

pillars

2009 Issue 2

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

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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.

2nd Green Building Masterplan

Contributor: Chia Yen Ling



Taking the success of the 1st Green Building Masterplan further, BCA recently unveiled the 2nd Green Building Masterplan, packed with more initiatives aimed at achieving a truly sustainable built environment in Singapore by 2030.

The 2nd Green Building Masterplan is part of BCA's efforts to have at least 80% of buildings in Singapore achieve Green Mark certification by 2030.

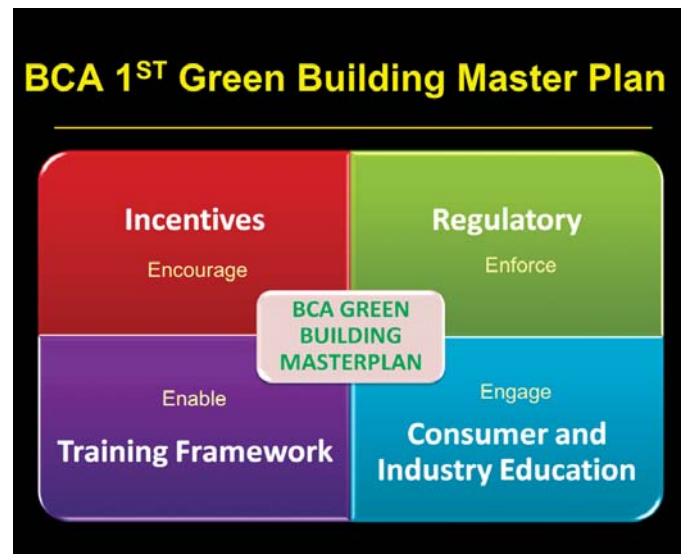
This is also the target that the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development has set for Singapore's built environment.



Focus Now on Existing Buildings

Industry players have noticed the one key difference between the 1st and 2nd Green Building Masterplans. The previous Masterplan had been launched to spearhead the delivery of Green Buildings, with an emphasis on new buildings and those undergoing major retrofitting.

The 2nd Green Building Masterplan, however, focuses on existing buildings. With the large stock of existing buildings consuming one-third of Singapore's national end-use electricity, the latest Masterplan places special emphasis on 'greening' existing buildings in six strategic thrusts.



Strategic Thrust 1

Government taking the lead in embracing higher Green Mark ratings.

Strategic Thrust 2

Incentives for private sector to accelerate greening of new and existing buildings.

Strategic Thrust 3

Further development of the Green Mark Scheme and green building technologies.

Strategic Thrust 4

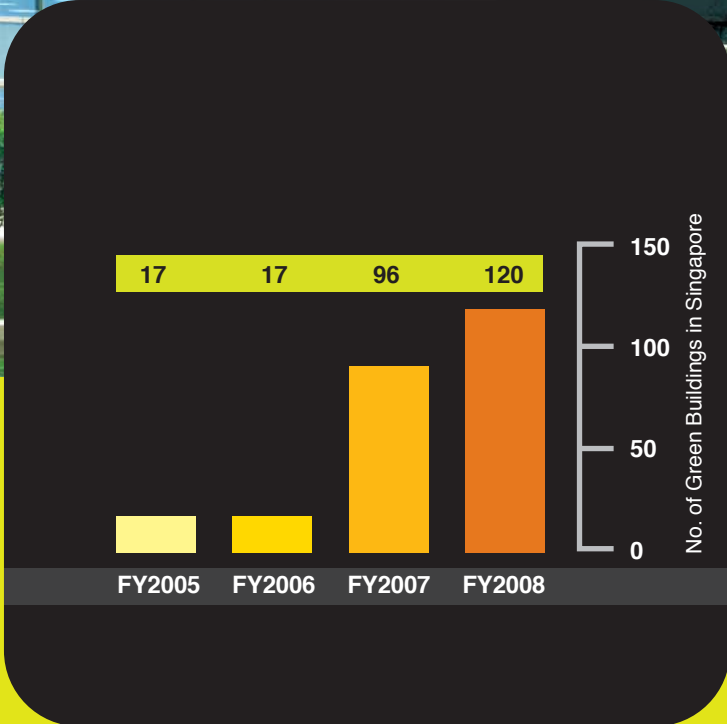
Building industry capabilities through training and education.

