Successful Implementation of Green Buildings

The 2nd SGBC-3M Seminar explored the synergistic relationship between green building research, technologies and financing.

Like the inner workings of a machine, green building as a movement cannot take off without the support of key industry stakeholders and their belief in the sustainability cause. As the world begins to more acutely discern the benefits and advantages a green building can bring to its tenants, occupants and the environment, it is now increasingly important to forge new relationships between the various parties in the built environment.

As part of an interconnected ecosystem, research, technology and financing all play critical roles in any green building initiative. Individually important but more potent if applied in unison, companies onboard the green building bandwagon must be able to achieve synergy among these three pillars in order to full reap the benefits uncovered by research, executed with technology while being adequately financed for maximum efficiency.

On 31 October 2014, the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) and 3M Singapore co-organised a joint seminar to explore the dynamics between research, technology and financing. Held on the premises of 3M Singapore, the seminar saw the participation of close to 100 manufacturers, suppliers, specifiers and green building practitioners who were full of enthusiasm and zeal for the subject matter.

In his welcome speech to the participants of the seminar, Er. Ng Eng Kiong, President of SGBC, highlighted that even if research is crucial in discovering vital empirical information to advance green building practices, the onus is on achieving synergy between research, the technology to use such research results coherently and of course financing for companies to actually make use of the end product.
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To this end, the SGBC-3M Seminar addressed each of these pillars. Kicking things off, Mr Mann Young, Head of CLT Business from Lend Lease Asia Holdings Pte Ltd, gave an insight into the value of going green from a developer’s perspective. From Lend Lease’s expertise and experience, Mr Young illustrated the thinking and reasoning behind some of Lend Lease’s building projects around the world.

The next segment of the Seminar featured technical experts from 3M, speaking to the audience on a trio of 3M green technologies that can be specified for green building use.

To round up the more formal portion of the Seminar, Mr Bentinck Ng, Business Development Manager from the Sustainable Development Capital (Singapore) Pte Ltd, spoke on a number of innovative financing schemes that companies can consider for energy efficient technologies.

The main highlight for the session however came in the form of a short yet highly interactive and insightful tour of 3M’s Customer Technical Centre (CTC). Essentially a showcase of many 3M products and solutions, the CTC is packed with interesting exhibits, product displays, possible uses of 3M solutions as well as replications of existing scenarios in which 3M products are used.

For example, seminar participants got to know about the story behind 3M’s adhesives line, having a go at trying to break a sample piece of 3M™ VHB™ Tape, which are high-strength bonding tapes and a proven alternative to screws, rivets, welds and other mechanical fasteners.
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Participants also got a first-hand look at the Safety and Security Film from 3M: when the glass shatters, the Safety and Security Window Film from 3M is designed to help hold the glass fragments together, reducing potential injury from flying glass during glass breakages.

At each station, a 3M staff member was on site to introduce the technology on display, as well as to answer any queries participants might have. Although the CTC tour was a shortened one (the full tour is about an hour long, which speaks volumes about 3M’s impressive product catalogue), it still managed to be engaging, fulfilling and even fun for the participants. Organisations interested in visiting the CTC can email their requests to innovation.sg@mmm.com.

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