

Our Talents

BCA-Industry Built Environment
Scholarship Award Ceremony

**SMU-BCA Advanced
Management Programme** • p6-7

**Friendly Built Environment
Community Reach-out** • p8-9

Building and Construction  Authority

We shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment

**BCA-Industry Built
Environment Scholarships** • p3-4

3-4 • scholars now, professionals tomorrow 5 • it's cool to be green
6-7 • smu-bca advanced management programme 8-9 • friendly to the
heartlands 10 • value of green buildings 11 • use of recycled materials in
concrete 12 • safe slopes for property owners 13 • bca academy alumni
14 • understanding credit ratings 15 • revision of minimum buildability
scores/implementation of design guide on using structural steel to bc 1:2008

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The Editor, Pillars if you send by post or fax to the BCA address stated above. Alternatively, you can email to bca_enquiry@bca.gov.sg.

SCHOLARS NOW PROFESSIONALS TOMORROW



Twelve promising individuals have just become BCA-Industry Built Environment Scholars important first steps towards becoming industry professionals in the future.

The recipients received their scholarships from Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Parliamentary Secretary for National Development, at the award ceremony on 1 August. They will be pursuing their studies in various disciplines relevant to the built environment, ranging from civil, environmental and mechanical engineering to architecture, project and facilities management and real estate.

The scholarship scheme has seen a fivefold increase in the number of applications since 2006. From 15 applications in 2006, the number has swelled to 75 this year, signifying a strong interest in built environment careers amidst the current boom in the building and construction industry.

As Dr Maliki observed: "The construction sector is buzzing with activities. It is delivering projects of greater sophistication and higher quality. The industry will need to constantly upgrade and update itself on developments in two new areas of growth that have emerged – sustainable and accessible built environment."

In line with BCA's efforts to promote environmental sustainability, this year marks the first time that a scholarship for Environmental Engineering had been awarded. The successful recipient, Ms Lim Kah Huay, received the award from City Developments Limited, the inaugural winner of the BCA Green Mark Champion Award in 2008.

Also for the first time this year, CapitaLand, Frasers Centrepoint and Keppel Land collaborated with BCA to offer the scholarships. They join the fold of four established partners - City Developments, CPG Corporation, Meinhardt and Singapore Structural Steel Society. Moving forward, BCA will continue to collaborate with the industry to step up career promotion efforts as well as engage the scholars as career promotion ambassadors to attract more students to join the industry.

For the list of scholars, please refer to the next page

BCA-Industry Built Environment Scholars 2008



Our Talents

CapitaLand

1. Ms He Yun, pursuing Real Estate at NUS
2. Mr Htin Aung, pursuing Architecture at NUS
3. Ms Ng Wen Ying, pursuing Architecture at NUS

City Developments

4. Mr Leong Lee Kee, pursuing Mechanical Engineering at NUS
5. Ms Lim Kah Huay, pursuing Environmental Engineering at NUS

CPG Corporation

6. Ms Farah Binte Mohd Faudzi, pursuing Mechanical Engineering at NUS
7. Mr Tan Guo Chang, pursuing Civil Engineering at NUS

Frasers Centrepoint

8. Ms Ng San San, pursuing Civil Engineering at NTU

Keppel Land

9. Mr Tan Li Hong, pursuing Civil Engineering at NUS
10. Mr Tok Chuan Tiong, pursuing Project & Facilities Management at NUS

Meinhardt

11. Ms Ng Shek Lin, pursuing Mechanical Engineering at NTU

Singapore Structural Steel Society

12. Mr Zhang Kailong, pursuing Civil Engineering at NTU



It's Cool to be Green



More than 100 students from 14 secondary schools proved that they have the green spirit. They took up a challenge to design a rooftop garden and green walls to cool the facade of Yew Tee Community Club, as part of the **Green Building Competition, held in July 2008.**

BCA and the Yew Tee Community Club sponsored the school competition, themed **"Be Green & Stay Cool"** this year. The competition was organised by Ngee Ann Polytechnic and the People's Association.



At the competition, the 260 participating teams created physical models of Yew Tee Community Club, incorporating their designs for rooftop gardens and vertical walls. BCA was among the judges, to award points for originality, creativity, feasibility and attractiveness of the models. The team from Hillgrove Secondary School topped the competition, followed by Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary and Raffles Institution as first and second runners-up respectively.

To help participants understand some landscape and green wall design considerations, a workshop was earlier conducted by landscape and building specialists from BCA, Ngee Ann Polytechnic and other agencies.