Strategic Thrust 5

Raising industry and public awareness to generate sustained demand.
Profile Singapore as a hub for Green Building Development in the region.

Strategic Thrust 6

Monitor and review the need to set minimum performance standards.



Find Out More

Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings – Pg 6
Green Mark Gross Floor Area Incentive Scheme – Pg 7

\$100 Million Incentive

to green existing buildings



A new Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings aims to encourage private building owners of existing buildings to undertake improvements and retrofits to achieve substantial improvement in energy efficiency. The scheme provides a cash incentive that co-funds up to 35 percent (capped at \$1.5 million) of the upgrading or retrofitting costs for energy efficiency improvement in their existing buildings.

In fact, S\$100 million has been set aside for this scheme, providing a generous incentive for owners of existing buildings.

Beneficiaries of the scheme must be building owners or developers of private existing non-residential developments that are centrally air-conditioned, with gross floor area of at least 2,000 square metres. The scheme especially targets energy-intensive buildings such as shopping malls, hotels, office buildings and hospitals.

Green Mark Incentive for Existing Buildings

Qualifying Criteria ⁽¹⁾	Green Mark Incentive (for Developers/Building Owners)	
	Rate ⁽²⁾	Cap
GM Certified with 20% Energy Saving ⁽³⁾ Or GM Gold with 15% Energy Saving	20% Co-funding	\$150,000
GM Gold with 32.5% Energy Saving Or GM Gold ^{Plus} with 30% Energy Saving	30% Co-funding	\$500,000
GM Gold ^{Plus} with 37.5% Energy Saving Or GM Platinum with 35% Energy Saving	35% Co-funding	\$1,500,000

Note: (1) The prevailing version of the *BCA Green Mark Criteria for Non-Residential Existing Building* will apply.

(2) These rates (Co-fund) apply to the equipment purchased in achieving the energy savings.

(3) The energy savings must be demonstrated by electricity bills before and after retrofits.

More GFA for Green Achievers

New Buildings

Green Mark Bonus GFA Incentive Scheme
for private sector to achieve higher Green Mark ratings

Green Mark Platinum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 2% additional GFA beyond MP GPR • (subject to cap of 5,000sqm)
Green Mark Gold^{Plus}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1% additional GFA beyond MP GPR • (subject to cap of 2,500sqm)

The Green Mark Gross Floor Area Incentive Scheme offers private developments with a bonus of additional gross floor area (GFA) if they attain Green Mark Platinum or Gold^{Plus} ratings.

Up to 2 percent additional GFA, subject to a cap of 5,000 square metres, will be awarded to Green Mark Platinum buildings. Up to 1 percent additional GFA, subject to a cap of 2,500 square metres, will go to Green Mark Gold^{Plus} buildings.

BCA and the Urban Redevelopment Authority introduced this new scheme to encourage the private sector to develop buildings that attain higher-tier ratings. All new private developments, redevelopments and reconstruction developments are eligible for the scheme.

Green Mark Gross Floor Area Incentive Scheme

Residential Developments	Non-landed, mixed commercial & residential development and others (approved case-by-case)
Non-Residential Developments	Commercial, office, retail, business parks, industrial, institutional, community building, hotel, hospital, white site development and others (approved case-by-case)

For more information on BCA Green Mark Incentive Schemes, please call 6325 5900 during office hours.

It pays to be **GREEN AND**



Project team sending letters to neighbouring residents to inform them of key milestones of project work.



Project team paying a visit to neighbouring residents during public holiday or festive seasons and striking good rapport with them.

Contributor: Steven Cheong



The inaugural Green and Gracious Builder Award has already honoured its pioneer cohort of winners. A total of 14 builders received their awards from Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education Ms Grace Fu at the recent BCA Awards Ceremony. They included Tiong Seng Contractors, Woh Hup and Poh Lian Construction.

“Our efforts at developing a sustainable built environment have so far been well accepted by developers and consultants. Given the high visibility and impact of construction works, it is important for builders to go green and adopt ‘friendlier’ construction site management and practices. Together with the BCA Green Mark Scheme, the Green and Gracious Builder Award will form part of the holistic framework to shape a sustainable built environment.”

Dr John Keung
CEO, Building and Construction Authority

“The Green and Gracious Builder Award provides an excellent platform to recognise the efforts of builders in adopting environmentally friendlier and gracious best practices on the site.”

