

**SPEECH BY MR QUEK SEE TIAT, CHAIRMAN OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY, AT THE SINGAPORE GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL'S (SGBC) 6TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER, HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2015, 7PM AT THE MARINA BAY SANDS**

Mr Chia Ngiang Hong  
President, Singapore Green Building Council

Friends from the built environment industry

Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1 A very good evening to all of you. I am glad to be here tonight to celebrate the Singapore Green Building Council's 6th anniversary.

2 I am sure most of you here this evening will be familiar with what I am about to say. I am also sure that I would be preaching to the converted. Please bear with me as the messages are worth repeating.

The Worldwide Green Building Movement

3 Over the last decade or so, the green building movement has gained much traction, both internationally and locally.

4 According to the Global Green Building Market Outlook 2020 published by Research and Markets in February this year, the worldwide green building market is set to grow at a compound annual growth rate of about 13 percent from 2015 to 2020<sup>1</sup>. This growth can be partly linked to increasing awareness of the implications of climate change, as well as the knowledge that green building can lead to a lower level of greenhouse gas emissions. The report lists USA as the biggest market, but developing economies in the Asia-Pacific region are also demonstrating significant growth.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/3092322/global-green-building-market-outlook-2020#pos-0>

5 Green buildings can also contribute directly to human health and productivity, according to the Health, Wellbeing & Productivity in Offices study conducted by the World Green Building Council in 2014<sup>2</sup>. For example, better indoor air quality can lead to productivity improvements of 8 to 11 percent.

6 In other words, if a building is healthy and conducive for work, employees will be less prone to absenteeism and be more productive. This productivity gain cascades along the entire value chain. Companies will see higher productivity, better quality work as well as an overall improvement in their businesses. Completing the cycle, this leads to a demand for greener buildings, eventually contributing to a greener built environment for everyone to live, work and play in.

#### Green Building in Singapore

7 On the home front, Singapore is making inroads of its own. With the vision to become the world's first Smart Nation, a country powered by technology to improve lives and businesses, the "Build Green, Live Smart" theme of this year's International Green Building Conference could not be more apt.

8 Green building and smart technology can work hand-in-hand to improve the basic construct, using a wide range of advanced devices to bring out the potential of green building features. Smart technology can also help consumers to be more environmentally-conscious as they can monitor their own water and electricity usage and take the appropriate measures to lower their own environmental footprint.

9 The BCA Green Mark scheme is into its 10<sup>th</sup> year, a monumental milestone by any measure. From 17 green building projects in 2005, the figure grew to more than 2,500 buildings certified to Green Mark standards in Singapore.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.worldgbc.org/activities/health-wellbeing-productivity-offices/>

10 To drive for more sustainable buildings, BCA has worked with SGBC and other partners in 12 BCA-Industry Taskforces, involving more than 100 experts, to formulate an enhanced framework to encourage and recognise a more holistic approach in the use of green construction materials in the newly launched Green Mark 2015. This ranges from the use of environmentally-friendly materials in concreting works to the selection of equipment and M&E systems that are not only resource or energy efficient, but manufactured through eco-friendly processes.

11 Although we still have much to do to achieve our national target of greening 80% of our building stock by 2030, I am confident that we will get there. Of course, we will need firm commitment and close collaboration, especially from industry-oriented organisations like SGBC.

#### Towards a Greener Built Environment

12 Since its inception in 2009, SGBC has been leading the private sector's progress in the local green building movement. As a member of the World Green Building Council, SGBC is able to tap on the key strengths and capabilities of its more established counterparts, building on their successes and gleaning lessons to fortify its own abilities.

13 Walking the talk, SGBC had its office premises certified Green Mark Platinum for Office Interior this year. Furthermore, the office fit-out was done with many materials and products certified by the Singapore Green Building Product labelling scheme, the core mandate of SGBC. From the mirror glass in the waiting area to the laminates on the table tops, the SGBC Office at King's Centre – itself also a Green Mark Platinum-certified building – is brimming with SGBP certified products generously contributed by member companies. In addition to the support from SGBC, we are seeing more companies aiming to provide a healthier and more comfortable working environment for their staff, through their voluntary adoption of our Green Mark Office Interior scheme as well as other occupant centric schemes. To date, there are over 150 Green Mark-certified premises.

## Green Building Products: Building blocks to better buildings

14 As one of the key activities undertaken by SGBC, the SGBP labelling scheme remains a robust assessment programme dedicated to evaluating green building materials.

15 Since 2010, the labelling scheme has assessed and included more than 700 green building products into its catalogue. It aids developers, building owners, consultants and other building practitioners in identifying, selecting and eventually specifying these green building products for use in building projects. The more green building materials are used in a building, the better the environmental performance.

16 The labelling scheme makes it easier for building practitioners to gain access to green building products, to learn more about its sustainable properties and also to incorporate these materials into our buildings and structures. As the green building movement gains further traction, the demand for green buildings – and by extension green building materials – will increase.

17 In addition to the Product labelling scheme, SGBC has a Green Services Certification scheme, which is the first of its kind in Singapore. The scheme recognises committed building consultants who have a strong track record in green building project delivery. The scheme currently covers architectural, mechanical & electrical, environmental sustainability design, quantity surveying and energy performance contracting services. It is a good testament of the consultants' credentials in green building and useful for overseas projects. On the local front, the Green Mark 2015 will also give more recognition to green services used in building projects.

## Conclusion

18 I am also pleased to note that from a founding membership base of 129 companies, SGBC now has more than 450 corporate members, encompassing every facet of the construction value chain. Having a diverse mix of members allows SGBC to better keep its fingers on the pulse of the industry and deliver targeted and relevant programmes, such as the Singapore Green Building Product labelling scheme. Programmes that best address the issues.

19 In conclusion, I would like to make one final plea. As we gather this evening to celebrate SGBC's 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I call upon all of you to play an active role in bringing us closer to our national target to 'green' at least 80% of our building stock by 2030, with greener, smarter and healthier buildings. We must continue to work closely together to advance the green building movement both locally and on the international front.

Thank you and have a great evening ahead.