Apart from taking part in the competition, the participants and their supporters also learnt more about BCA Green Mark homes at BCA's booth. As a result, many students said they would prefer to live in a BCA Green Mark home.

Would you like to live in a BCA Green Mark home?

"Yes, because I can help in saving energy and reducing air pollution. If everyone does so, I think we can save the earth from dying."
Gena, Ahmad Ibrahim Secondary School

"Yes. I want to live in a clean and healthy environment. I can also save energy and money."
Nabilah Noordin, Greenridge Secondary School



SMU-BCA Advanced Management Programme

Senior executives from the building and construction industry can now benefit from a new executive training programme designed to upgrade their leadership capabilities.

BCA and the Singapore Management University (SMU) launched the first construction-focused Advanced Management Programme in Singapore on 18 August. The programme is part of BCA's Built Environment Strategic Leadership Development initiative to develop strategic management capabilities to anchor and advance the industry.

The SMU-BCA Advanced Management Programme offers an industry-specific executive training programme for leaders in the building and construction industry, using actual case studies. Developed by the SMU Office of Executive Education and the BCA Academy, the programme provides a deeper understanding of the complex market and process-oriented issues that drive the building and construction industry.

Through the programme, senior management executives throughout the industry – including developers, consultants, builders, suppliers – can draw cross-discipline insights

for balanced and quality knowledge to participants. In general, the programme is specially tailored for CEOs, CFOs, directors and senior managers with substantial managerial experience in the industry.

The three-month long programme, which comprises nine modules, will be taught by a mix of SMU faculty and industry professionals at the SMU campus. The pilot run of the programme is scheduled for November 2008.

The Singapore Workforce Development Agency will be providing a 50% course fee subsidy to participants who meet the criteria. The course fee will be S\$8,150 after the subsidy (before GST) for each participant.

Please direct enquiries and applications to:

Jeannie Yeo
Tel: 6828 0375
Email: jeannieyeo@smu.edu.sg

Alternatively, please call **6248 9841**
or visit <http://www.bca.gov.sg/academy>



The Singapore Workforce Development Agency will be providing a 50% course fee subsidy to participants who meet the criteria. The course fee will be **S\$8,150** after the subsidy (before GST) for each participant.

PROGRAMME MODULES AT A GLANCE

Building the Foundation

- Strategic Planning & Business Growth
- Finance for Decision Making & Control
- Successful Project Management

Creating Sustainability

- Leadership, Succession & Talent Retention
- Strategic Brand Management
- Key Account Management & Business Development

Accelerating Growth

- Internationalisation & Media Strategies
- Risk Management, Legal Issues & Crisis Management
- Managing Professional Work Relationships & Cross Cultural Management

Learning Approach

- Focus on case studies and group work
- New construction-related caselets included
- No examination component

Programme Duration

- Three months
- Two training days per module:
total of 18 training days

Admission Criteria

- Senior management and leaders in the building and construction industry
- Management executives with at least five years of managerial experience

Course Fee

- S\$16,300 (before GST and before 50% Singapore Workforce Development Agency subsidy)

Target Start Date

- November 2008

BCA Community Outreach

FRIENDLY TO THE HEARTLANDS



The new 'Friendly Built Environment' exhibition, which made its debut at the National Library in June and July this year, is finding its way into Singapore's heartlands.

Over the last three months, the exhibition has made its rounds through several Town Council Offices, branch offices and community clubs, including Pasir Ris-Punggol Town Council Offices and Sengkang Community Club.

For the roving exhibitions, BCA produced a new series of posters to showcase its continuing efforts at ensuring a friendly built environment for all in a more comprehensive and easy-to-understand way. The series also catered for future additions, updates and removals of individual pieces of posters, without disrupting the overall information flow. In addition, a set of pull-up posters was also provided for smaller space displays and small group talks. This included a pull-up poster dedicated to BCA's mission statement, reflecting its care and concern for the public.

Apart from reaching out to the heartlands, BCA also organised a forum on 5 July at the National Library. About 40 participants were engaged in a lively discussion on 'Who is responsible for a friendly built environment - The government, building owners or you?'. For one and a half hours, the participants exchanged views and gave some good suggestions on how to make the built environment even friendlier. There was even a suggestion to set up a forum group to discuss accessibility issues online.



See you in Sembawang GRC!

The 'Friendly Built Environment' roving exhibition, featuring the new series of posters, will be in Sembawang GRC in the middle of October. Do look out for it!

