



Eco warriors

Recipients of the inaugural BCA-SGBC (Singapore Green Building Council) Green Building Individual Award are green stalwarts of the industry

by wong sher maine

FOR the first time, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) is going beyond corporate honours to bestow bouquets on the people who silently work to make green buildings a reality.

This year, four individuals will be the first to receive the BCA-SGBC (Singapore Green Building Council) Green Building Individual Award, which recognises individual green stalwarts in the building and construction industry.

By throwing the spotlight on the winners, BCA also hopes to attract people to, and build up, a "green-collar workforce" of between 18,000 to 20,000 green specialists at the PMET level by 2020, to develop, design, construct, operate and maintain green buildings.

"These professionals will be the core competency leading Singapore towards a more sustainable future," says a BCA spokesman, adding that the macro target is for at least 80 per cent of the buildings in Singapore to meet the BCA Green Mark Certified status by 2030.

Green Innovator

In recognition of researchers for their breakthrough achievements in innovative green building products and technology, the Green Innovator award went to Dr Ho Nyok Yong from construction conglomerate Samwoh Corporation.

Dr Ho, who is a director at the company as well as the technical director in charge of research and development, calls himself a "practical man" who went into research on recycling construction materials in a big way after he saw that Singapore has no natural resources, and decided to do something about it.

With over 20 years experience in "green" R&D, he has started numerous research projects on recycling with tertiary institutions and promoted the use of waste materials in construction.

Most recently, he led a research team, which included members from the Nanyang Technology University and BCA, to investigate the use of recycled concrete to build new buildings. The first such building to be built entirely with Recycled Concrete Aggregate, the Samwoh Eco-green building, was unveiled in 2010.



Clockwise from top left: Dr Ho Nyok Yong, Madam Vivien Heng, Er. Tan Kiat Leong and Mr Allen Ang.

Says Dr Ho: "It is my hope that my Green R&D works will not only benefit the industry, it will also inspire all Singaporeans, especially the younger generation, to make a commitment to being green in schools, in their communities, in their homes and in their personal lives."

Green Architect

A projects director and director of Environmental & QA at RSP Architects Planners & Engineers, Madam Vivien Heng clinched the Green Architect award, which recognises architects who design green buildings and environments. Madam Heng, who has always been fascinated by the creative process, realised in the late 90s after working on the United World College of South East Asia's Dover Campus project, that "impactful, simple, passive" creative design, from something as simple as good orientation and shading, can enhance environmental performance.

Since then, the architect with nearly 30 years experience has not only played a key role in delivering award-winning green buildings like the Caterpillar Remanufacturing Facility, Woh Hup Building and the Xilinx Building, but has also been tirelessly engaged and inspired younger architects in the company. One way she did this was by organising in-house show-and-tell sessions on Green Mark projects during lunchtime.

She says: "I see green architecture as a responsible and sensitive way of thinking and designing that involves a host of values and concepts, including environmental, social, sustainable and performative, through which the designer seeks to optimise efficiency in energy, water, materials and other resources, maximising human comfort but minimising or negating environmental impact."

Green Advocate

BCA has given out the Green Advocate award to recognise individuals who exude passion, leadership and entrepreneurial qualities in the championing of the green building movement. The recipient is Mr Allen Ang, deputy general manager of the Project Division and head of Green Building at City Developments Limited (CDL).

Mr Ang joined CDL in 2003 and has led the company on a green drive to win 16 Green Mark Platinum and 16 Green Mark Gold Plus awards, including for Singapore's first eco-mall, City Square Mall.

Mr Ang, who has enjoyed a diverse work history from R&D to teaching to consultancy, was "converted" to the green cause when he visited Japan in 1996 and saw how green-conscious the people were.

As a leader, he conducts regular seminars and workshops called Vision Casting to reinforce the green philosophy and specific environmental, health and safety (EHS) requirements for CDL's consultants and builders.

Says Mr Ang, who also works to educate youth on environmental issues as he chairs the North West Community Development Council's Green Committee: "As the developer is at the top of the industry supply chain, I see myself as the motivator and the driver for the value chain players, and more importantly, the built environment leader. By encouraging consultants and builders to adopt green building practices, this will have a positive rippling and spill-over effect on the industry, seeing that they will go on to work for other developers."

Green Engineer

Er. Tan Kiat Leong, executive director of Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner (Sea), is the recipient of the Green Engineer award, which recognises the accomplishments of Civil and Structural, and Mechanical and Electrical engineers in the green and sustainability front.

The mechanical professional engineer was the job director for M&E consultancy works of many major projects, including the Zero Energy Building at BCA Academy, for which he received the IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Award in 2010.

Er. Tan, who heads the Environmentally Sustainable Design team and the Centre of Excellence in Beca, also actively heads energy audit teams to conduct energy audits, computer simulation and optimisation studies for residential, commercial and office buildings in Singapore and overseas.

"I am always looking into cost-effective and environmentally friendly design and operational control to achieve energy conservation and efficiency. I am particularly concerned in ensuring material and resource efficiency during design, construction, operation and maintenance phases," he says.

Applying the same green principles at home, Er. Tan does not own a car, has walked 30 minutes to and from work for 20 years and does not use air-conditioning at home. "I consider myself a Green Engineer, both in my profession as well as in my lifestyle."

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- CWT Logistics Hub • Development of Camp Facilities at Kranji • Eco Gallery of Setia Eco Gardens • H2O Residences • Hundred Trees • Jarkarta Garden City (Residential) • Krafts Foods regional headquarters office at Harbourfront Center • Leedon Residence • Mapletree Investment Pte Ltd @ MBC • Mitsubishi Electric Asia building • Ngee Ann Polytechnic Block Seventy3 • Quayside Isle • SGBC Office • Sino-Singapore Tianjian Eco-city Shimao Eco-Exhibition Centre • Travista Condominium



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Gold Class	ADDP Architects LLP	Architectural Consultants
Gold Class	Kajima Overseas Asia Pte Ltd	Builder

BCA-SGBC GREEN BUILDING INDIVIDUAL AWARD

CATEGORY	WINNER	FIRM
Green Advocate of the Year 2011	Mr Allen Ang Aik Leng, Deputy General Manager	City Developments Limited
Green Architect of the Year 2011	Madam Vivien Heng Cheng Sim, Director	RSP Architects Planners & Engineers Pte Ltd
Green Engineer of the Year 2011	Er. Tan Kiat Leong, Executive Director	Beca Carter Hollings & Ferner (Sea) Pte Ltd
Green Innovator of the Year 2011	Dr. Ho Nyok Yong Technical Director/Director	Samwoh Corporation Pte Ltd