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WELCOME ADDRESS BY BCA CHAIRMAN MR LEE FOOK SUN AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BCA SKYLAB AND THE ACADEMIC TOWER ON WEDNESDAY 20 JULY 2016, 9.30AM AT THE ACADEMIC TOWER AUDITORIUM, BCA ACADEMY

Prime Minister

Mr Lee Hsien Loong

Mr Lawrence Wong

Minister for National Development

Dr John Keung

Chief Executive Officer, Building and Construction Authority

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1 Good morning. A warm welcome to the official opening of BCA SkyLab and Academic Tower. We are very honoured to have Prime Minister Lee here with us to officiate the opening ceremony.

Contribution in nation building

2 BCA started in 1946 as the Public Works Department, overseeing landmark national projects such as Changi Airport, Singapore General Hospital, the PIE and CTE expressways. Since the merger of PWD and the Construction Industry Development Board 17 years ago, BCA has also taken on additional roles to champion innovation and change in the construction industry.

3 Today, our buildings is a reflection of what we have achieved in the areas of high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment. BCA has pioneered several schemes that are highly regarded worldwide, many of which are first-of-its-kind in the world; for example the BCA Green Mark Scheme, the Construction Quality Assessment System or CONQUAS, and the Contractors Registration System.

Transforming the sector and the built environment

4 Let me also take the opportunity to highlight a few examples of how we have promoted and facilitated change in the way we build.

Improving productivity and changing the way we build

5 BCA launched the Construction Productivity Roadmap in 2010 and have secured more than \$700 million in funding to adopt technologies and ease the reliance on manual labour. Game-changing technologies such as DfMA (or Design for Manufacturing and Assembly), and Virtual Design & Construction, will power the industry ahead.

6 What we really want to achieve is to reduce our reliance on foreign workers, and do most of the work off-site so we can build faster with less impact to the surrounding environment; and change perceptions of what this sector is about, so that we can attract more young and talented people to join.

7 To meet the needs of people with mobility difficulties, BCA pushed for Universal Design ideas and principles in our built environment. BCA started promoting barrier-free accessibility in 1990 and universal design in 2007. A \$40-million Accessibility Fund has been set aside to help defray the cost of upgrading existing buildings. We

are encouraged to see that more buildings are becoming barrier-free and friendly for everyone, including the elderly and wheelchair users.

Mitigating the impact of climate change

8 In addressing the impact of climate change, the BCA Green Mark scheme was launched eleven years ago in 2005 when going green was not a priority for building owners. Through BCA's successive Green Building Masterplans, supported by very compelling business case studies, Singapore is now on track to achieve the target of greening 80 per cent of our buildings by 2030.

9 We have learned much together in this green building journey. We are also proud that our leaders from both the public and private sectors are being acknowledged by international bodies.

10 Last year, Dr John Keung, CEO of BCA became the first in Southeast Asia to receive the World Green Building Council Chairman's Award, which recognises outstanding leaders in the global sustainability movement. And just last month, our industry partner, Mr Tai Lee Siang, Honorary Advisor on the board of the Singapore Green Building Council, was appointed as Chair of the World Green Building Council.

11 Singapore has achieved international recognition for our effort to reduce carbon emission and mitigate climate change. Moving forward, we can do a lot more with new energy efficient technologies. That is why we are here today for the opening of the BCA SkyLab.

Conclusion

12 I would like to thank our industry partners for the continued support in changing the way we build. Let us continue to work together to deliver a future-ready built environment for Singapore. May I also wish all our guests an interesting and fruitful tour of the new facilities, and for our industry partners may I also wish you every success in the tests and experiments that your company may choose to conduct in this new Skylab.

Thank you.