A Friendly Built Environment

SUPPORTS AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Where the young, the old, and persons with varied degrees of abilities, can cooperate to enjoy living in familiar surroundings with their families and friends.

Building and Construction Authority

A Friendly Built Environment

PLAY YOUR PART

Building and Construction Authority

A Friendly Built Environment

UNIVERSAL DESIGN IN HDB FLATS

To provide homes that take care of the different needs of the residents.

Building and Construction Authority

VALUE OF GREEN BUILDINGS

BCA's joint event "Understanding the Value and Sustainability of Green Buildings" with Colliers International on 23 July gave participants a first-hand update on the green real estate movement in Singapore and Australia, including its commercial risks and opportunities.

The event opened with an urgent call for industry stakeholders to participate actively in accelerating the Singapore Green Building Movement to create a sustainable built environment.

BCA's CEO, Dr John Keung sounded the call at his opening speech when he pointed out that buildings are one of the key consumers of energy and generators of waste. His first business case study showed that while there was an upfront premium for Green Mark buildings, these upfront investments could be offset through savings from utilities, operations and maintenance within two to eight years.

The first part of the event ended with the launch of the **"re.Design- the green real estate guide"** published by Colliers International. The guide would assist industry players to understand the value of green buildings, key changes in buildings and real estate, as well as lessons learnt over the years. Most importantly, it suggests what can be done to make the green building movement a key agent of change in the industry and the real estate marketplace.

In the second part of the event, more than 300 participants packed the Chijmes Hall to hear BCA's latest business case findings on the green costs and business value of three of the latest Green Mark Platinum projects. These projects are 313@Somerset by Lend Lease Retail Investments 1, No. 9 Tampines Grande by City Developments and Goodwood Residence by GuocoLand.

The presentations showed that the green premium of Green Mark commercial buildings of 0.7 to 4% of construction cost had a payback period of three to six years. The green premium of Green Mark residential buildings of 1.2 to 3.1% had a payback period of two to six years.

To obtain a copy of the "re.Design- the green real estate guide", please contact Colliers International at:

Marketing & Communications

Colliers International, 50 Raffles Place, #18-01 Singapore Land Tower

Singapore 048623

Tel: 6223 2323



USE OF

RECYCLED MATERIALS IN CONCRETE



BCA held a half-day seminar, 'Achieving Sustainability Through the Use of Recycled/Waste Materials in Concrete', for almost 200 professionals and practising engineers on 24 July.

Kicking off with an opening address from BCA's CEO, Dr John Keung, the seminar provided participants with good insights into the specifications and usage of recycled aggregates, blended cements and other types of cements in concrete to achieve sustainability in construction.

A key session during the seminar was the in-depth coverage of the new standard, SS EN 12620: Specification

for Aggregates for Concrete. This standard, which will eventually replace the current standard SS 31: Specification for Aggregates from Natural Sources for Concrete, is performance-based and permits the use of aggregates from natural and manufactured sources, including recycled aggregates and a mixture of these aggregates.

Other highlights of the seminar included the announcement of the Accreditation Scheme for Recycled Aggregates Suppliers by the Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore and the use of recycled aggregates in concrete from a European perspective.



NEW Guidebook Launched

BCA launched its 4th Guidebook in the Sustainable Construction Series – "A Guide on the Use of Recycled Materials" at the seminar. The Guidebook was published to serve as a technical reference for building practitioners and professionals and to provide a directory of suppliers of recycled materials.

Get your copy today! Download the soft copy at BCA's website <http://www.bca.gov.sg/SustainableConstruction/sustainable_series.html>.

Or obtain a hard copy personally at BCA's information counter at Level 2, Tower Block, MND Complex, during office hours.

SAFE SLOPES

for Property Owners

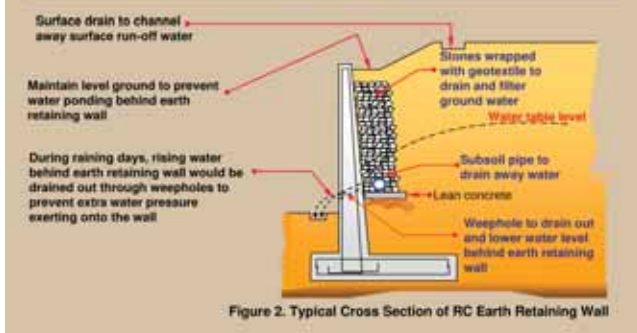


What are the tell-tale signs that may trigger failure or collapse of earth retaining structures? What rectifications can you make to maintain slope surface protection and earth retaining structures in a functional and safe condition at all times?

