

MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE'S FIRST ZERO ENERGY BUILDING STARTS CONSTRUCTION IN OCTOBER

The Building and Construction Authority has awarded the main contract worth \$10.47 million to ACP Construction Pte Ltd, a local general construction firm, for the construction of Singapore's first Zero Energy Building (ZEB) at the BCA Academy. Their track records in the last five years are mainly on high-tech industrial buildings. They were also involved in two Green Mark projects - 138 Depot Road and Neuros Biopolis Phase 2 in One North.

2 It was announced in November last year that the BCA Academy will retrofit an existing building at its Braddell Road premises into a Zero-Energy Building. BCA has already awarded another tender for the building's solar panel to Singapore firm Grenzone for \$1.7 million. The ZEB is part of BCA's plan to raise awareness on sustainability in the built environment and is BCA's flagship R&D project under its Green Building Masterplan. This project integrates various Green Building Technologies in a single building to demonstrate how it can be retrofitted to be energy-efficient. When completed in late 2009, the ZEB will house green classrooms and a library, as well as a visitor centre that can be used for training purposes. The retrofitted building will also function as a test-bedding centre for Green Building Technologies, to allow fresh ideas to be tested and experienced before wider adoption. If the results of the test-bedding of these technologies are positive, some of these technologies can potentially be adopted in other buildings.

3 At the review of the current R&D efforts in Singapore, trends overseas and the future directions that Singapore should take during the IPE meeting yesterday, Prof Joachim Luther, IPE member and CEO, Solar Energy Research Institute

(SERIS) said, “In Singapore, the setting up of the MND Research Fund for the Built Environment as well as other R&D schemes and the development of ZEB (Zero Energy Building at BCA Academy) are important steps in the right direction in greening the built environment. It would be good if Singapore could also set long term target like in Germany or USA for new buildings. These would send a clear signal to the industry and spur researchers on to develop innovative solutions for green buildings.”

4. Dr John Keung, CEO, BCA, who co-chairs the IPE with Mr Lee Chuan Seng, Chairman, Beca Carter, commented, “Given the large stock of buildings in Singapore and our location in the tropics, one key area to focus on in the near and medium term for R&D will be the development of innovative and cost effective solutions to green existing buildings. Other areas of focus include the adoption of integrated approach to design low or near zero energy buildings and post occupancy studies of Green Mark buildings”.

5. Many advanced countries such as Germany, Netherlands, UK and USA have set very ambitious targets to achieve zero energy or carbon neutral buildings. This is the ultimate goal for R&D in green buildings. There is realisation that green buildings are an important solution in addressing the global challenges of climate change and energy security. Given that buildings once completed will consume a lot of energy over their lifetime, it is critical that for new buildings, the industry gets it right from the beginning.

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