

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY BCA CHAIRMAN MR QUEK SEE TIAT AT THE JOINT OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE, BEX ASIA AND MCE ASIA 2015 ON WEDNESDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2015, 8.50AM AT MARINA BAY SANDS EXPO & CONVENTION CENTRE**

1 Good morning and welcome to the Singapore Green Building Week 2015.

**Introduction**

2 To our overseas friends from all over the world, a very warm welcome to Singapore. It is also my pleasure to welcome our esteemed delegates and speakers to the joint opening of the International Green Building Conference (IGBC), Build Eco Expo Asia (BEX Asia) and Mostra Convegno Expocomfort Asia (MCE Asia).

3 I believe all these events represent excellent platforms for knowledge acquisition, sharing and collaboration. For buildings to be truly sustainable throughout their life cycles, there is a vital need for all stakeholders to work together, to come up with dynamic and integrated solutions. Policy makers, researchers, building developers, designers, operators and building tenants; we are all responsible. Let me first share the progress of Singapore's green leadership in the built environment, especially for our foreign delegates who may not be too familiar with our city's development.

**A Decade of Green Leadership in the Built Environment**

4 2015 marks a full decade of sustainability efforts in the built environment since we launched the BCA Green Mark scheme. To date, we have more than 2,500 green building projects in Singapore; that is almost 29% of the nation's buildings stock. We are also seeing a growing number of Green Mark certifications for non-building developments too. So far, more than 150 tenants have been certified under the various Green Mark occupant-centric schemes.

5 In line with BCA's third Green Building Masterplan which focuses on engaging tenants and end-users of buildings, BCA introduced schemes such as the Green Mark Pearl Award and Green Mark Portfolio Programme, to spread the green building movement message beyond the building industry.

**Celebrating the Industry's Leaders**

6 Over the years, the industry has been blessed with inspiring leaders contributing immensely to the green building movement. To celebrate their commitments, I am pleased that we will be presenting special awards to four outstanding professionals at today's ceremony. The special awards are – the "Green Visionary Award" and the "Lifetime Achievement Award".

7 We will also confer the biennial BCA-SGBC Green Building Individual Awards (GBIA) to 10 passionate individuals for their dedication and conviction in pursuing environmental sustainability.

### **Efforts on International Front**

8 On the international front, BCA's efforts have been recognised through accolades such as the International Star of Energy Efficiency Award in 2013. BCA has also been working closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to support the development of green building policies in the South East Asia region. Separately, more than 270 building developments in 75 cities from 14 countries have applied for the BCA Green Mark certification to date.

9 For the IGBC this year, we are honoured to have also partnered with the respective Green Building Councils of Australia, China, India and Indonesia. Together, with the active participation of the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC), we have enhanced the regional focus of the conference programme.

### **Overview of the SGBW Programme**

10 Let me now give a brief highlight of the programme lined up for the next few days. This year's Singapore Green Building Week consists of 24 events, where we expect to see over 30,000 participants from more than 55 countries. For the IGBC, BEX Asia and MCE Asia, we are excited to host more than 12,000 delegates within the next three days.

11 At the IGBC, we can look forward to a comprehensive suite of seminars, covering topics such as global trends and case studies, smart and sustainable cities, and latest cutting edge research.

12 For specialists and practitioners, a series of workshops and tech talks in the next two days will provide insights on areas such as green facades, climatic responsive design and smart technologies. On Friday, we can also look forward to the touring of developments which are certified Green Mark Platinum.

13 For building tenants and end-users, we will be running a tenant workshop on Friday, and we will have the opportunity to understand the importance of a sustainable workplace, where we will learn how to green our workplace.

14 We have programmes lined up for our younger generation too. For example, today we have tertiary students participating in the "Build Green: Student Edition", where they will learn about sustainability, and broaden their interest in the built environment through a game similar to the popular Korean reality game show, "Running Man". In addition, the inaugural "Building Energy Efficiency Solutions Students

Competition” will see local tertiary students challenge each other in formulating innovative energy efficient building solutions.

## **Conclusion**

15 Finally, I am pleased to see so many of us here taking on the “no coat no tie” attire today at this Green Mark Platinum venue. To further walk the talk, I am happy to share that we will specially be planting 50 trees on Friday, as our gesture to offset the carbon footprint of this week’s event.

16 In conclusion, I would like to thank our strategic partners the SGBC and Reed Exhibitions for the continued partnerships in making the SGBW a success every year. We expect this Week’s activities to be exciting opportunities for us to learn, share and network. I wish all of you a fruitful and enriching time participating in the various programmes. Once again, to our overseas delegates, I wish you a wonderful stay in Singapore.

Thank you.