

**SPEECH BY BCA CHAIRMAN MR QUEK SEE TIAT AT THE ASHRAE (AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING AND AIR-CONDITIONING ENGINEERS) SINGAPORE CHAPTER 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER ON FRIDAY 18 SEP 2015 6.30PM AT ORCHARD HOTEL**

Mr Henry Yeo  
President  
ASHRAE Singapore Chapter

Er Chong Kee Sen  
President  
Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES)

Mr Tony Khoo  
President  
International Facility Management Association (IFMA) Singapore Chapter

Members of the ASHRAE Singapore Chapter

Ladies and gentlemen.

A very good evening. I would like to thank ASHRAE Singapore Chapter for inviting me to this annual installation dinner. It is indeed an honour to have this opportunity to meet with all of you this evening.

2. ASHRAE Singapore Chapter has always been a close supporting partner of the Building and Construction Authority. Our working relationship dates back to the 2000s, capped by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between BCA and the ASHRAE Headquarters in 2009. I am pleased to say that today, our partnership continues to be strong.

**A decade of green leadership in the built environment**

3. This year has been a milestone for sustainability in the built environment. 2015 marks a full decade of Singapore's green building movement since BCA launched the Green Mark scheme. In ten years, we have managed to become one of the greenest

cities globally, with close to a third of the nation's buildings stock certified to be green, which is about 70 million square metres of total gross floor area.

4. BCA's efforts in greening the built environment have also been recognised internationally by organisations such as the World Green Building Council. Separately, in 2013, the US-based energy efficiency coalition, Alliance to Save Energy (ASE) conferred BCA with the International Energy Efficiency Award; Singapore the first country outside America and Europe to receive this award for commitment in sustainability. These are indeed encouraging motivators in our journey towards the national target of greening 80% buildings stock by 2030. Such achievements would not have been possible without the support of industry partners like ASHRAE.

#### **Importance of ASHRAE and its works**

5. In a tropical climate, air conditioning contributes significantly to a building's energy consumption. This is especially so in Singapore, where many of us spend most of our time indoors. It is therefore important that we work together in promoting high standards and best practices of air-conditioning and mechanical ventilation, or ACMV in short.

6. Over the years, ASHRAE has also helped BCA foster close collaboration with the ACMV community in Singapore. ASHRAE has been instrumental in positively transforming ACMV design and implementation practices in the industry. Together, we have and will continue to set one of the highest standards for ACMV design in the tropics and sub-tropics, towards good indoor air quality that enhances the comfort and well-being of occupants.

7. At the recent International Green Building Conference (IGBC) held two weeks ago, BCA announced the launch of the Green Mark 2015. This revamped Green Mark scheme aims to propel the sustainability of the built environment to a higher level, and is set to be a game-changer in our green building journey. I am pleased to note that ASHRAE was actively involved in the formulation of Green Mark 2015, contributing as part of the technical panel to firm up the certification criteria.

8. ASHRAE has also been working closely with BCA's education arm, the BCA Academy. Together, we offer short courses and workshops to build up the capability of industry practitioners, in the design and maintenance of air conditioning systems. These courses are all conducted by well-respected experts in the ACMV industry. Specifically, for the ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Seminars, we invite distinguished overseas and local speakers to share their expertise and experience. I am happy to know that these programmes have been well-received by the industry, a testament of the fruits of our collaboration.

## **Conclusion**

9. We have certainly made good progress, with good reports from the industry. Even so, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. We need to continue inspiring, and pushing the retrofit of our huge existing building stock to reap higher energy efficiency. We need to keep up the good momentum, to innovate and further push towards the long term sustainability target. With a concerted approach, BCA's ambition to achieve "low-energy high-rise buildings" and "zero-energy low-rise buildings" for our tropical context is not too tall an order.

10. Finally, on behalf of BCA, I would like to record my appreciation to ASHRAE for its support all these years. I am confident that BCA and ASHRAE will keep up its strong collaboration to advance the ACMV standards for the industry. Congratulations on your 33rd annual installation dinner.

Thank you and have a good dinner tonight.