Mr Pek Lian Guan
Deputy Managing Director, Tiong Seng Contractors

GRACIOUS



The Green and Gracious Builder Award was introduced to raise environmental consciousness and professionalism of builders during the construction phase. It recognises progressive builders who take the effort to address environmental and public concerns arising from construction works, thus enhancing the image of the industry.

Created based on good international practices and in consultation with industry players, the new award focuses on both green and gracious aspects which have high impact on the public. The award provides a voluntary basis to encourage builders to take ownership and to implement best practices on their sites consistently. Using a tiered rating system, the exercise quantifies performance and enables differentiation of performance standards among builders to encourage continual improvement

Firms are assessed on their construction projects in the following areas:

- **Green:** Adopting environmentally friendly best practices such as the use of recycled materials and the reduction in energy and water consumption on site.
- **Gracious:** Adopting gracious best practices which address the public needs and concerns, such as enhancing communications, showing consideration for public accessibility, mitigating noise and vibration and minimising, if not eradicating, disturbances in the vicinity and the neighbourhood.
- **Innovation:** Adopting innovative solutions or technologies to address environmental concerns, site challenges, productivity and public concerns.

In addition, firms with outstanding achievements – such as a significant number of industry awards and Green Mark projects – could be awarded bonus points.

Job Matters

Contributor: Tan Soo Huat

Braving through the current economic recession, BCA is helping Singaporeans secure jobs and stay employed through its Job Recreation Programme, its training courses at BCA Academy and its Building Careers Portal.



Job Recreation Programme

The Job Recreation Programme is an initiative in collaboration with the National Trades Union Congress and the Workforce Development Agency to upgrade the skills of Singaporeans and enhance their employability.

Under the programme, BCA works closely with its partners to train and place locals in suitable higher value trades, such as plant operation, electrical wiring installation, plumbing and pipefitting. Since the start of 2009, BCA has placed and upgraded close to 400 Singaporeans.

Stepping up its efforts, BCA established itself as the One-Stop Job & Training Touch Point for the Built Environment to link job seekers to training opportunities and employers. It is also working closely with the Employment and Employability Institute (E2I), Community Development Councils as well as self-help groups – such as CDAC, SINDA and Mendaki – to reach out to job seekers. Through these partnerships, BCA is able to put interested job seekers through suitable training courses and facilitate their placement with employers.

Taking this beyond tradesmen, the Job Recreation Programme will be expanded in scope to reach professionals, managers, executives and technicians.

The Training Courses

BCA Academy offers a comprehensive range of training courses to equip new entrants with the essential skills to join the industry. There are also many training courses for existing workers and professionals to upgrade and enhance their employability. To date, some 20 courses by BCA Academy are funded under the Workforce Development Agency's SPUR programme.

Job Vacancies

Job seekers can view suitable built environment job vacancies and training opportunities and submit their curriculum vitae at BCA's Building Career Portal. Companies can also make use of the portal to post job openings in the building and construction sector at no charge. To do so, they can log in to <www.buildingcareers.sg> for more information.

BCA Hotline

BCA also offers suitable job matches for companies recruiting tradesmen and trade foremen, particularly in higher value trades such as plant operations, electrical wiring, plumbing, pipefitting, sprinkler and fire protection. For job matching and other enquiries, they can contact BCA's Job & Career Hotline at 6325 2097 during office hours.



“The Job Recreation Programme has helped me secure a job with good prospects. I'm glad that BCA, National Trades Union Congress and the Workforce Development Agency have come together to assist locals to be trained and placed in the built environment, especially in such challenging times.”

Mr Too Joon Kan (age 52) underwent the Job Recreation Programme: Electrical Wiring Installation Specialist. He is now working as a project engineer with Deluge Fire Protection.

“The Green Mark Manager course is a very informative and beneficial programme which provides a gateway for locals like me to be equipped with the necessary skill sets and knowledge to venture into the area of green buildings and sustainable energy.”

Mr James Chua (left, age 58) was working in the manufacturing industry when he took up the career challenge to switch to the building and construction industry. After completing the Green Mark Manager Course, he found a job as an Energy & Sustainable Design Consultant with a local consultant firm.

