

WELCOME SPEECH BY MR QUEK SEE TIAT, BCA CHAIRMAN, AT THE JOINT OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE AND BEX ASIA 2014 HELD ON MONDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 9.05 AM, MARINA BAY SANDS EXPO & CONVENTION CENTRE

Mr Khaw Boon Wan
Minister for National Development

Mr Paul Beh
President, Asia-Pacific
Reed Exhibitions

Mr Ng Eng Kiong
President,
Singapore Green Building Council

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Introduction

1. Good morning and welcome to the Singapore Green Building Week (SGBW). Today, is also the joint opening of the International Green Building Conference (IGBC) and Build Eco Expo (BEX) Asia. To all our eminent speakers and delegates who have come from all over the world, a very warm welcome to Singapore.

2. We trust that this platform will provide thought leaders, experts, policy-makers and industry professionals an unparalleled opportunity for dialogue and knowledge sharing on green building.

3. Before I share the key programmes of the Week, allow me to touch on the progress of Singapore's green building journey, especially for our foreign delegates who may be unfamiliar with the city's developments.

BCA's Green Building Journey

4. For Singapore, sustainable development has been a key national priority. BCA has been the champion for building energy efficiency and green buildings. We launched Singapore's green building rating system, the BCA Green Mark scheme, in 2005 and this marked the first milestone in our green building journey. This was followed through with comprehensive measures as set out in the first and second green building masterplans.

5. Today, over 2,100 development projects in Singapore have met the BCA Green Mark standards. This represents 62 million square meters or more than 25 percent of the nation's total gross floor area.

A Sustainable Conference

6. Keeping in line with the green theme, today's event is truly a sustainable one. Our conference venue, Marina Bay Sands, is a green building certified to BCA's Green Mark Gold standards. We will also conserve energy by maintaining indoor air-conditioning temperature at 25 Degree Celsius accompanied by a "dress lean" theme i.e. no coat, no tie attire. Paper cups have been replaced with cornware and you are encouraged to use the water tumblers provided in the delegate kit. At the end of the conference, your conference lanyards can be returned to us and reused at the next IGBC.

Student Engagement Efforts

7. This year we have made a concerted effort to engage students by providing targeted parallel events and workshops. I will mention two such efforts.

8. The first is the “**International Tropical Architecture Design Competition**” which is in its fourth run this year. Themed “Our urban green home,” the aim of the competition is to demonstrate the essentials and key constituents of a green home in metropolitan cities such as Bangkok, Jakarta, Manila and Singapore. We received 70 entries from various tertiary institutions across 13 countries for the theme “Our Urban Green Home”. The entries by students from Australia, Indonesia and Germany emerged as the top three.

9. The second initiative is the “**Engagement Workshop for Tertiary Students**” organised alongside IGBC on 3 September. It will provide students a rare opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge, hear perspectives and experiences from distinguished professionals. This workshop is organised free of charge for all students and I am glad to note that the response has been overwhelming, with participation from university, polytechnic and ITE students.

Strategic Partnerships

10. To further our efforts in being a global leader for green buildings with special expertise in the tropics and sub-tropics, I am pleased to share that BCA will be signing three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) today with our foreign partners. They are the **National Housing Corporation from Tanzania**, **Ikatan Nasional Konsultan Indonesia (INKINDO) from Indonesia** and **Ceylon Institute of Builders (CIOB) from Sri Lanka**. These MoUs will further our engagement on policy advice; capability building; exchange of best practices, and trainings, joint seminars and symposiums. We welcome our new partners on board.

Conclusion

11. To end, I would like to thank Reed Exhibitions, our strategic partner for collaborating with BCA and the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) for the past 6 years to bring together a successful event each year. Moving forward, as part of BCA’s commitment to be a global leader for green building advancement, BCA will partner Reed Exhibitions on a continued engagement to co-host the IGBC and BEX Asia from this year to 2016.

12. I look forward to seeing a successful and engaging dialogue over the course of the Singapore Green Building Week. To all the overseas delegates, I wish you a great stay in Singapore.

Thank you.