

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR JOHN KEUNG, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY, AT THE BCA-REDAS BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PROPERTY PROSPECTS SEMINAR 2016 ON FRIDAY 15 JAN 2016 9.30AM, AT ORCHARD HOTEL LEVEL 3 GRAND BALLROOM**

Mr Desmond Lee

Senior Minister of State for Home Affairs and National Development

Mr Quek See Tiat

Chairman, Building and Construction Authority

Mr Augustine Tan

President, Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

**Introduction**

1. Good morning, and a happy new year to everyone!

Welcome to the BCA-REDAS Built Environment and Property

Prospects Seminar 2016. I hope you have had a spirited start

to the new year!

2. Traditionally, this seminar has been ushering in the new year for the built environment sector. It is an excellent occasion for all of us to take stock of progress last year, and get a glimpse of prospects for this year and beyond.

### **Celebrating a decade of sustainability**

3. 2015 marks a full decade of sustainability efforts by the built environment sector, ever since we first launched the BCA Green Mark scheme in 2005. We commemorated this milestone with a special limited edition Green Mark 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, titled “*Realising Singapore’s Green Building Dream: Towards a Future-Ready Built Environment*”, at the 2015 Singapore Green Building Week. I must say, this dream, is well on its way to becoming a reality. Today, we have greened about 30 per cent of our buildings in terms of gross floor area, making Singapore one of the greenest cities globally.

4. Although the industry is now more convinced of the business case in green buildings, we can certainly do more to get everyone on board to meet the target of greening at least 80 per cent of all our buildings by 2030.

5. Besides developers, building owners and other industry professionals, we also need to get the tenants and users of buildings to go green. Why is this important? Based on BCA's benchmarking studies in the last two years, tenants and occupants use up to 50 per cent of the total energy in commercial buildings. There is definitely a strong case for building users, people like you and me, to do our part for sustainable development.

6. To this end, we have already introduced a number of key initiatives as part of the 3rd Green Building Masterplan, to get tenants to do more.

Firstly, we have been promoting the adoption of green leases to building owners and tenants.

Secondly, we have also launched occupant-centric Green Mark schemes, such as for Office Interiors, Restaurants, Retail and Supermarkets.

Thirdly, BCA rolled out a new Green Mark Portfolio Programme, to help tenants defray the cost of certification, by simplifying the Green Mark certification process for multiple applications.

On top of these, we also launched the new Green Mark Pearl Award last year, to recognise strong commitment of buildings owners and tenants working in tandem to achieve greater environmental sustainability.

Indeed, these are progressive steps towards shifting the mindset of end-users, and eventually influencing all to do their part for environmental sustainability. Going forward, we need to give this a bigger push as changing behaviour is much harder to achieve.

## **Replicating success in our productivity drive**

7. By the same token, I see a similar case in point in our drive for productivity improvement. While we have made some modest progress under our Construction Productivity Roadmap with site productivity improving at 1.4 per cent per annum from 2010 to 2014, we still have a long way to go to meet our targets of productivity improvement of 2 to 3 per cent per year from now on.

8. Besides greater use of advanced construction technologies and upgrading of our workforce, we also need to focus on the development of a productivity mind-set. Last year, about 2500 PMETs went through productivity-related process training at the BCA Academy. These short courses and the longer programmes at Specialist Diploma, Bachelor and Master's degree levels will help them to think productivity in their work processes, to cut down wastage and manpower needed for the work overall.

9. To drive home the critical importance of mind-set change, from this year onwards, BCA Academy will be organising many more productivity-related courses for our industry stakeholders, focusing on Design for Manufacturing & Assembly, Virtual Design & Construction, and Lean Construction.

## **Conclusion**

10. So much for a quick update. I would now like to put on record our thanks to our long-time co-organiser, REDAS, for holding this annual seminar with us since 1990. It has been 26 years of partnership!

11. I look forward to many years of continued support and partnership from all of you, to make safety, quality, sustainability, friendly and productivity a way of life in our built environment sector. I wish everyone great success for the new year and a fruitful day ahead!

Thank you very much.