

WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR JOHN KEUNG, BCA CEO AT THE WORLD WORKPLACE ASIA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2012 ON 26 JULY 2012, 9AM, AT RAFFLES CITY CONVENTION CENTRE

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Defence and National Development

Mr Quek See Tiat, Chairman, Building and Construction Authority, BCA

Mr Jon Seller, First Vice-Chair, International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Board of Directors

Mr Kenneth Foo, President, Singapore Chapter of IFMA

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

Introduction

A warm welcome to all of you to the World Workplace Asia Conference and Exhibition 2012.

1. The conference theme “**Asia Pacific Facility Management: Smart Facilities, Unlimited Opportunities**” is timely and fitting for facilities management (FM) professionals to learn from expert speakers and explore different approaches of addressing pertinent facilities management issues in the built environment, with a specific focus on Asia. The large ageing building stock that we see around the world and in this region present many growth opportunities for the FM sector.

Need for sustainable facility management

2 The FM sector is playing an increasing role in providing facilities and environments to drive productivity within businesses. Facilities and asset management are increasingly seen at the forefront of business strategy today in many large and international corporations.

Such expanded roles will complement the FM sectors core function of ensuring safety and sustainability of our built environment. For example, facility management personnel would still have to regularly inspect and maintain building features and equipment such as the elevators and exterior features of the building to ensure that they remain safe for the users and the public.

3 With the added emphasis on sustainability in recent years, due to challenges resulting from the rapid population growth and limitation of energy resources, the sector will have to play an even more significant role. Hence, professionals in the FM sector will need to proactively develop different skills sets and keep abreast with the changing requirements of the marketplace.

4 One of BCA’s key objectives is to develop a knowledge and skilled workforce to support the building and construction industry in its drive to shape the best built environment for Singapore. Recognising the critical importance of industry-ready and adaptable FM professionals, BCA is active in developing facility management capabilities through various

educational and industry related programmes. Through our education and training arm, BCA Academy, we work closely with industry partners to develop skills and expertise. We also tailor training courses for personnel at management, supervisory and technical levels at the BCA Academy to level up the industry's capability in key areas.

5 Since 2002, more than 1,700 students have enrolled in BCA Academy, and have been pursuing either, the Diploma, Specialist Diploma, Degree or Masters programmes in sustainable design and facilities management.

Together with IFMA, Singapore Chapter of IFMA and we at BCA are committed to developing facility management capabilities through educational programmes and international events like this. Today, we have speakers from all over the world, and we trust that you would make the best use of your time to learn best practices, latest global trends and sustainable FM practices.

Conclusion

6 In closing, I would like to acknowledge IFMA and IFMA Singapore Chapter for their relentless commitment in advancing the facility management industry and working with BCA in organising this milestone event

7 Last but not least, I wish to express my appreciation to all the sponsors of this event, the hosts of the green facility site tours, media partners and other organisations for their invaluable contribution and support.

8 Today, we have more than 400 delegates and exhibitors from 22 countries at this conference. Some of you have come from as far as Canada, Switzerland, Poland and South Africa. I wish all our foreign guests an enjoyable and a memorable time in Singapore.

9 At this juncture, I would also like to welcome you to another international event from 8 to 12 October in Singapore. The third International Green Building Conference and executive development programme are events that were conceived to provide integrated and targeted solutions to help green buildings in Singapore and around the world. So if you are looking to speak to building owners, consultants and experts on specific green building solutions and technologies that would help you manage your buildings better, do come join us again.

Thank you.