

MEDIA RELEASE

Formation of the International Panel of Experts (IPE) on Sustainability of the Built Environment

Experts gather to review BCA's Green Building Masterplan and share experiences, with aims to accelerate Singapore's green building movement

An International Panel of Experts (IPE) has been formed by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) to review its Green Building Masterplan and recommend directions for its next course of actions to accelerate the adoption of green buildings in Singapore. Members of the IPE include both local and foreign experts who are highly regarded in the field of green buildings and sustainable developments.

2. The IPE's work over this four-day visit, from 29 September to 2 October, will have a significant impact on Singapore's practices on green buildings and sustainable development. The IPE will enable BCA to keep abreast of latest developments in policies and innovations around the world concerning sustainable development and green buildings.

3. During the first two days of the visit, the five-member IPE, together with two local experts from BCA's Green Mark Advisory Committee, will be involved in rigorous discussions with BCA and key representatives from the public, the private and the people sectors to review the various initiatives under the Green Building Masterplan. Coming from diverse backgrounds, these experts will bring with them varied experiences that will provide added perspectives to the discussions.

3. Dr John Keung, CEO of the Building and Construction Authority commented on the opportune formation of the IPE on Sustainability of the Built Environment to improve BCA's approach to champion the development of a sustainable built environment in Singapore, "Since the introduction of the BCA Green Mark for buildings in 2005 and the Green Building Masterplan in 2006, BCA had spearheaded the promotion and proliferation of green buildings in Singapore

and achieved good progress. We now have about 130 green building projects, with another 200 projects awaiting assessment. All together, these projects would give a total of 15 million square metres of floor space certified under the Green Mark scheme. While we are heartened that the first Masterplan has made much progress, BCA wants to further advance the green building movement in Singapore, with emphasis on the greening of existing buildings. We will draw fresh perspectives from the experts, especially in promoting environmental sustainability for existing buildings which are in need for upgrading to improve their energy efficiency. Hence, the formation of the IPE is timely - both for a review of Singapore's current Green Building Framework and a recommendation of the next strategic step to take."

4. Maria Atkinson, co-founder of the Green Building Council of Australia and currently the Global Head of Sustainability, Lend Lease, shared her thoughts on being invited by BCA to be one of the members of the distinguished IPE on Sustainability of the Built Environment. "I am very honoured to have been invited to be one of the members of the IPE. I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute what I can and I also look forward to learning from others."

5. Mr Peter Head also looks forward to be able to contribute to Singapore's ambitious plans for sustainable development. He said, "Singapore is progressing fast in the area of sustainability and being involved helps Arup's learning too. The IPE meeting is a good platform for the sharing of experiences on green building development and practices which will lead to a convergence of fresh ideas in the green building movement."

6. Associate Professor Wong Yew Wah, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, NTU also expressed his keenness to participate as a local expert. "The IPE is an ideal platform for an intense meeting of minds to formulate cutting-edge green strategies, aimed at tackling the challenges in sustainable development. I appreciate this opportunity to contribute and participate in Singapore's quest to the greening of our built environment."

7. The 2nd BCA Breakfast Talk for CEOs, to be held on 2 October, will bring a close to the IPE's four-day visit in Singapore. IPE member Ms Maria Atkinson, Global Head of Sustainability, Lend Lease, will deliver a keynote address on 'The

Value of Green Buildings'. As an Environmental Scientist who is internationally recognised as a passionate advocate for green buildings, Maria will share her experience in leading a global organisation towards realising its corporate social responsibility to be a sustainable organisation.

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