SINGAPORE'S FIRST POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME FOR GREEN PROFESSIONALS

Contributor: Yong Siew Hwa



The Building and Construction Authority and the University of Nottingham are collaborating to offer a postgraduate course to those interested in pursuing a higher degree in environmental technologies and strategies

MSc in Sustainable Building Design

The Master of Science in Sustainable Building Design (MSc) provides an environmental perspective of the creation, adaptation and operation of more sustainable buildings.

Available for the first time in Singapore, this part-time programme offers participants the opportunity to further develop their knowledge and understanding of Sustainable Building Design.

Course Objectives

This programme aims to provide professionals in the built environment an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and skills in sustainable building design and apply them to their course of work.

Fostering an inter-disciplinary approach to sustainability within the built environment, each course module is crafted to develop skills in essential areas of management e.g. architecture, surveying, construction and building engineering.

Course Details

The MSc has a modular structure comprising a total of 7 modules. It is organised into two parts:

- Passive technologies and strategies
- Active technologies and strategies

Modules

- Principles of Environmental Design
- Global Environmental Design Strategies
- Architecture Climate & the Environment
- Renewable Energy Design
- Energy Efficient Technologies
- Design & Sustainable Technologies
- Dissertation

Mode of Delivery and Assessment

The two-year part-time MSc programme is taught by academic experts from the School of the Built Environment, University of Nottingham and the University of Nottingham, Ningbo campus.

Students learn through lectures, seminars and case studies, together with practical testing and design project work.

Course Fee

The course fee is \$22,000 (before GST). The fee excludes a non-refundable application fee of \$50 (before GST) and the cost of textbooks.

WDA subsidy

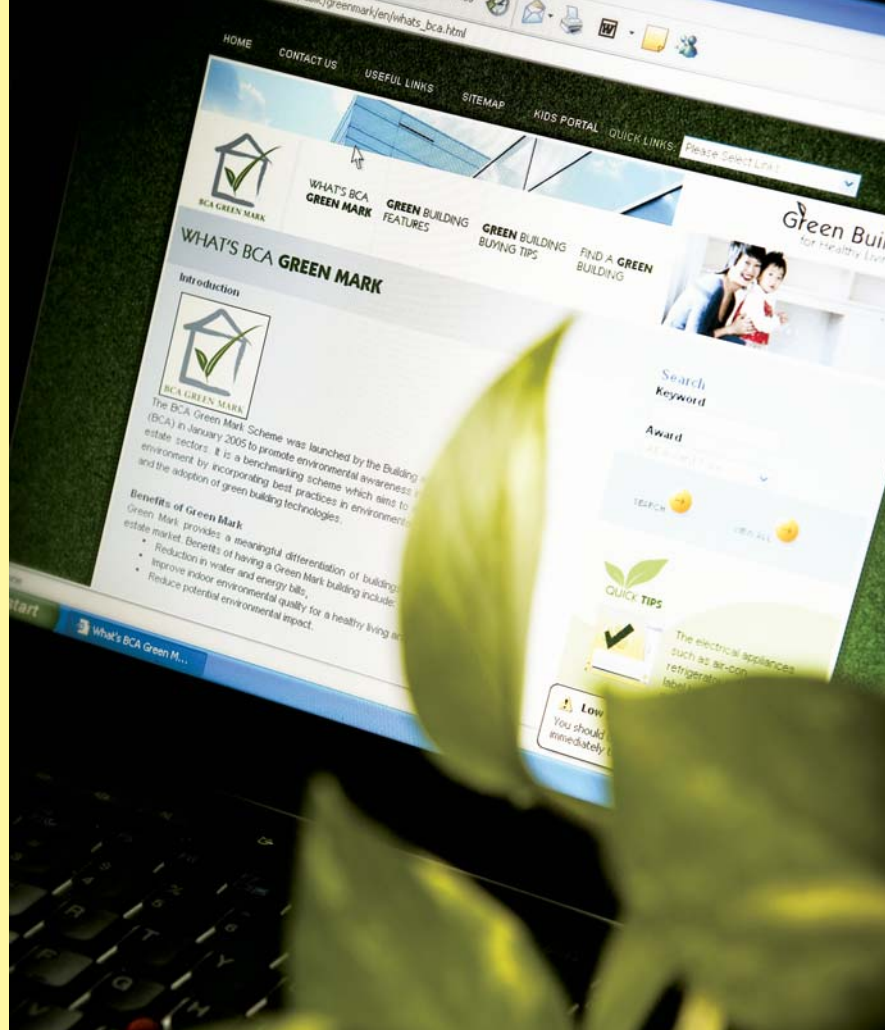
The MSc comes under the WDA's Professional Conversion Programme

It will receive government funding of up to 90% of course fees (excluding GST) for 60 students over the next two years.