If you do not know the answers to these, find out more from BCA's new leaflet **'A Safe Slope and Slope Protection Structures'**. This leaflet guides building and land owners and management corporations to play a more proactive role in regular inspection and maintenance and to protect their properties from damage and people from injury.

Through the leaflet, property owners can better understand and appreciate the importance of their role in the regular maintenance of slope protections. Building and land owners and management corporations are also encouraged to be vigilant and to engage a professional engineer to inspect, assess and recommend rectification measures to restore the functions of slope protections and slope stability whenever they see tell-tale signs.

The new leaflet complements the advisory notes BCA has been sending regularly to alert building owners who are responsible for maintaining the safety of their slope and slope protection structures.



Look out for the leaflet which will be sent to building and land owners, management corporations, professionals and property management agents. You can also pick up the leaflet at BCA seminars or download it from BCA's website at <www.bca.gov.sg>

BCA

Academy Alumni



This year marked the establishment of the BCA Academy Alumni to promote networking and lifelong learning and support the professional and social developmental needs of the graduates. It also fosters a closer link between the Academy and the industry.

All graduates from the Diploma, Specialised Diploma, NCCS or Advanced National Building Qualification courses conducted by BCA Academy – or formerly known as CITI or CITIC – are automatically members of the Alumni.

In May this year, the BCA Academy Alumni started its first activity with a local tour. Participants visited Hays Dairies at Lim Chu Kang to find out about modern milking operations, Jalan Bahar Clay Studios to learn pottery making and Boon Lay Place Food Village to fill their hungry stomachs after an exciting day out. The trip ended with a short tour at the Sensory Garden.

Next on the Alumni's plans are product and motivation talks by alumni to graduating students. Other programmes coming up include industry visits, social, outdoor and sporting activities.



Don't miss out on these upcoming events! If you have not updated BCA with your latest contact details, please contact Aveline Ler at aveline_ler@bca.gov.sg

Understanding Credit Ratings

From 1 January 2008, the credit ratings of A1, A2 and B1 registered contractors have been made available to public sector agencies. This is to allow the agencies to better monitor the financial health of the contractors of their on-going projects and also to incorporate credit ratings of these top-tier contractors as one of the financial criteria for tender evaluation under the price-quality method.

The strong financial health of contractors is critical in ensuring the successful and timely delivery of construction projects as construction is a highly capital-intensive activity, with long gestation periods. Recognising this, BCA engaged **DP Information Network** to conduct a two-year trial implementation as a third-party credit rating agency for A1, A2 and B1 registered contractors in 2006. Apart from raising the awareness and understanding of the importance of financial health, credit rating provides a self-assessment tool for contractors to improve their financial health.

The DP Information Group has been a credit and business information provider for over 25 years. The DP Info Credit Rating System is an objective statistical risk model that derives the probability of default built on key financial ratios like liquidity, profitability, growth, leverage, activity and size, coupled with the default companies' financial data. It is capable of measuring the probability that a firm is unable to fulfill its financial obligations within a given time horizon of about 12 to 24 months.

The DP Info Credit Rating System evaluates and grades companies on a scale of DP1 to DP8. Each grade represents a range of probability of default by the firms, with DP1 representing the lowest probability of default and DP8 the highest probability of default. The attached table shows the different credit ratings and their associated probability of default.



improving capabilities | p14

DP INFO CREDIT RATING SYSTEM

DP Info Credit Rating System	DP Credit Rating Probability of Default Range (%)
DP1	< 0.1
DP2	0.1 - < 0.2
DP3	0.2 - < 0.4
DP4	0.4 - < 1.0
DP5	1.0 - < 3.0
DP6	3.0 - < 8.0
DP7	8.0 - < 14.0
DP8	14.0 and above

* The definitions for default cover a broad spectrum of events. It should be noted that not all these events will necessarily result in construction companies being unable to complete their projects.
 * A DP1 rated company can default just like a DP8 rated company.

REVISION OF MINIMUM BUILDABILITY SCORES



Qualified Persons (QPs) should note that the minimum categories of buildings and developments will be adjusted with effect from 1 August 2008.

The new minimum buildability scores will apply to all building and development works with gross floor area of 2,000 square metres and above submitted to URA for planning approval on or after 1 August 2008. These new minimum scores are tabulated below for easy reference.

