

SPEECH BY MR LEE FOOK SUN, CHAIRMAN, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY AT BCA-INDUSTRY BUILT ENVIRONMENT SPONSORSHIP AWARD CEREMONY ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 2.30PM, BCA ACADEMY FUNCTION HALL

Parents,

Students,

Industry partners,

Ladies and gentlemen,

A very good afternoon to all.

Welcome to the 2016 BCA-Industry Built Environment Sponsorship Award Ceremony. Let me first congratulate this year's award recipients. I was told that there are 210 of you. Congratulations!

You have chosen to be in an industry that is going through exciting changes. In the 1960s to the 1980s, the construction industry was geared towards building quickly in order provide housing for a newly independent Singapore and to resettle those who were living in slums conditions. Today, the building process and industry have changed significantly with the adoption of new designs and technologies. We need young local talents like you, with the right skillset, passion and aptitude to lead and further transform this very important industry.

Transformation of the Built Environment Industry

Built environment professionals play a very important role in Singapore's development, and there are many career opportunities for you. This is especially so, given the steady pipeline of mega projects such as Jurong Lake District, Paya Lebar Airbase redevelopment, Changi Airport Terminal 5 and Southern Waterfront City.

We are living in an era of digital transformation and many of us are IT and tech-savvy. As future built environment professionals, you can support the industry in changing the way we build. The built environment is becoming more knowledge-based and design-intensive with the adoption of innovative technologies. Construction projects will be larger in scale and more sophisticated in complexity. And our priority will be on productivity, quality, accessibility and environmental sustainability.

Some of you might already be aware of advanced technologies and processes such as Building Information Modelling and Virtual Design and Construction. With these new techniques and technologies we can now construct a building virtually so that we can identify and resolve any potential problems in the design before we commence actual construction. This makes the whole construction process more efficient.

You will also play a part to accelerate our transformation towards Design for Manufacturing and Assembly otherwise known as DfMA. With new approach, construction will be more like manufacturing and assembly ... and it result in significant savings in manpower and construction time; along with other advantages like better quality and reduced noise and dust in the construction site and its surroundings.

One of our undergraduate sponsorship recipients, Eugene Koh, had a first-hand experience with such new technology. Eugene worked on the Brownstone executive condominium project during his internship. Brownstone EC is the world's largest and first-of-its-kind application of concrete PPVC for a large-scale private residential development. We are seeing more and more projects adopting advanced construction methods, and you will be the next generation of professionals to make this more prevalent in our industry.

Young talents like you will have many opportunities to shape our built environment. To mitigate climate change, we are building more with green building technologies. We are creating a friendlier and inclusive environment through Universal Design to cater for the diverse needs of people in our society. It will be a meaningful and rewarding career for young individuals like you as you innovate and create Singapore's future landscape for our community to live, work and play.

Enhanced Sponsorship Programmes to Provide More Upgrading Opportunities for Locals at All Levels

Singapore's building landscape has progressed significantly as we strive to create a living environment that is sustainable and enjoyable for everyone. BCA wants to give opportunities to our built environment workforce to upgrade themselves and has added part-time postgraduate study to our comprehensive suite of scholarship and sponsorship programmes

Today, we will be awarding the inaugural part-time postgraduate sponsorships to in-service personnel. Already, 10 firms have tapped on the programme to build up knowledge and capabilities of their employees.

Teoh Pei Ling is one of our postgraduate sponsorship recipients. A former undergraduate sponsorship recipient with ECAS Consultants, Pei Ling has completed her bond and is now a Design Engineer at ECAS Consultants. Recognising Pei Ling's potential for growth, ECAS Consultants partnered BCA to co-fund her part-time course for Master of Science in Civil Engineering at NTU.

To our industry partners, this is an example of how firms can tap on BCA's suite of manpower programmes to offer career progression pathways for your employees. This will allow aspiring employees to deepen their skills while they continue to gain valuable hands-on experience at the workplace.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this is the best time for companies to partner BCA to develop industry capabilities. It is also the best time for young talents like you to join us in this exciting journey of industry transformation.

Once again, congratulations to all our sponsorship recipients, and I wish that you have a rewarding and exciting career in the built environment sector.

Thank you.