

# BCA AWARDS 2018

**BuildSG** SPECIAL | SPH CONTENT LAB



Clementi Ridges (above) and the NTU Sports Hall (right) are two of multiple projects that have won BCA Awards this year.

PHOTOS: BCA

# Transforming the industry

BCA and its partners look for technology solutions to tackle manpower issues and achieve their vision



BCA will work with stakeholders and partners to transform the building industry, says Mr Lim.

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The construction industry looks to enter a promising phase, with total construction demand expected to be between \$26 billion and \$31 billion this year.

Mr Hugh Lim, chief executive officer of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), says that transformation of the sector will be marked by Green Buildings, Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA) and Integrated Digital Delivery (IDD).

He adds: "Firms that are able to combine experience and expertise in these areas will gain a competitive advantage both domestically and abroad. IDD is the newest of the three areas and will undergird the sector's transformation moving forward."

Firms in an IDD environment will benefit from timely sharing of accurate and integrated information.

The BCA and its industry partners are jointly formulating a plan to help implement wider digitalisation of the construction industry by unlocking further opportunities via a digitally integrated building life cycle and value-chain.

### New skills

The BCA is looking to technological solutions to tackle the lack of skilled labour and over-reliance on foreign manpower in the sector.

Mr Lim says: "DfMA and IDD enable our

firms to break out of current constraints and habits. The DfMA process moves work to a factory environment, which allows for greater adoption of automation and mechanisation, leading to higher quality and productivity as well as a cleaner, quieter and safer work site.

"Our homes, and work and play spaces can be built quicker — with better quality, and offer ease of maintenance."

Mr Lim adds that thanks to public sector infrastructure projects and the recovery of private sector building projects, more good job opportunities can be created for Singaporeans at the professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMET) level.

### Greater involvement

He says that job seekers should take advantage of continuing education training courses, existing training fund support such as the Construction Productivity and Capability Fund and the SkillsFuture Study Award to build competency in the relevant skills. The BCA and industry firms jointly offer scholarships and sponsorships to attract Singaporeans to the built environment (BE) sector.

Since 2010, BCA has awarded more than 2,700 scholarships and sponsorships. It also aims to attract mid-career entrants with relevant skills to supplement the PMET pool through Professional Conversion Programmes, which help Singaporeans to undergo skills conversion and move into new occu-

pations in the BE sector.

He says: "We will also be developing relevant leadership development programmes for industry leaders, at the junior, middle and senior levels, in consultation with industry and the unions."

The initiatives are part of the Construction Industry Transformation Map (ITM), which was launched last October and co-developed by the Government, institutions of higher learning and the unions.

On April 1, BCA set up a new transformation office called BuildSG, which will lay the groundwork for closer collaboration with trade associations and chambers of commerce, firms, institutes of higher learning and unions to realise the ITM outcomes.

BuildSG comprises three centres — weBuildSG, SGBuilds and iBuildSG.

Mr Lim says: "To keep up the momentum in building Singapore and achieving our ITM vision, BCA will work with all stakeholders, so that we all do our part to uplift the industry. With the continued support of our partners, we will be able to transform the way we 'Build Singapore' together."

## Working towards its goals

- As of last year, BCA had greened more than one-third of the total floor area of its buildings and is on track towards greening 80 per cent by 2030;
- In 2016, BCA worked with Ministry of Education on the Back to School (B2S) programme under which 42 school alumni were engaged to help green more than 70 schools to achieve at least BCA Green Mark Gold rating;
- More than 120 DfMA projects have been completed, are ongoing or in the pipeline. The construction industry is already halfway through its target of achieving 40 per cent DfMA adoption by 2020;
- Since Jan 31, BCA has implemented the revised Quality-Fee Method and Price-Quality Method. This focuses more on quality instead of price or fee in all construction and consultancy tender evaluations;
- BCA advocates and mandates the use of building information modelling in projects;
- Development of solutions to improve efficiency, worksite safety and work process quality as well as creation of more high-value job opportunities through collaboration between BCA and the National Robotics R & D Programme Office; and
- It works with trade associations and chambers to support Singapore firms to profile their expertise, build stronger networks and cultivate deeper ties in other markets.

“Our homes, and work and play spaces can be built quicker — with better quality, and offer ease of maintenance. — MR HUGH LIM, chief executive officer, Building and Construction Authority