

WELCOME SPEECH BY DR JOHN KEUNG, CEO OF BCA, AT THE BCA BUILT ENVIRONMENT ITE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY 2014 ON TUES, 28 JAN 2014 AT 2:10PM, ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL, TAY ENG SOON CONVENTION CENTRE

Mr Tan Chuan-Jin
Acting Minister for Manpower

Mr Quek See Tiat
Chairman, BCA

Mr Bruce Poh
Director & Chief Executive Officer, ITE

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

1. I am pleased to welcome all of you to join us on this occasion, as we celebrate the inaugural BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship awards with our recipients.

Attracting Talents to Build a Sustained Pipeline of Manpower

2. Over the years, BCA has developed a comprehensive suite of scholarship, sponsorship and apprenticeship programmes to attract local talents at all levels of the workforce for the built environment sector. This is a key component of our plan to build up a strong pipeline of local talents to steer the growth in the built environment sector and sustain our strong productivity drive in the sector.

3. In fact, a recent manpower survey by the BCA pointed out that more than half of the 1,000 built environment firms surveyed are planning to hire this year, to cope with the sector's booming prospects. Jobs including site supervisors and foremen that ITE graduates can apply for, are in strong demand. These companies intend to hire as many locals as possible for their jobs.

4. BCA's strategic partnership with the ITE to roll out a new built environment scholarship for ITE students serves as an important lever for the built environment sector to attract and bring in more talented youth to build a sustained pipeline of local talent for our sector. For ITE students, they can either tap on the new scholarship programme or an existing apprenticeship programme offered by BCA. The scholarship programme is applicable for ITE full-time *Higher Nitec* and *Nitec* students, while the apprenticeship programme allows the apprentices to work for their employers and concurrently undergo skills-based training for their professional and technical advancement.

Exciting and Rewarding Careers

5. Our built environment sector has made significant progress on many fronts in recent years and will certainly offer new entrants many opportunities to be involved in making our built environment future-ready.

For those who want to make their mark on our urban landscape, I am sure you can make a positive contribution to our built environment by spearheading the sector's push for a greener and more inclusive built environment. Green buildings not only help cut down carbon emissions and mitigate climate change, but create a healthier and more conducive living environment for our current and future generations. Furthermore, the built environment sector plays an important role in improving the standard of living for the young, old, and people with special needs, by making buildings more accessible and user-friendly so that

people of various mobility needs can move around independently and with dignity to be part of our community. It is indeed an exciting time for young talents like yourselves to make your mark in creating a future-ready built environment for all to enjoy.

Conclusion

6. The success of the inaugural BCA Built Environment ITE Scholarship would not have been possible without close collaboration with the ITE. I look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the ITE in attracting more young talents to the built environment sector.

7. I also urge industry stakeholders to join hands with us in attracting more talents like these ITE scholars to seek careers and make their mark in the sector.

8. Last, but not the least, I wish all ITE scholars the best in your future endeavours in the built environment sector.

Thank you.