

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR LEE FOOK SUN, CHAIRMAN
OF BCA, AT THE BCA ACADEMY GRADUATION
CEREMONY (SESSION 1) FOR DIPLOMA GRADUANDS ON
MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2017**

Mr Hugh Lim
CEO, BCA

Er William Tan
Managing Director, BCA Academy

Distinguished Guests

Graduands and Parents

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. A very good afternoon to all of you. Let me begin by congratulating all 366 of our BCA Academy diploma graduands. Your hard work has paid off and you have done yourself and your family proud.
2. The next step is going to be a major turning point in your life – with plenty of opportunities awaiting and important decisions to make.

3. In the recent Graduate Employment survey conducted by BCA Academy, 75% of the Academy's Diploma graduates secured full time jobs within six months after graduation. This is a strong indication of the value you can bring to the built environment sector and to the Singapore economy.

Construction ITM brings greater opportunities

4. You would have heard about the Construction Industry Transformation Map otherwise known as ITM that was launched last month. The ITM is designed to develop an advanced and integrated sector with widespread adoption of advanced technologies, led by progressive and collaborative firms who are well-poised to capture new business opportunities. The ITM will need to be supported by a skilled and competent workforce, people like you guys. When it is implemented, we will be an industry that can offer good jobs for Singaporeans because built environment firms are going to be on the lookout for professionals equipped with relevant knowledge and skills in

Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA), Integrated Digital Delivery (IDD) and green buildings. In BCA, we are targeting to have about 80,000 trained personnel in these areas by 2025.

5. The transformation of the built environment sector is already taking place as we speak today.

a. Singapore's third Integrated Construction and Prefabrication Hub, otherwise known as ICPH, was launched earlier this year and we will be seeing more of these facilities, in fact, we are planning to have 10 of them by 2020. These ICPHs enable most of the construction work to be done offsite, not in the construction site, in a controlled safe and very conducive, almost aircon-like indoor environment. Building components such as walls, slabs are being produced in a "factory manufacturing" setting, incorporating the use of digital tools such as BIM, otherwise known as Building Information Modelling, to automate the processes of the ICPHs.

b. A few weeks ago, it was also announced that some of our newly launched public housing developments will be adopting the DfMA approach, with the use of PPVC, Prefabricated Pre-finished Volumetric Construction.

c. Firms have also started to adopt info-comm technologies (ICTs) and smart technologies in their construction work process, such as radio frequency identification tagging (RFID) and data analytics to track and automate their processes. There is also a greater emphasis in delivering quality building standards and now even flying drones, we call them UAVs, are being developed that could assist in quality checks of newly constructed buildings, especially the high rise ones.

d. We are also seeing a greater demand for green buildings locally and overseas, given the heightened global attention on the issue of climate change.

New courses aligned with Construction ITM

6. To prepare the next generation workforce for the future construction industry, BCA Academy offers a whole suite of pre-employment (PET) as well as continuing education and training (CET) programmes that covers the core engineering skills in the construction ITM's transformation areas.

7. Today, we have with us the pioneer batch of graduands from the Diploma in Architecture (Technology). Launched in 2015, this course has a strong focus on BIM - a skill that is increasingly being sought after as the sector adopts more digital technologies. I see a great future ahead for these students, including those of you who took up the accelerated diploma option and completed this challenging three-year programme in just two years! Well done!

8. Several of our graduands here today were also among the first to take the Inter-Disciplinary Virtual Design and Construction Project (IVDCP) for final year students. Under this programme, students had to collaborate with others across various disciplines,

using BIM tools and VDC principles. I believe you will be able to apply what you have learned in this process as the sector moves towards greater collaboration in complex building projects that we will all have to undertake as Singapore progresses.

9. For those planning to further upgrade your skills in the new construction methods, I am glad to share that the BCA Academy offers specialist diploma courses in areas like DfMA, VDC and Lean Construction. The first batch of students in these new courses will be having their graduation ceremony in the later session.

Outstanding Students

10. At this point, I would like to take the opportunity to give special mention to some of our very outstanding students in this year's cohort.

11. The recipient of the Chairman Award this year is Ms Neeky Tan Hui Ying from the course in Diploma in Quantity Surveying. Neeky actually has a business degree in marketing but she

decided to make a career switch to join the Built Environment sector after learning about the career opportunities from her father and uncle. She was determined to excel in her new career path, she left her job to study full time in the BCA Academy. She also demonstrated very commendable qualities in and outside of school – taking up the responsibilities as a class representative and participating in charity work during her free time at the Dog Adoption Drives and blood donation drives. Her determination saw her achieving very excellent results with a perfect score of 4.0 for her Cumulative Grade Point Average and it is commendable that she took the initiative to apply for a part-time position at East Asia Engineering & Construction Pte Ltd to better understand the industry work processes, even when she was studying. Well done, Neeky.

12. Another special mention goes to Ms Lee Jia Ying Joanne, who is also this year cohort's valedictorian. Joanne is among the pioneer graduating batch of students from the Diploma in Architecture (Technology) programme. Her strong passion in Architecture has been demonstrated through her consistently

stellar performance during her studies. She was awarded the BCA scholarship during her studies with ITE and will be joining MOH Holdings' new BIM Department upon graduation from BCAA. She hopes to create a greener, healthier and a more sustainable environment for our future generations.

Conclusion

13. In conclusion, I would like to say let us put our hands together to congratulate these very outstanding students and everyone who is graduating today. The future ahead is an exciting one, with many new developments that we can look forward to. I am certain that you will be able to make significant contributions to the built environment sector, with the knowledge and skills that you have attained from the courses that you undertook. Congratulations once again and I wish all of you all the very best in your future endeavours.

Thank you.