For those who qualify for the subsidy, companies will only need to pay \$2,354 per candidate (including GST)

Date of commencement

The first intake will start in September 2009. Future intakes will also begin in September.



“The course will meet the higher level training needs of local professionals and build up specialist capabilities in renewable energy design, solar passive design, high impact energy efficient systems, computer modelling and simulation techniques, as well as integrated environmental designs”

Dr John Keung

CEO, Building and Construction Authority

“Working together, BCA Academy and the University of Nottingham will deliver a course that will help Singapore to be at the forefront of sustainable building design that embraces active and passive systems”

Prof Timothy Heath

Head of School of Built Environment, University of Nottingham

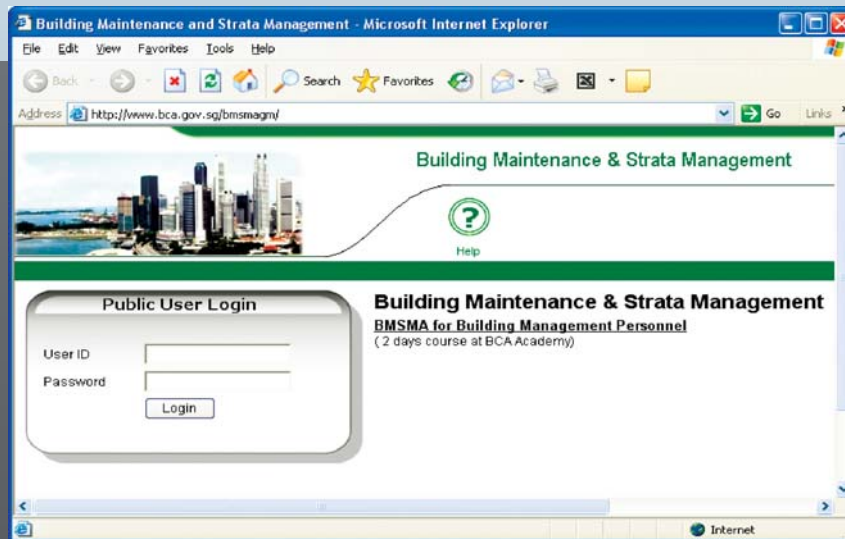
For more information on the MSc in Sustainable Building Design, please call 6248-9841/6248-9823 during office hours.

E - f i l e y o u r

A G M

Contributor: Lim Chong Yong

BCA
introduces a
convenient,
easy and
efficient way to
submit **AGM**
form returns for
Management
Corporations.



Management Corporations (MCs) can say goodbye to hard copies when filing annual general meeting (AGM) form returns. From 14 April, they can make their submissions online from the comfort of their offices or homes. BCA, in its efforts to improve quality, has launched its E-filing submission system.

All MCs are required to convene an AGM every calendar year and submit required information to the Commissioner of Buildings within 30 days. Previously, the information – which included the date of the AGM, details of the management and sinking funds, council members and managing agent – would be submitted in hard copies.

You may log on to the E-filing portal at www.bca.gov.sg/bmsmagm

How do users benefit from E-filing?

It is convenient

The AGM details can be submitted and viewed subsequently anywhere and anytime. There is no need to spend time and money on postage to submit the documents.

It is simple

The portal is user-friendly and easy-to-use.

It is efficient

The data entry is reduced for subsequent AGMs as the details for the MCs would be automatically stored in the E-filing database. Users would also receive an instant acknowledgement on each successful E-filing submission, as well as timely reminder emails for the next AGM.

How have users responded to E-filing?

Since its launch in April, the new E-filing system has received many good responses from users.

By February this year, about 60 percent of all MCs in Singapore had applied for user identifications and passwords for access to the new system. Of these, more than 50 percent had already E-filed their AGM details to BCA.

While MCs can still submit hardcopies of the AGM form, BCA aims to encourage more users to make use of the new online system. To facilitate this, BCA is offering free internet access at its e-kiosks available at its customer service counters for users who do not have internet access at their homes or offices.



