John Keung, CEO of BCA.

Signing of MOU to support manpower development in the lift and escalator sector

5. The BCA, NTUC, e2i, Singapore Lift & Escalator Contractors & Manufacturers Association and ten lift and escalator firms (refer to [Annex A](#)) also signed an MOU, which reaffirms their commitment to attract and retain locals in the sector, to build a sustainable and competent pipeline of workers in the industry.

6. Parties to the MOU will discuss initiatives on manpower, skills, remuneration, and career development. They will also support manpower development programmes such as the BCA-Industry Scholarship and Sponsorship programmes to attract students and sponsor in-service personnel for skills training; offer employment together with structured development to Diploma and ITE graduates through the Earn and Learn Programme; and participate in job fairs, job matching and/or Place and Train programmes.

7. Lastly, the parties will promote competency-based career development pathways and provide feedback on the education and training required for entrants and in-service personnel to meet the evolving needs in knowledge and skills in the lift and escalator sector.

8. The MOU signing took place today at a scholarship award ceremony for ITE students, where Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development Desmond Lee presented 108 scholarships to students in built environment courses at the ITE. A record 14 firms have co-sponsored students through the BCA-Industry ITE Scholarship programme this year. Please refer to [Annex B](#).

9. Two scholars Loh Ashley and Muhammad Faizal have joined lift firms Joven Engineering Pte Ltd and Hin Chong Engineering Construction Pte Ltd respectively upon their graduation. Please refer to [Annex C](#).

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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.

PARTIES SIGNING MOU

1. Building and Construction Authority (BCA)
2. National Trades Union Congress (NTUC)
3. Singapore Lift and Escalator Contractors and Manufacturers Association (SLECMA)
4. Employment and Employability Institute Pte Ltd (e2i)
5. Chevalier Singapore Holdings Pte Ltd
6. Cushman & Wakefield Operations Pte Ltd
7. E M Services Pte Ltd
8. KONE Pte Ltd
9. Mitsubishi Elevator (Singapore) Pte Ltd
10. Otis Elevator Company (S) Pte Ltd
11. Schindler Lifts (Singapore) Pte Ltd
12. Sigma Elevator Singapore Pte Ltd
13. 9G Elevator Pte Ltd
14. Joven Engineering Pte Ltd

BCA-INDUSTRY BUILT ENVIRONMENT ITE SCHOLARSHIP

1. The BCA-Industry Built Environment ITE Scholarship is offered by BCA in collaboration with industry firms, to students pursuing full-time built environment courses at the ITE. Through this programme, scholars will be able to embark on an exciting and rewarding career following their graduation.
2. The ITE Scholarship is structured in two stages:-
 - Stage 1 provides financial incentives during ITE study
 - Stage 2 provides a clear progression path and attractive starting salary for ITE graduates
3. Details of the ITE Scholarship:-

Programme Structure

Stage 1 (ITE Study Phase)

- Course Duration – 2 years
- Funding support - \$14,000 in total
- Bond period – 2 years with sponsoring firm upon graduation and completion of National Service, if applicable

Stage 2 (Post-ITE Development Phase)

- Employment Duration
 - 3 years
- Incentives
 - For ITE graduate – \$4,000 in total
 - For sponsoring firm – Up to \$15,000 in total
- Minimum monthly basic salaries
 - \$1,850 in 1st year of employment
 - \$2,050 in 2nd year of employment
 - \$2,350 in 3rd year of employment
- Skills Development
 - Structured on-the-job training
 - Upgrading course/s

Eligibility

- Locals (Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents)
- Good academic results (GCE N-level, O-level or ITE results)
- Good CCA records

Tenable Full-Time ITE Courses

- *Higher Nitec* in Civil & Structural Engineering Design
 - *Higher Nitec* in Electrical Engineering
 - *Higher Nitec* in Facility Management
 - *Higher Nitec* in Facility Systems Design
 - *Higher Nitec* in Mechanical Engineering
 - *Higher Nitec* in Space Design Technology
 - *Nitec* in Electrical Technology (Power & 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)
4. For more details on BCA's suite of scholarship/sponsorship programmes, please visit www.buildingcareers.gov.sg .

SPONSORING FIRMS OF THE BCA-INDUSTRY BUILT ENVIRONMENT ITE SCHOLARSHIP

1	Acma Engineers Pte Ltd
2	Alstern Technologies Singapore Pte Ltd
3	CCA & Partners Pte Ltd
4	ECAS Consultants Pte Ltd
5	Emas Engineering & Trading Pte Ltd
6	Exceltec Property Management Pte Ltd
7	HCF & Associates
8	Hin Chong Engineering Construction Pte Ltd
9	Indeco Engineers Pte Ltd
10	Integrated Precast Solutions Pte Ltd
11	Interconsultants Pte Ltd
12	Joven Engineering Pte Ltd
13	Straits Construction Singapore Pte Ltd
14	Tiong Seng Contractors Pte Ltd

Igniting Passion for Lift Works

1. Ashley has always been intrigued by how machines work and finds joy solving machine-related issues. Becoming a lift technician became a natural aspiration, after Ashley learnt about the profession from his cousin who also worked in the same line.

