

ADDRESS BY DR JOHN KEUNG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY, AT THE INAUGURAL GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SUSTAINABLE BUILDING DESIGN, 31 JULY 2012, 12.30PM, MARINA MANDARIN SINGAPORE

Professor Christine Ennew, Pro-Vice Chancellor

Mr Quek See Tiat, Chairman, Building and Construction Authority

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good afternoon to all of you.

INTRODUCTION

1. I am delighted to join you and your family members to celebrate this memorable occasion today. It is the inaugural graduation for graduands of the Master of Science in Sustainable Building Design.

BCA'S JOURNEY TO ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY FOR SINGAPORE

2. As you are aware, climate change is one of the key global challenges that we have to tackle today. With buildings in Singapore accounting for about 40% of our electricity consumption, built environment professionals like us play an important role to ensure that our buildings are more energy efficient. And we need more people like you who are keen on pushing the boundaries of sustainable building design envelope.

3. We are on track to meet the national target of greening 80% of the buildings in Singapore by 2030. To date, there are more than 1,200 green building projects in Singapore, which is equivalent to 37 million square metres, or 16% of the total gross floor area of buildings in Singapore. Although the green building movement in Singapore started in earnest only in 2005, to date, we are probably among the few leading green cities with the highest per capita green building space in the world.

Nonetheless, we are not resting on our laurels and, as I speak, much work is in progress to green the rest of our buildings in Singapore. This is the good news as there will definitely be a continuing demand for leading green professionals like our graduands today as we work towards the 2030 target.

4. In fact, we have put together a green building training framework, under our Green Building Masterplan. This Master programme is one of the courses conducted by the BCA Academy under this training framework to build a green collar workforce of 20,000 by 2020.

BUILDING CAPABILITIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

5. For you, graduands of our Master degree programme who are already holding senior appointments in our industry, I am glad that all of you have taken the decisive step to take on the challenge of this Master degree programme and come forward to lead the green building movement in Singapore and the region.

6. On the Master degree programme itself, we have received many positive feedbacks, although many of you did tell me that the going was tough. Overall, I was told that the learning experience has been very enriching and effective. The diverse professional background of the cohort also allows deeper understanding and appreciation of the various roles and contribution by different professionals during the building delivery process. I am sure all of you, as our inaugural batch of graduates, also made full use of the last few years to build up a strong network of like-minded green building leaders among yourselves. This is certainly very important for the future of the green building movement in Singapore.

7. I am also glad to hear that, Rita Soh, one of the graduands here today, who is also a key leader in the architectural profession and in our industry here, has found the Master programme very useful and enriching.

She has used the knowledge acquired during the process and applied it to the projects that she was managing to achieve higher Green Mark ratings. I am sure many of you have also done the same.

8. The success of this programme would not be possible without our excellent partnership with the University of Nottingham. I would like to thank the University for the opportunity to jointly offer this first-of-its-kind postgraduate programme in Singapore.

CONCLUSION

9. I believe it has been a challenging two years for the graduands here as you have to juggle between work, studies and family. But your hard work has finally paid off today. Most of you have done extremely well, with 14% of you awarded distinctions and half of the cohort awarded merits.

10. Last but not least, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all the graduates. I hope that you will continue to push the boundaries of innovative green building solutions and work closely with BCA to drive the green building movement in Singapore and in the region so that, together, we can do our part for the environment and for sustainable and responsible development of our cities and regions.

11. I look forward to having more green building advocates and leaders like you to come on board and help drive the green building movement.

Thank you.