Green Experts Speak

Contributor: Steven Tan

Never before has BCA's Green Building Lecture Series been more timely and important. Now in its third run, the issue of environmental sustainability has taken on global significance due to concerns about climate change and energy security. As one of the key agencies involved in developing Singapore into a green and sustainable city, BCA lined up a panel of expert speakers at the lecture series to share in-depth knowledge with the industry. Here are some prominent speakers:



Mr Tony Arnel

Chairperson of the World Green Building Council

Mr Arnel delivered his keynote address "Green Building in Asia-Pacific – Sustainable Growth and Managing Change", highlighting that the next challenge is the 'greening' of the existing stock of buildings.

Mr Jeffrey Boyer

Head of Clean Technologies for Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture

In his presentation "Design for a Post Carbon Urban Age", Mr Boyer suggested that accepted models and approaches to urban development must be consistently challenged, reflecting evolving social, environmental and economic contexts.

Mr Michael Arny

President of Leonardo Academy

Mr Arny shared his experience in implementing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings (LEED) certification for existing buildings. Mr Arny believes that addressing LEED-EB when designing a new building makes it easier to operate the building sustainably.



BCA Green Building Lecture Series

The Green Building Lecture Series, held in partnership with Autodesk Asia, is a useful avenue for industry practitioners to generate fresh ideas and innovation in sustainable design and development through sharing insights and learning points from exemplary projects and solutions. Participants can exchange their views and have dialogues on greening the built environment with prominent international experts. This is usually carried out at a panel discussion chaired by Mr Cheong Yew Kee, President of the Green Practice Committee at Singapore Institute of Architects.

Partner in Sustainability

Taking the green imperative further, BCA is in partnership with the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). In recent years, ASHRAE has played an active role in facilitating the adoption of sustainable systems through research and the publication of design guides.

As part of a Memorandum of Understanding signed, BCA and ASHRAE will jointly conduct regional energy and sustainability conferences and seminars in Singapore and explore certifiable professional training courses for local and regional heating, ventilation and air-conditioning professionals.



Slope Stability Dialogue

Contributor: Kelvin Phua

Stressing the importance of slope stability for a safe built environment, BCA initiated dialogue sessions and has been engaging other government agencies responsible for the management and maintenance of government-owned slopes island-wide.



BCA organised a seminar for senior management of over 20 government agencies earlier this year to create greater awareness on slope stability.

In the opening address to 200 participants, BCA's Director Mr Ong Chan Leng emphasised the need for government agencies to engage professional consultants in civil or geotechnical disciplines to adopt a three-stage slope management framework. In addition to regular inspection and maintenance, he recommended:

- Preliminary risk-impact assessment (to identify critical slopes)
- Detailed geotechnical assessment (to determine safety level)
- Mitigation measures (to reduce high-risk slopes to medium-low risk)

Mr Ong stressed that where necessary, instrumentation monitoring should be implemented for critical slopes. These would include slopes with a history of failure or with relatively high or steep slopes that were vulnerable to failure.

At the seminar, experienced professionals from BCA and the industry shared their engineering knowledge and expertise on the impact of prolonged intense rainfall, impact of the past slope failures, mitigation measures for critical slopes and the importance of preventive measures, tell-tale signs and rectifications. Most importantly, the seminar examined case studies on risk-impact assessment and integrated real-time instrumentation monitoring system on slope stability.

In general, participants took away the message that structural safety of slopes and slope protection structures cannot be taken for granted. Government agencies were thus urged to take proactive steps in risk-impact assessment by engaging geotechnical consultants and to exercise due diligence to maintain the slopes and slope protection structures in good and safe condition at all times. They should also take the lead to initiate rectification, improvement or upgrading works independently or jointly with neighbouring house or land owners to mitigate the risk level of slope instability.

A d v a n c e d WSH Champions

Contributor: Lim Lek Lin

BCA Academy launched its Advanced Certificate in Workplace Safety and Health (WSH): Level 2 course under the WSH Professionals Workforce Skills Qualifications framework. This qualification is one of the prerequisites in order to be registered as a WSH coordinator under the WSH Act. The course is targeted at people intending to work as WSH coordinators or personnel working in the occupational safety and health areas.

Read on to hear what some graduates have to say about championing safety and health at the workplace.

Mr Low Ah Kok, one of the participants of the pioneer class that commenced in March, felt that the course has enabled him to understand more about the WSH Act and its implementation.

