

WELCOME SPEECH BY DR JOHN KEUNG, BCA CEO AT THE BCA AWARDS 2012, AT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA, COMPASS WEST BALLROOM ON 24 MAY 2012 AT 7.30PM

His Excellency President Dr Tony Tan

Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development

Mr Lee Chuan Seng, Deputy Chairman, BCA

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

1 A warm welcome to all of you to the BCA Awards 2012, which is regarded as the “Oscars” of the building and construction industry. It is the biggest gathering of the construction industry to celebrate excellence in the built environment. We have a total of 222 tables here tonight in this ballroom, to celebrate the winning of close to 320 awards. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your unwavering and strong support for the BCA Awards.

2 The BCA Award is an achievement that you can be proud of. Very high standards were set for every category of awards and these standards have been raised progressively over the years to spur the industry on to greater heights. It is therefore a special recognition for all your efforts and hard work in contributing to the impressive built environment that Singapore has today. Most importantly, you have created a legacy for Singapore and generations to come.

3 In the last few years, we have worked very closely together to focus on a number of key attributes of the built environment that Singapore has today. Building safety is mission critical for our industry. I can’t emphasise enough the importance of a safe built environment so that the community can live here with a complete peace of mind. Besides building safety, we have also been working very hard to raise the standards of our built environment in terms of construction quality, green buildings and universal design.

4 Assessment schemes such as CONQUAS, Quality and BCA Green Mark have served us well. It sets out the standards and guidelines for the industry to develop and sharpen these competencies. Some of you have even brought these standards abroad and employed CONQUAS and Quality Mark schemes in your overseas projects. I’m proud to say that many of you have done so well that we have attracted the attention of countries in this region.

5 We have also seen increasing interest in our Green Mark scheme from countries around us. I was told that a BCA Green Mark certified building in Jakarta even displayed the BCA Green Mark plaque that was awarded to the building project.

Recently, I also read in a news article from Brunei saying that their future buildings will follow green building standards set by Singapore. It is definitely the outstanding work and effort of the construction industry that has brought the Singapore brand name far and wide.

6 Overall, our construction industry has been transforming, developing and sharpening its core competencies to compete effectively both locally and overseas. Your leadership in the various aspects of building excellence not only shows the way for others, but raises the bar for the rest, including those from other countries, to emulate. I am confident this will give a further boost to our international reputation for construction services, and enhance your strong standing when you venture overseas. But here lies the challenge. We really have to keep improving our processes and skills and upgrade our capabilities in order to achieve sustained growth and keep ahead of changing times and competition in the local and the overseas markets.

Conclusion

7 In conclusion, I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the BCA Award winners for your achievements and sustained contributions to the built environment. While this is an occasion to celebrate, let us play our part in corporate social responsibility in creating a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment. I must also thank all the donors of the President's Challenge for making the combined industry fund-raising effort a big success. I look forward to your continued support and strong partnership. I wish you all the best in your pursuit of excellence.

Thank you, and enjoy your evening.