

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR NORMAN IP, DEPUTY  
CHAIRMAN OF BCA, AT THE BCA ACADEMY  
GRADUATION CEREMONY (SESSION 2) FOR SPECIALIST  
DIPLOMA GRADUANDS ON MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2017**

Dr John Keung  
Dean, BCA

Er William Tan  
Managing Director, BCA Academy

Distinguished Guests

Graduands and Parents

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good evening to all. I am happy to join you today for the BCA Academy Specialist Diploma graduation ceremony.
2. Today, we celebrate the graduation of 747 graduands from BCA Academy's 11 Specialist Diploma programmes. Before I begin, let's give our graduands here a round of applause for their achievement.

They have been working hard in the day and taking classes at night. It is no easy feat juggling both work and studies, as well as other commitments in life at the same time, but they all did it.

3. Such lifelong learning attitude is commendable as it allows us to adapt quickly to the ever-changing working environment, especially now with technology disruption occurring across many sectors. It is important that we possess an open mind-set and continue to upgrade our skills to stay relevant.

### **Transformation of the built environment sector**

4. You would have read and heard about the Construction Industry Transformation Map, ITM for short, that was launched by the tripartite partners last month at the Singapore Construction Productivity Week 2017. The vision is to develop an advanced and integrated sector with widespread adoption of advanced technologies, led by progressive and collaborative firms well-poised to capture business opportunities, and supported by a skilled and competent workforce offering good jobs for Singaporeans.

5. The ITM targets to have about 80,000 trained personnel in Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA), Integrated Digital Delivery (IDD), as well as green building capabilities by 2025. And the BCA Academy plays an important role in the transformation of our built environment workforce, by providing relevant training and education in key emerging technologies.

6. I note that a significant number of our graduands have taken the courses in construction productivity, building information modelling (BIM), and mechanical and electrical coordination. Whether it was self-initiated or company-driven, this goes to show that the built environment workforce is indeed getting ready for the future of construction.

7. In fact, the future is already here. You might have heard a couple of weeks ago more newly launched public housing developments will be adopting Prefabricated Pre-finished Volumetric Construction or PPVC. This is part of the efforts to drive up DfMA adoption in the sector to achieve higher productivity and better quality standards, as well as safer and more conducive work environment. We are also seeing more

firms adopting BIM to digitalise construction processes, as we aim to achieve seamless integration and collaboration among stakeholders in the building life cycle management. We also observed a greater demand for green buildings locally and overseas, especially with heightened global attention on the issue of climate change.

8. Hence, I am glad to see that we are having more professionals trained in these areas.

### **Transforming the industry workforce through Continuing Education and Training (CET)**

9. Today, we have with us the pioneer batch of graduands from three new Specialist Diploma programmes. These programmes focus on training industry professionals in knowledge and skills in the areas of DfMA, Lean Construction, and Virtual Design & Construction (VDC), which would enable practical application of relevant concepts and tools in their future projects.

This is possible because of in-depth hands-on training made available through the use of real case studies and training facilities like the Centre for Lean and Virtual Construction that allows participants to try out some of the latest digital visualisation tools.

10. Those of you who are looking to further upgrade your skills to keep up with the latest developments in the sector, the BCA Academy also continuously updates the list of courses it offers. For example, the Masters of International Construction Management with major in Construction Productivity and the Specialist Diploma in Underground Construction will both be introduced next year.

### **Outstanding Students**

11. Now, at this juncture, I would like to draw your attention to the outstanding graduands in our midst.

12. This year's valedictorian is Heng Wui Meng from the Specialist Diploma in Lean Construction programme.

Currently working as a Manager at Chiu Teng Construction Pte Ltd, Mr Heng is a certified CONQUAS Manager and has more than 23 years of experience as Project Manager in the Built Environment sector. He is a role model to others because he worked his way up to his current position through years of undaunted upgrading in knowledge and skills. He has been constantly attending courses in BCAA to keep himself updated with the latest regulations and the new technologies introduced into the industry. He demonstrated a strong ability to apply what he has learnt quickly in the Quality Assurance and Quality Control team in his company. The company was able to achieve high CONQUAS score for projects under his leadership. Now armed with knowledge from Specialist Diploma in Lean Construction, he is determined to implement lean principles in his projects, to achieve better productivity and bring his company to greater heights.

13. Another special mention goes to Mr Wu Jianhua from the Specialist Diploma in Virtual Design & Construction programme.

He is a Senior Design & Coordination Engineer and has more than 15 years' experience as main contractor and specialist contractor for residential and commercial projects. As one of the company leaders in project coordination works, Mr Wu is always exploring how to improve productivity further with latest BIM tools. This specialist diploma programme provided him insights into VDC methodologies which he looks forward to implement in his projects. His belief in lifelong learning and passion for his job are reasons why he has excelled in this programme, deserving of a Merit award.

14. Last but not least, I would like to share about Ms Julianita Binte Salleh from the Specialist Diploma in Architectural Technology programme. Ms Julianita started her career as a Technical Officer before becoming an architectural assistant. She gained experience in managing projects along the way through small-scale residential projects, as well as large dormitory and commercial projects.

However, she understands the importance of upgrading to stay relevant and competitive, and thus decided to take up this

programme. While it was a difficult period for her after losing one of her loved ones, Ms Julianita found strength to persevere on and excelled. Today, she will be receiving the Bronze award for her excellent academic performance.

## **Conclusion**

15. Let us put our hands together to congratulate these outstanding graduands and everyone who is graduating today. Continue to believe in yourselves and leverage the opportunities out there to seek self-improvement and development. I wish everyone the very best in your careers.

Thank you.