

MEDIA RELEASE

WHEELS ON THE UD TRUCK GO ROUND AND ROUND

- Primary school children to learn and experience Universal Design on BCA's specially-fitted vehicle that will reach out to 120 primary schools by December 2017

Singapore, 29 July 2016 – As one of the key activities for the Singapore Universal Design Week (SUDW), the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) has rolled out a special vehicle that will bring Universal Design right at the doorstep for primary school children across Singapore. Named “UD Explorers on Wheels Academy”, the special vehicle has been retrofitted with Universal Design features so that children can learn and experience how inclusive designs can benefit people of different abilities and ages.

2. The vehicle's inaugural stop is at CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh), where it is unveiled this morning by the Minister of State for Communications and Information and Health Mr Chee Hong Tat. More than 200 guests, including students from CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh), will be the first to tour the special vehicle and be introduced to the concept of Universal Design through attractive visuals and interactive exhibits.

3. Commenting about BCA's new outreach efforts on Universal Design to schoolchildren, BCA CEO Dr. John Keung said, “BCA has taken on an innovative approach of retrofitting a vehicle in order to share the importance of Universal Design right at the doorstep for young children in primary schools. As they are the future leaders, professionals and stakeholders of Singapore, we hope this early introduction to UD through experiential learning from the UD Explorers on Wheels Academy will enable them to better appreciate inclusive designs that can benefit everyone, irrespective of their abilities and ages. We aim to bring this special UD vehicle to 120 primary schools, reaching out to thousands and thousands of young children by December 2017.”

4. Besides experiencing the Universal Design features, the young visitors will be treated to performances and special appearances by BCA's Universal Design mascots, Dotz and Hexa. They will also receive a Universal Design Comic book and a limited-edition UD Explorers Kit after completing the various activities.

5. About the UD Explorers on Wheels Academy, CHIJ Primary (Toa Payoh) Principal Mrs Margaret Tan said, "We are happy to be invited to host the first UD Explorers on Wheels Academy. Through BCA's innovative use of a truck to retrofit features of Universal Design, my students can experience and learn about how inclusive designs in their everyday environment can bring about convenience and comfort to its users. I believe this will be a fruitful experience for them and they can bring the message of empathy and inclusivity to their family members."

6. The UD Explorers on Wheels Academy is part of BCA's UD Explorers Programme – launched in 2015 – to bring the message about the importance of Universal Design to younger audiences and raise their awareness.

Enclosed

Annex – Factsheet: UD Explorer on Wheels Academy

Issued by the Building and Construction Authority on 29 July 2016

About 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, 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.

UD EXPLORERS ON WHEELS ACADEMY INTRODUCTION AND THE FIVE STATIONS



The **UD Explorers on Wheels Academy** is a vehicle specially retrofitted with Universal Design features. It will travel to different primary schools in Singapore so that students can learn and experience Universal Design within the comforts of their school premises. This special vehicle allows children to appreciate how various Universal Design features will make the built environment more accessible, which in turn will help bring about a more inclusive society.

Stations 1 and 2

Students will discover how benches and ramps can be designed to meet the needs of different users.



**UD EXPLORERS ON WHEELS ACADEMY
INTRODUCTION AND THE FIVE STATIONS**

Station 3: Restroom

Through the sliding visuals, students will be introduced to the various features of an accessible restroom.



**UD EXPLORERS ON WHEELS ACADEMY
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Station 4: UD Library

Interactive touch-screen and hands-on experience for students to learn more about Universal Design.



UD EXPLORERS ON WHEELS ACADEMY INTRODUCTION AND THE FIVE STATIONS

Station 5

Students will find out the correct height for lift call buttons in this interactive activity.