“As a site supervisor, this course allows me to supervise my workers in the areas of workplace safety and health more effectively. My company has sponsored me for this course as it is applicable to our area of work as a main contractor. I feel that after my training in workplace safety and health courses – such as the Advanced Certificate in WSH – my management is more aware of workplace safety and health requirements.”

With the Workforce Development Agency funding under the Skills Programme for Upgrading & Resilience (SPUR), Singaporeans and Permanent Residents can enjoy a **90% course fee subsidy**.

Another participant, Ragenthiran s/o Ramasamy believes that he would be entrusted with a wider job scope by his company after he graduates from this course.

“Previously, I had taken the Safety Coordinator course. I decided to enrol for this Advanced Certificate in WSH course. This is because it adopts an interactive and hands-on approach which I find very practical and useful for my work.”



New changes to BCA's Board came into effect on 1 April. Five new members have been appointed, another seven reappointed for another term, while six members have stepped down. The five new members come from professions in the built environment, as well as the legal and finance industries. The Board will continue to be led by BCA Chairman, Mr Quek See Tiat, into its new two-year term.

New Members

- Mr Richard Hassell, Founding Director at WOHA Architects
- Prof Howard Hunter, President and Professor of Law at Singapore Management University
- Mr Norman Ip, President and Group Chief Executive Officer at The Straits Trading Company
- Mr John Lim, Director of Security Plans and Development Directorate for the Homefront Security Division at the Ministry of Home Affairs
- Mr Kevin Wong, Group Chief Executive Officer at Keppel Land

Reappointed Members

- Mr Quek See Tiat, Partner and Deputy Chairman at PricewaterhouseCoopers Singapore
- Mr Cheong Yip Seng, Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Impact of New Media on Society
- Dr John Keung, Chief Executive Officer at Building and Construction Authority
- Mr Lee Chuan Seng, Chairman at Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner (SEA)
- Mr Pek Lian Guan, Deputy Managing Director at Tiong Seng Contractors
- Mr Frederic Perez, Project Director at Dragages Singapore
- Mr Song Wee Ngee, Managing Director at KTP Consultants

Members Who Stepped Down

- Prof Cheong Hee Kiat, President at SIM University
- Mr Ho Chee Pong, Director of Private Education Division at the Ministry of Education
- Mr Lim Ee Seng, Chief Executive Officer at Frasers Centrepoint
- Dr Teo Ho Pin, Mayor of North West District
- Mr Lee Kut Cheung, Managing Director at RSP Architects Planners and Engineers
- Mr Tan Peng Yam, Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) at Defence Science & Technology Agency



BCA Board Changes

upcoming events

Date	Event	Contact
1, 3, 8 & 10 Jul-09	Geotechnical Instrumentation for Engineers	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
7, 9, 14 & 16 Jul-09	Site Investigation for Engineers	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
9 & 10 Jul-09	Acoustics & Noise Controls for Building Designers & Facility Management Personnel	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
13 & 14 Jul-09	Project Management	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
14 & 15 Jul-09	GMP-ELECTIVE _ Green Architecture & the Integrated Design	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
15, 17, 22 & 24 Jul-09	Controlled Demolition of Building Structures	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
17-Jul-09, AM	Seminar on "Integrated Formwork Systems to Improve Productivity and Safety in Building Construction"	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
17 Jul-09, PM	Workshop on "Design of Integrated Formwork & Falsework Systems"	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
20-Jul-09	BCAA-GeoSS Joint Workshop "Geotechnical Design & Applications Using Eurocode - 7"	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
20 & 21 Jul-09	BMSMA for Building Management Personnels	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
21-Jul-09	BizSAFE Workshop for Company CEO/Top Management	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
21, 22 & 23 Jul-09	SCEM - CORE _ Energy Management & Economics	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
22, 23 & 24 Jul-09	Certified QM/CONQUAS Managers Course	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg
22-Jul-09	Preparation for TOP/CSC Inspection	Marketing Dept DID: 62489843/824 Email: bca_academy@bca.gov.sg

Contest

- 1. How much has been set aside for the Green Mark Incentive Scheme for Existing Buildings?**
- 2. What is the name of Singapore's first postgraduate programme for Green Professionals?**
- 3. Under the Job Recreation Programme, how many Singaporean workers has BCA placed and upgraded since the start of this year?**

Please send in your entries by 30 June 2009 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.

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