

WELCOME SPEECH BY DR JOHN KEUNG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY AT THE LAUNCH OF THE UD EXPLORERS EXHIBITION HELD ON FRIDAY, 31 JULY 2015 AT 3.30PM, THE COURTYARD @ WESTGATE

Ms Grace Fu

Minister, Prime Minister's Office

Second Minister for Environment and Water Resources, and

Second Minister for Foreign Affairs

Friends, partners, ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys

1. Good afternoon, and welcome to the launch of the Universal Design Explorers Exhibition, held in conjunction with the Singapore Universal Design Week 2015.

2. Some of you may ask "What is Universal Design?" Well, universal design simply means "design for everybody, you and me". It is one way of creating an inclusive and liveable city for all Singaporeans.

3. What is a liveable city? A liveable city is one that is accessible for all ages for everybody. Our built environment must be well-designed and user-friendly, so that people of different mobility needs can move around independently with dignity, and of course, to enjoy life with their loved ones.

Championing an inclusive built environment

4. To achieve this vision of a liveable city, BCA has been working with our industry stakeholders to encourage them to incorporate Universal Design, or UD, in their projects and developments.

UD Explorers Programme

5. But this is not enough. We must also engage the public and our young people, like you. Hence, BCA organised the inaugural UD Explorers Programme this year. Between May and July, two months ago, BCA arranged for primary school students to tour selected UD-certified

shopping malls which are recognised for being friendly to the users. The objective of the tour is to educate students, our young people, on the various UD features that can be found in their daily lives, and to reiterate the importance and benefits of these features in our built environment.

6. We are pleased to share that some 500 students participated in this educational programme, where they learnt about UD features such as clear signage, family car park lots, automatic doors, ramps, handrails and handicapped toilets that are available at these malls. The students subsequently got to work, and expressed through art what they learnt and observed during the tours. We have shortlisted artworks from each of the participating schools to be showcased at this exhibition. We hope all of you will enjoy the artworks as much as we have.

7. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following partners for supporting the programme and facilitating the tours at their premises –

313@Somerset, Bedok Mall, Changi City Point, City Square Mall, Lot 1 Shoppers' Mall, Vivo City, and Westgate. I would like to also thank Westgate for sponsoring the venue for the UD Explorers Exhibition.

8. And, I would like to say a big "Thank You" to our Guest-of-Honour, Minister Grace Fu, for giving her strong support for the InClUDed Movement in Singapore by gracing this Exhibition.

9. With this Exhibition, I hope Singaporeans, particularly our young people, will become more aware of the importance of Universal Design in our built environment. On this note, I wish everyone an enjoyable experience at the UD Explorers exhibition. Thank you.