Category of Building/Development	Minimum Buildability Score for New Work		
	2,000 m ² ≤ GFA < 5,000m ²	2,000 m ² ≤ GFA < 25,000m ²	GFA ≥ 25,000 m ²
Residential (landed)	60	65	68
Residential (non-landed)	67	72	75
Commercial	69	74	77
Industrial	69	74	77
School	64	69	72
Institutional and others	60	66	69

Minimum buildability scores stipulated in the earlier editions of the Code of Practice will still apply to building works with applications for planning permission made on or after 1 January 2001 but before 1 August 2008.

For further clarification, please contact Mrs Foo-Leoh Chay Hong at 6325 7535 or foo-leoh_chay_hong@bca.gov.sg

Implementation of Design Guide on using Structural Steel To BC 1: 2008

BCA earlier issued a circular on the design guide entitled BC 1: 2008 'Design Guide on Use of Alternative Steel Materials to BS 5950' to facilitate the use of a wider choice of structural steel material.

In order to ensure reliable quality assurance, BC 1: 2008 requires the use of steel only from audited mills with the necessary factory production control and proper mill test certifications. All stockholders and traders are also required to provide proper traceability of the steel delivered to the industry. This requirement will be extended to cover certified steel material under other non-British Standards.

BCA will incorporate the BC 1: 2008 design guide into the Approved Documents with effect for 1 January 2009. From that date, all structural steel, including those manufactured to the British Standard, should be from audited mills with the necessary factory production control and proper mill test certificates in order for the steel to be classified as Class 1 material under BC 1:2008.



For further clarification, please contact Mr Patrick Choy at 6325 5019 or patrick_choy@bca.gov.sg.

upcoming events

Date	Event	Contact
30 Sep - 14 Nov 2008	Project Management for Professionals in the Building and Construction Industry	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
2 Oct 2008	Leadership in Green Building _ Lecture Series 02	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
2 Oct 2008	BCA Breakfast Talk for CEOs	Stella Wong DID: 63257735 Email: stella_wong@bca.gov.sg
9, 10 & 13 Oct 2008	Green Mark Professional - Energy Efficient Air-Con for Commercial Buildings	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
10 & 13 Oct 2008	2-Day Course on Sustainable Facility Management Solution	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
14 Oct 2008	Universal Design Seminar - The Key to a Friendly Built Environment	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
15 Oct 2008	Universal Design Workshop 1 - Universal Design: A Workshop for Practitioners	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
17 Oct 2008	Universal Design Workshop 2 - Inspiring the Young with Universal Design	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
3 - 6 Nov 2008	ISWA/WMRAS Congress	Phua Hui Chun DID: 63255024 Email: phua_hui_chun@bca.gov.sg
3 - 8 Nov 2008	Tsinghua University – BCA – Advanced Management Programme 2008 (7th Intake)	Grace or Cindy DID: 62489834/809 Email: grace_teo@bca.gov.sg
7 Nov 2008 - 29 Feb 2009	Advanced Management Programme – For Leaders of the Building & Construction Industry	Mr Lim Lek Lin (BCA Academy) DID: 62489841 Ms Jeannie Yeo (SMU) DID: 68280528

🎁 Contest

- 1. How much funding of the course fee is the Workforce Development Agency providing for qualified participants of the SMU-BCA Advanced Management Programme?**
- 2. Which are the three new partners that collaborated with BCA to offer the BCA-Industry Built Environment Scholarships for the first time this year?**
- 3. The credit ratings of which types of registered contractors have been made available to public sector agencies from 1 Jan 2008?**

Send in your answers by 6 October 2008 to Editor Pillars, Building and Construction Authority, 5 Maxwell Road, #16-00, Tower Block MND Complex, Singapore 069110. Or e-mail: bca_enquiry@bca.gov.sg or fax to 63254800. Please indicate your name, designation, company, phone number and address. Selected entries will stand to win attractive shopping vouchers.

Contact Us

General Enquiries

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Advertisement Licensing

Tel: 6325 7379

Building Management

Tel: 6325 7383

Construction Activity Feedback

Tel: 1800 DIAL-BCA

Household Shelter

Tel: 6325 7106

Barrier-free Accessibility

Tel: 6325 8611

Plan Approval, TOP, CSC

Tel: 6325 2211

Plan Search

Tel: 6325 8663

BCA Academy (Courses)

Tel: 6248 9999

Skills Certification

Tel: 6248 9845

CONQUAS / BCA Quality Mark

Tel: 6325 5077

BCA Green Mark

Tel: 6325 5900

ISO Certification

Tel: 6325 5079

Contractors Registry

Tel: 1800-2212242

CORENET

Tel: 6325 5004

Incentive Schemes

Tel: 6325 5068 (IAS)