20 February 2014

HDB BRI – SGBC Joint Seminar: Latest Developments Towards Sustainability

SGBC and the Housing & Development Board Building and Research Institution (HDB BRI) organised the inaugural HDB BRI-SGBC seminar on 20 Feb 2014 at the HDB BRI’s Master Laboratory - the Centre of Building Research. The event was well received with over 130 industry professionals from across the construction value chain.

Themed “Latest Developments Towards Sustainability”, participants gained useful insights and knowledge on various innovative technologies, research and design solutions to enhance sustainability. Participants at the seminar also witnessed the presentation of joint HDB-SGBC certificates to the pioneer group of companies with products listed on both HDB’s Approved Material List and SGBC’s Singapore Green Building Product (SGBP) certification scheme. These products were lauded for their green performance and long-standing quality control.

A key highlight of the seminar was a tour of the Centre for Building Research, where participants had the opportunity to learn more and view HDB’s various R&D efforts and latest test-bedding initiatives.

Amongst the various speakers at the seminar, Dr Lee Siew Eang, SGBC Honorary Advisor and Director for Total Building Performance (NUS) shared on SGBC’s Singapore Green Building Products and Services certification schemes and their relevance to the BCA Green Mark scheme. Mr Allen Ang, Deputy General Manager, City Developments Limited (CDL), presented on “Eco-Innovative Technologies for Buildings of the Future” and the new initiatives that CDL has recently undertaken to advance the possibilities for green buildings. These include the eco-innovations at CDL Green Gallery that was officially opened in 2013 at the Singapore Botanic Gardens Heritage Museum.
Other speakers included Dr Uma Maheswaran, CEO (India) & VP (Sustainable Design) Jurong Consultants, who shared his insights on the design fundamentals to adapt to the tropical climate, which is incidentally the most pervasive climate typology in the world with nearly 50% of the global population residing in the tropics.

Mr Tan Sze Tiong, Deputy Director, Environmental & Building Performance Research, HDB, rounded up the session with his presentation titled “Towards Better Living through Research & Innovations”. Participants received a better understanding of HDB’s journey in creating a living and sustainable environment through research and were introduced to HDB’s Roadmap for Better Living in HDB Towns.