2. Ashley began his career in the cleaning sector and subsequently switched to sales jobs before enrolling in the ITE's. Vertical Transportation course. He gave it his best at every step of his learning journey, be it on the basic components of lift systems or troubleshooting skills to handle faults. Ashley's efforts earned him an internship stint with a lift contractor firm, Joven Engineering Pte Ltd.

3. His internship allowed him to gain valuable experience from nurturing mentors while he was learning about lift installations. "I had many questions on the preparation work and procedures in lift installations, which my colleagues answered patiently. I am fortunate to have their care and friendship, which helped me a lot in my everyday learning." Ashley's good internship performance had earned him an offer from Joven Engineering Pte Ltd to co-sponsor his studies through the BCA-Industry Built Environment ITE Scholarship. Ashley had no hesitation in accepting the offer, guaranteeing employment before graduating from the course.

4. Today, not only does Ashley love his profession, he is also keen to promote it to others. Ashley sees learning opportunities beyond just technical skills. "My daily work involves interacting with my colleagues, clients and other contractors. Communication skills is something which I'm also improving on." Ashley recently convinced a friend to switch careers and become a lift technician, just like him. "My cousin had helped me discover my interest in this trade and I feel obliged to pass this goodwill on. I hope to become a competent lift specialist who can guide and mentor other people who share the same passion as I do."



Loh Ashley Mohamed Fattah, 25

- BCA-Joven Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Graduate of Nitec in Facility Technology (Vertical Transportation) from ITE College East

Intrigued by Lift Systems

1. Faizal enjoyed the hands-on learning during his electrical engineering course at the ITE especially when it involved connecting circuitry components and troubleshooting faults. He developed interest in becoming a technician through the course and the sharing from his elder brother who has been a lift technician for 10 years.

2. Through the BCA-Industry Built Environment ITE Scholarship programme, Faizal landed a golden opportunity to follow his brother's career footsteps. A lift contractor firm, Hin Chong Engineering Construction Pte Ltd offered to co-sponsor his scholarship and employ him upon his graduation. Faizal accepted the offer readily, confident that the lift profession will offer job stability and plenty of learning opportunities.

3. Having worked for 8 months as a lift technician, Faizal is delighted with his career choice. He is intrigued by the complexity of control systems and the safety components in the lifts which he handles every day. "There is a lot of knowledge and skills to be acquired from the lift trade. I enjoy learning about the modern lifts systems and keeping myself updated with the latest technology. Many of the skills are also applicable to other electrical systems in the building, helping me to appreciate more on the overall facility management."

4. Faizal is also grateful for the scholarship programme. "This programme is a good way to attract the young generation to take up careers in the built environment and experience it for themselves. I hope more students would take up this career to be part of our exciting sector."



Muhammad Faizal Bin Khairum,
23

- BCA-Hin Chong Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Graduate of Nitec in Electrical Technology (Power & Control) from ITE College East

Following Her Passion in the Built Environment Sector

1. After her 'N' levels, Anggie convinced her parents that she wanted to do civil engineering as it is a promising discipline, with many opportunities to be involved in Singapore's development. Having gone through a year in her course, Anggie has no regrets in following her passion.

2. Anggie enjoys learning Building Information Modelling (BIM), a 3D building software which allows different stakeholders of the construction value chain to collaborate and optimise workflow. BIM also improved visualisation of building components during learning. Compared to other training modules, picking up BIM skills was also easier for Anggie who is IT-savvy. "I can use BIM to look at all aspects of the building design, without having to flip through paper drawings. The use of IT is the future of the built environment and it appeals to me and my peers, who are used to swiping phones and tablets!"

3. Other than the technological aspects, Anggie also enjoys interacting with people. "I hope to work at a construction site and see for myself the everyday progress of a project. I can also see myself enjoying working in teams on projects and interacting with various stakeholders. Construction is a big thing and nobody can construct a building alone."

4. Anggie has also been actively developing her communication skills through volunteer work. She spends time after school hours, peer tutoring other ITE students in mathematics, a responsibility which she took seriously. "I believe in the spirit of volunteering and sharing. Through the peer tutoring, I can practise what I have learnt and correct some of my own mistakes as well. In my future career, I hope to do well and pass on my knowledge to others too." Meanwhile, Anggie would be looking forward to upgrade and take up a civil engineering diploma course and eventually join a contracting firm, where she would realise her dreams to "*Build on Singapore*".



Lee An Qi Anggie, 18

- BCA-Industry Built Environment ITE Scholar
- Currently pursuing Higher Nitec in Civil & Structural Engineering Design, at ITE College Central