

**SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY MR QUEK SEE TIAT AT THE BCA BREAKFAST TALK FOR CEOS DURING THE SINGAPORE GREEN BUILDING WEEK (SGBW) 2015 ON FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2015, 9.10 A.M. AT THE MARINA BAY SANDS, SANDS EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTRE**

***CELEBRATING A DECADE OF LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY***

Ms Terri Wills  
CEO, World Green Building Council

Mr Kwek Leng Joo  
Deputy Chairman, City Developments Ltd

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning to all.

2. It is heartening to see so many leaders of the building industry here this morning. It is the third and last day of the International Green Building Conference. I hope those of you who have attended the conference over the past two days have found the sessions engaging and inspiring.

**A Decade of Achievements**

3. This year we are celebrating a decade of achievements since the launch of the BCA Green Mark Scheme in 2005.

4. Ten years ago, when the BCA Green Mark was launched, we had modest aspirations. We intended for the scheme to shape a greener and more sustainable built environment within Singapore.

5. Ten years later, today, the BCA Green Mark has achieved beyond our expectations. Supported by the initiatives under the Green Building Masterplan, we have greened a total of 29 percent of Singapore's total gross floor area. As the BCA Green Mark was conceived in Singapore, it has universal application in countries within the tropical belt. More than 270 projects in 75 cities from 14 tropical and sub-tropical countries have used the BCA Green Mark scheme to evaluate their sustainability performance.

6. To celebrate this milestone, I am happy to present to you today the Green Mark tenth Anniversary Commemorative Book, titled "*Realising Singapore's Green Building Dream: Towards a Future-Ready Built Environment*". The book charts our journey in the last decade and celebrates Singapore's success in advancing the sustainability agenda in the built environment.

7. It includes a collection of 50 exemplary Green Mark buildings that demonstrate how our built environment has transformed in the last ten years. All of you will receive a copy later, but let me highlight three key achievements that are mentioned in the book.

8. Firstly, we have established a strong business case for existing buildings to undergo energy efficient retrofitting works. A recent study of 83 retrofitted Green Mark existing buildings showed an average 42 percent improvement in chiller plant efficiency, translating to energy savings of about 41 million Singapore dollars annually, enough to meet the energy needs of 35,000 4-room HDB flats for one year.

9. Secondly, Green Mark buildings have seen an average greenery replacement of more than two times the site area. As we embark on the next decade, the Green Mark scheme will continue to promote greenery and support Singapore's efforts to become a City in a Garden.

10. Thirdly, Green Mark has played a key role in propelling solar PV installations in Singapore. As at 2014, solar PV systems designed for and installed in Green Mark projects accounted for about half of Singapore's grid-connected installed capacity of around 15 Mega Watt Peak.

11. These achievements would not have been possible without strong and committed leadership in sustainability both within Singapore and beyond our shores.

### **Local Leadership**

12. Locally, both the public and private sector have demonstrated leadership in spurring the green building movement.

13. The public sector has been leading by example. Since 2009, all new public sector buildings with more than 5,000 square metres of air-conditioned floor area must attain the Green Mark Platinum rating. Earlier this year, the public sector pledged that only venues with Green Mark Certified rating would be considered for its events.

14. BCA also championed the green building movement through research and development, and incentives to encourage greater adoption of green buildings under the Green Building Masterplans. Of course, legislation also helps.

15. Since the inception of Green Mark, the industry heeded our call and showed continued commitment to Singapore's sustainability goals. As a pioneer in Singapore's green building movement, City Developments Limited developed City Square Mall as the first Green Mark Platinum new shopping mall in 2007. Their leadership served as a rallying call to other members of the industry to green their buildings.

16. Indeed, the efforts of our private sector partners have not gone unnoticed. Singapore-based companies are also being acknowledged globally for their sustainability leadership. Three Singapore real estate developers, Keppel Land, City Developments Limited and CapitaLand, all of them Green Mark Champions, have been lauded as the top 100 most sustainable companies at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

## **Global Leadership**

17. On the international front, BCA actively shares Singapore's experience on green buildings with other countries in the region through our Centre for Sustainable Buildings. The Centre is a collaboration between BCA and the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP). With all these efforts and activities to promote the green building movement beyond Singapore, in 2013 BCA became the first country outside of America and Europe to receive the prestigious International Star for Energy Efficiency award, conferred by the Alliance to Save Energy, a US-based coalition, for achievements and commitment to green buildings.

18. Our home grown brands also made their mark overseas. Jurong Consultants Private Limited participated in the design and construction of the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City Low Carbon Living Lab. The lab, which started operations in 2014, became the first ever Green Mark Platinum project in China and showcased the benefits of sustainable design to our friends in the region.

## **Future Leadership**

19. We have done well, but we can do more. The future prospects of many cities, including ours, will depend on how public and private sector leaders respond to serious challenges, like climate change.

20. With BCA Green Mark 2015, we enter the next decade of our green building journey. The new Green Mark 2015 was developed jointly with industry with 12 Specialist Taskforces co-chaired by industry experts and BCA Directors, involving more than 100 industry stakeholders. With practical inputs from the industry, the new scheme will play a more prominent role in driving sustainability outcomes to address the effects of climate change. One of the key changes is that Green Mark 2015 recognises the leadership required to develop sustainable buildings, by rewarding the collective design approach and decision from the start, through to the detailed design stages of a project.

21. For this to happen, as leaders of the building industry, you must continue to have the conviction of the economic and social benefits of green buildings. Buildings that are built sustainably may cost more at the onset, but will have greater lifetime asset values, and lower energy and operating costs. Green buildings also have better indoor environmental quality, a trait much appreciated by occupants.

22. We have reached a point where we all agree that going green makes sense. What more should we do to benefit all across our value chain? To have wider impact and reap greater benefits, our leading industry players must continue to demonstrate leadership and help all other stakeholders down the value chain to actively go green. For instance, developers can lead the way by implementing green occupancy plans and encouraging green leases. Such initiatives will spur the entire value chain of suppliers, contractors and tenants to do their part for environmental sustainability.

### **Conclusion**

23. Let me conclude by thanking all of you for your partnership and support in the past decade of Green Mark. We now have a solid base to venture further into the future. Together, we can lead the way forward for a greener built environment.

Thank you and have a great day ahead.