

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR QUEK SEE TIAT, CHAIRMAN, BCA, AT THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE 2013, WORLD ENGINEERS SUMMIT 2013 AND BEX ASIA EXHIBITION 2013 ON WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 9 AM, MARINA BAY SANDS SINGAPORE

Mr Teo Chee Hean
Deputy Prime Minister,
Coordinating Minister for National Security and
Minister for Home Affairs

Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman
Minister of State for Defence and National Development

Professor Chou Siaw Kiang
President
Institution of Engineers, Singapore

Mr Paul Beh
President, Asia-Pacific
Reed Exhibitions

Er. Adel MMJ Al-Kharafi
President
World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO)

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good morning, and a very warm welcome to the joint opening of the International Green Building Conference, BEX Asia Exhibition and World Engineers Summit. To our eminent speakers and delegates who have come from all over the world, I extend to you a very warm welcome to Singapore. We are indeed very honoured to have you here with us.

2. It is heartening to see such a remarkable gathering of international thought leaders, experts, policy-makers and industry professionals on sustainable development at this year's Singapore Green Building Week. Climate change affects everyone on this planet, and to effectively combat its impact on our built environment takes collaborative, multi-disciplinary and multi-national effort. I am pleased to see opportunities for this will take shape at this week's events. These annual gatherings play a crucial part in enabling productive dialogue and providing multiple opportunities for networking and fruitful contact between countries and participants.

3. Several events have already transpired over the past two days with the commencement of Singapore Green Building Week 2013. I would like to highlight two.

4. First, the BCA Centre for Sustainable Buildings – a collaboration between BCA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – launched its inaugural publication, "Using Less, Getting More: An Overview of Building Energy Efficiency Initiatives in Southeast Asia". In the spirit of dialogue and collective effort to address climate change, this landmark publication aims to serve as a reference resource for regional stakeholders, and to stimulate further discussion, research and collaboration on energy efficiency in the building sector. I encourage you to seek it out.

4. Second, the BCA, the Singapore Institute of Architects and the Singapore Green Building Council jointly organised the third “International Tropical Architecture Design Competition”. This competition saw 19 entries from Institutes of Higher Learning in six Asian countries, and it challenged youths across the region to think and design buildings from a sustainable standpoint. The future is literally in the hands of the younger generation, and we must ensure they are sensitive and attentive to the environmental challenges before us. It is our intention to work continuously to raise awareness and groom the next-generation of green leaders.

5. BCA is working on the details of the 3rd Green Building Masterplan to guide Singapore’s green building journey over the next five to 10 years. We started with 17 green buildings in 2005, and to date, we have green-rated over 1,650 buildings, or 21 percent of our entire building stock, including existing buildings. This rapid growth also means that in a short span of eight years, Singapore is now one of the leading green cities in the world in terms of per capita green building space.

6. With these exciting developments, we are pleased to have with us this year leading speakers from organisations such as the C40 Sustainable Communities Initiative and the World Green Building Council, among others. They will share insights on global and regional green building trends, urban solutions for green cities, and the business case for green buildings. Those participating at the “Breakfast Talk for CEOs” can also look forward to a high-level discussion on the value of green to corporations. Finally, we are glad to present once more our highly anticipated Green Mark tours which will showcase some of the exemplary green building projects in Singapore.

7. All in all, it is an exciting line-up of programmes for this year’s event. I trust you will find the sessions illuminating and fruitful, and I wish each and every one of you a most productive and enjoyable time at IGBC, BEX Asia 2013 and WES. Thank you.