

WELCOME ADDRESS BY BCA CHAIRMAN, MR LEE FOOK SUN, AT BCA AWARDS 2018, AT RESORTS WORLD SENTOSA ON 22 MAY 2018, TUESDAY, 7.20PM

Mr Desmond Lee

Minister for Social and Family Development and 2nd Minister for National Development

Mr Zaqy Mohamad

Minister of State for National Development and Manpower

Mr Hugh Lim

CEO, BCA

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Introduction

1. Good evening and a very warm welcome to the annual BCA Awards Ceremony. We have 282 Awards to give out this evening and I look forward to celebrating the achievements of our sector with all of you tonight.

Amongst our winners are the Housing & Development Board (HDB) and City Developments Limited (CDL), who will be receiving the Built Environment Leadership (BEL) Platinum Star award. This is the pinnacle award under the BEL category.

CDL is the first private developer receiving this award, which is a testimony of the company's progressive nature as one of the pioneers in adopting PPVC for its project the Brownstone Executive Condominium. The award also recognises the organisations' efforts in capability building and for achieving excellence in the areas of safety, quality, sustainability, user-friendliness and productivity.

Congratulations to HDB and CDL for achieving this milestone.

Stronger partnerships and collaborations

2. Indeed, every year the awards give us an opportunity to honour the best and the finest in our industry. It shows what we can achieve together as a group and as an eco-system of enduring partnerships.

3. The built environment sector plays a vital role in improving the quality of life for Singaporeans and future generations to come. Ensuring a future-ready built environment requires a joint effort by both the Government and the industry. Close collaboration will be the way forward as we continue to take our work for the built environment to the next level.

4. You may already be aware that BCA has launched a new outfit called BuildSG, which will focus on meaningful collaborations and value-add to Government-Industry partnerships. We shall hear more about this from Minister Desmond Lee.

Embracing investment into innovation and R&D

5. To progress as a sector, we must not forget the value of continued innovation and investment into R&D and technological advancements. According to the latest National Survey of Research and Development in Singapore, only 3% of local SMEs investing in R&D are from the construction sector; compared to

30% from the manufacturing sector. On the level of investment, SMEs in the construction sector are spending less than 4% of their total revenue in R&D; whereas the SMEs from electronics and precision engineering typically invest more than 10% of their total revenue into R&D. I appreciate that many firms may face challenges in investment in these areas, especially in funding but BCA will partner and support you in this effort.

6. From this year, BCA will focus our funding support for R&D on the development and deployment of technology in the areas of Automation, Robotics, Advanced Materials, Digitalisation, and Green Buildings. We will be launching R&D grants for DfMA solutions under the \$150 million Cities of Tomorrow (CoT) Programme.

There are many advantages of using DfMA. It is obviously a more efficient and productive way to build. At the same time, it reduces a lot of on-site disamenities and most importantly it results in a higher quality product. We have yet to fully tap on the potential of DfMA and I strongly encourage companies to embrace this moving forward.

7. Another example I will highlight is in the area of Green Buildings. BCA plans to partner with industry stakeholders to launch an Innovation Challenge to develop and test-bed smart

building solutions to advance the agenda for Super Low Energy buildings. Moving forward, we are planning to place more support behind industry-led solutions, to empower companies to come up with innovative solutions to transform our sector.

Talent for the BE sector

8. Lastly, it is important to remember that the built environment is not just about structures and that it also involves many skilled and talented people at all levels. As part of our effort to build up talent in our industry, BCA has given out scholarships and sponsorships to 2700 students to enable them to pursue built environment courses in ITEs, polytechnics and Universities. I encourage you to tap on initiatives such as the BCA-Industry Built Environment scholarship and sponsorship programmes to attract young talent and groom them to become future leaders in the sector.

9. At the same, we continue to keep our training programmes and courses relevant at the BCA Academy. Last year, we graduated pioneer cohorts from four new courses that were specially designed to meet the needs of the Construction ITM. We are very excited as we look forward to prepare even more students for the evolving needs of our sector.

Conclusion

10. In closing, I would like to thank all members of the various assessment committees and industry partners for your time in judging all the awards. On behalf of BCA, I offer my congratulations to all Award recipients. Let us continue to work together to build a Singapore that we can be proud of for future generations. Thank you and have a great evening.

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