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**WELCOME SPEECH BY BCA CHAIRMAN MR QUEK SEE
TIAT AT BCA AWARDS 2015 AT RESORTS WORLD
SENTOSA ON 14 MAY 2015, THURSDAY, 7.10PM**

Mr Khaw Boon Wan
Minister for National Development

Dr John Keung
CEO, BCA

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Introduction

1. Good evening, and a warm welcome to all 2,500 of you here. This is the biggest BCA Award ceremony we have had so far.

2. This is also a special year for all of us as we celebrate SG50 and the industry's **contributions** and achievements in the built environment.

3. It is because of your partnership and support that BCA has been able to accomplish much in championing the key areas of our built environment in our short history of 16 years. We have been able to raise the overall standards of the industry. Let me elaborate with examples in five key areas.

4. First, on safety. On 1 April 2015, the Eurocode came into full effect as Singapore's building codes for structural design. This major transition in our building code was the result of more than 6 years of hard work and extensive consultation with the industry at every level. It would ensure that our codes and regulations are aligned to international standards and continue to be relevant. I wish to put on record BCA's appreciation of the collaborative effort and strong support by industry professionals and experts to make this happen.

5. Second, on construction quality, firms that have relied on the CONQUAS and Quality Mark developed by BCA, to benchmark and improve the quality of their construction projects, have established a good track record of high quality projects for themselves.

6. To raise the standards further, we have added a new criterion in the Quality Excellence Award. From this year, we have taken into consideration the effectiveness of the customer management system, or how our Quality Champions had addressed homeowners' feedback on workmanship quality. Since the launch of the Quality Excellence Award, we have seen a 50% increase in participation from the industry, which is proof of your determination to deliver better quality homes and buildings.

7. Third, on sustainability, the BCA Green Mark scheme and the Green Building Masterplans have led our industry firms to develop strong capabilities and expertise in green buildings.

As a result, some of our built environment firms are widely sought after in the region. However, we must not, and are not resting on our laurels.

8. In collaboration with our industry professionals, we went through extensive reviews and discussions to further develop new Green Mark schemes that target at building occupants. They contribute as much as 50% of a building's electrical consumption. A good example is the new BCA Green Mark Pearl Award, which we are presenting today. The Award recognises the strong commitment of developers, building owners, landlords and tenants, working in tandem to achieve greater environmental sustainability.

9. Over the next few years, BCA will also be reviewing the suite of Green Mark schemes. We have just started on the review of the Green Mark scheme for new non-residential buildings.

It aims to better recognise the importance of our built environment and the leadership required to significantly reduce our collective impact on the environment. During the review and development process, we have formed specialist taskforces involving more than a hundred industry members.

10. Moving on to the fourth key area, BCA recognises the need for a friendlier built environment for an inclusive society. We had formed a committee, comprising private and public sector and many voluntary welfare organisations, to review the Code on Accessibility for the Built Environment several years ago. The new design requirements became effective from 1 April 2014. It will benefit families with young children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

11. Lastly on productivity, BCA formulated the second Construction Productivity Roadmap in collaboration with hundreds of our industry leaders and through extensive consultation with the industry.

Earlier this year, as part of this second Roadmap, the Government has committed \$450 million in addition to the earlier \$335 million to help drive productivity in the sector. The additional funding will help firms make bigger investments on productive technologies that can impact and improve the quality of its workforce. It is expected to benefit about 7,000 firms from the built environment sector. Such major efforts in making plans and implementing strategies to transform the way we build and drive up productivity would not have been possible without the strong support of the industry.

12. As a key component of our productivity drive, we are also recognising the contributions of outstanding firms in stepping up their BIM efforts at organisational levels to improve their work processes. The inaugural BCA BIM Awards for firms will also be presented today.

13. Indeed, the BCA Awards has grown in size and stature over the years.

This is in part a result of the growing sophistication of the built environment sector and also the higher standards that all of you have aspired to and managed to attain.

14. I must also emphasise that the BCA Awards is also an industry-led award as the assessment committees are helmed by industry leaders, and comprise senior practitioners both from the private and public sectors, the academia as well as some NGOs. I thank all the assessment committees for your commitment and time in judging the awards, and recognising your peers who have done well in their respective fields. I congratulate all the winners for your achievements.

Conclusion

15. In conclusion, to ensure that Singapore keeps up and continues to be one of the leading cities in the world, we must turn from spectators into participants.

We must continue to work closely together to help influence and change the way we build a future ready built environment for Singapore and let SG100 be a testament to our work today!

Thank you and have a great evening ahead.

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