

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DR JOHN KEUNG, CEO OF BCA
AT THE 2016 GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR MASTER OF
SCIENCE DEGREE IN FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
MANAGEMENT ON FRI, 8 JAN 2016, 4PM AT BCA
ACADEMY FUNCTION HALL**

Mr Quek See Tiat

Chairman, Building and Construction Authority

Professor Michael Pitt

Professor of Facility Management, University College London

Graduands

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon.

1. Let me first extend my heartiest congratulations to all graduands today. I am very happy to see that your family members and friends are present to celebrate this important milestone with you.

Collaboration with UCL

2. The Master of Science in Facility and Environment Management programme is jointly organised by the University College London, and the BCA Academy. It was introduced to groom our future leaders in Facilities Management (FM) and raise the competency of technical and management specialists in managing the operation, maintenance and retrofit of green buildings. Since its inception in 2010, we have an intake of five cohorts from which 69 outstanding individuals have graduated. This has helped propel the green building movement forward in Singapore, especially as we are focusing on greening the large stock of existing buildings in Singapore.

Our Green Journey – A Decade of Sustainability

3. Just last year, BCA commemorated a decade of green building efforts, with nearly 30 percent of Singapore's built gross floor area certified under our BCA Green Mark.

We are definitely on track to achieving the national target for 80% of all existing buildings in Singapore to be “greened” by 2030.

4. But how about actual performance of these green buildings? Our latest Building Energy Benchmarking Report released last September revealed that Green Mark-certified commercial buildings, for example, did perform much better than non-certified buildings. These are good indicators of our progress.

5. Nevertheless, we cannot rest on our laurels. The same benchmarking report also revealed that the electricity consumption of tenants in these buildings could make up half of the total consumption of the entire building. This further reaffirms our current emphasis on engaging tenants and end-users of buildings to go green as part of our Third Green Building Masterplan.

Importance of facility management in a smart nation

6. So what should we do as facility managers? I must say – a lot has to be done. Indeed, as leaders in the facilities management industry like you, you can and will play a key role in ensuring buildings operate efficiently during the post-occupancy stage.

Capitalisation of BIM on facility management

7. To lead the charge in this direction, our facility managers need to embrace new technologies such as the 3D Building Information Modelling, or BIM. BIM is now already widely used in building design and construction. With building data readily available in BIM, facilities managers can capitalise on such data to optimise the operation of the building systems.

8. We, in BCA, are here to help you to lead the charge.

Last month, BCA launched a new training facility equipped with virtual reality technology in the Centre for Lean and Virtual Construction at the BCA Academy. It helps the built environment professionals to visualise and walk through their building design virtually before construction starts. Likewise, FM professionals can also use the same set of data and information to see for yourself in 3D what you could do to better manage the building. On top of that, the BCA Academy, in partnership with Stanford University, is offering a suite of training programmes at various levels from the CEOs to the middle technical managers to equip our industry leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills in the area of virtual design and construction.

9. To walk the talk, the BCA Academy itself has recently embarked on a BIM-based energy and facility management pilot project. Gearing up to be a smart campus, the Academy is installed with smart sensors to collect and monitor data, and use the data to calibrate and optimise building systems.

10. To further such efforts in the sector, BCA together with buildingSmart Singapore Chapter is working on a BIM Facilities Management guide, drawing lessons learnt from the pilot project at BCA Academy, amongst others. When launched, I hope this guide will help FM professionals leverage on BIM to better operate, manage and maintain green buildings across the island.

Research and Development

11. While we develop the competency of our green collar professionals, BCA is also ramping up its research and development efforts to push the envelope in driving innovation of green building technologies. You might have seen the news in recent years – we have collaborated with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California to launch the BCA SkyLab later this year.

12. The BCA SkyLab will be the World's First High-rise Rotatable Laboratory for the Tropics as a test-bed for technologies at any orientation to the sun and wind. Together with our existing Zero Energy Building, the BCA SkyLab will further accelerate the pace of research, development and application of energy-efficient building technologies, towards achieving "low-energy high-rise" buildings and "zero-energy low-rise" buildings.

13. Indeed, with these initiatives, it is our commitment to drive Singapore's green building movement to new heights, and I trust that all of you here are as eager as we are, to be part of this exciting journey.

Concluding remarks

14. On this note, I would like to thank all staff and members of UCL for the support over the past years.

I would also like to thank IFMA – the International Facility Management Association – Singapore Chapter for sponsoring the top prize awards to our top graduands today.

15. Finally, to all our graduands, the Master's degree today marks another milestone in your life-long learning journey. I am sure every one of you will be our future FM leaders contributing to Singapore's sustainable development efforts. Let me once again congratulate you on your graduation. I wish you the very best in your careers!

Thank you.

Thurs, 7 Jan 16