

MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL ATTAINS WORLDGBC ESTABLISHED MEMBER STATUS AND WINS WORLDGBC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS HOSTING RIGHTS

1. Singapore's green building movement is at another significant milestone as the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) is unveiled as an Established Member of the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) network at its Annual General Meeting on 19 March 2010. Representing Singapore at the WorldGBC, the Singapore Green Building Council is instrumental in articulating the country's green building interests and leveraging on the wide resource of international expertise that the WorldGBC provides.

2. The Singapore Green Building Council has also won hosting rights to the two-day World Green Building International Congress 2010 from 13 to 14 September 2010 the marquee event in the international body's calendar. The Congress will be the highlight in a series of events leading up to World Green Building Day on 23 September. Other events include the industry exhibition BEX Asia 2010, and the inaugural SGBC Green Building Conference. All these events will take place during the 2nd Singapore Green Building Week.

3. The World Green Building International Congress is an annual forum for representatives from the different Green Building Councils around the world to meet and discuss its objectives, policies and developmental strategies. It also brings together influential stakeholders from various related industries and international sustainable development experts.

4. Minister for National Development and Founding Patron of SGBC, Mr. Mah Bow Tan, commended the Council for its role in raising Singapore's profile in the area of global sustainable development.

5. “The Singapore Green Building Council is an example of how the private and public sector can work together to drive Singapore’s environmental sustainability strategy. I am heartened at the progress the Council has made internationally, and would like to encourage the members to keep up the good work,” said Mr Mah.

6. The Singapore Green Building Council has also launched its green building product listing website which links manufacturers and suppliers of green building products to building professionals, who in turn will benefit from the convenient resource of technical information. The SGBC welcomes manufacturers and suppliers of green building products to apply for listing at http://www.sgbc.sg/index.php/listing/apply_product

7. Founding President of SGBC, Mr. Lee Chuan Seng, added: “The impetus to move Singapore towards sustainable building rests on positive linkages between private and public stakeholders. We have demonstrated in a short time that sustainability can be given more focus by companies in the building sector. I am confident that SGBC will continue to make progress in product certification as well as to build its global brand.”

8. SGBC has also entered into a long-term partnership with REED Exhibitions, the organizers of Build Eco Xpo Asia (BEX Asia), to deliver a dedicated trade event for the industry that has a strategic focus on bringing green building to the forefront of the industry’s needs. BEX Asia is a platform on which allows exhibitors to present their products and educate potential customers on the benefits of their solutions. Last year, over 200 participating exhibitors from 21 countries reached out to more than 6,400 visitors from around the region.

About the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC)

The inauguration of the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) opens a significant chapter in Singapore's commitment towards creating a sustainable built environment. It is an industry-led initiative which works towards convergence of all stakeholders in green building on a common resource- and knowledge-base.

SGBC's mission is to propel Singapore's building and construction industry towards environmental sustainability by promoting green building design, practices and technologies; integrating green building initiatives into mainstream design, construction and operation of buildings; as well as enhancing capacity and professionalism to support wider adoption of green building development and practices in Singapore.

Its work will complement the government's efforts to accelerate the greening of Singapore's buildings by 2030, while at the same time provide opportunities to share knowledge with other countries in its climatic zone.

The SGBC membership is open to developers, contractors, manufacturers/suppliers, engineers, architects, institutions/associations, agencies and individuals concerned with or interested in transforming Singapore's built environment towards a sustainable future.

About the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC)

The World Green Building Council (WorldGBC) is a union of national councils with a mission to accelerate the transformation of the global built environment towards sustainability. Current member Green Building Councils (GBCs) represent over 50 percent of global construction activity, and touch more than 10,000 companies and organizations worldwide. GBCs are consensus-based, not-for-profit organizations that are highly effective at engaging leaders across sectors to transform the built environment.

WorldGBC's mission:

1. To ensure GBCs are successful and have the tools necessary to advance,
2. Stand as the premier international voice for green building design and development,
3. Foster effective communications and collaboration between Councils, countries and industry leaders,
4. Support effective green building rating systems, and
5. Share best practices globally

Source: World Green Building Council

Annex 1: Fact Sheet on World Green Building Council Established Member status

Full members of the WorldGBC are recognized as being organizationally-stable, and are able to attend the WorldGBC Annual General Meeting, participate in committees and task groups, be listed on the WorldGBC website homepage as an Established members, and the opportunity to run for the WorldGBC Board of Directors.

Singapore will be the latest addition to the present sixteen Established GBCs from four geographical regions, namely:

Africa:	South Africa
Americas/Caribbean:	Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, USA
Asia Pacific:	Australia, India, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, UAE
Europe:	Germany, Romania, UK

Annex 2: Fact Sheet on World Green Building Congress

The purpose of the World Green Building International Congress is to focus on how to maximize the impact of national Green Building Councils and build the momentum of Green Building Council creation around the world.

As a forum for policy discussion, the Congress gathers leading views in the property industry not only in green building development, but also sustainability as a whole.

As the first to be held in South East Asia, the Congress will highlight pertinent issues facing emerging economies in the region, in the context of rising urbanization and the concomitant surge in energy demand.

As hosts, Singapore will maximize exposure of the Congress agenda by positioning it as the marquee event of a series of internationally-established events such as BEX Asia and the SGBC Green Building Conference.

Annex 3: Fact Sheet on SGBC Green Building Products Listing Website

SGBC is positioning itself to play a major role in Green Building Product Certification. This will serve as a technical service to all members of SGBC and the building industry, and to promote green building development through the accelerated up-take of green technologies.

SGBC will link its green product certification system with the BCA Green Mark Scheme, and support the development of BCA Green Mark Scheme. In developing the Green Building Product Certification system, its Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) will work with all relevant local agencies to ensure that it adopts a methodical approach and that the information system established will meet the need of its members and the industry at large. As the development of the Green Building Product Certification system is a huge undertaking, the TCC will establish the system in phases, starting with the level 1 Green Building Product list.

The green building product listing contains a database with a comprehensive library system of data/information/reports, classified to cross reference the corresponding criteria category in the BCA Green Mark Scheme and Code for Environmental Sustainability of Building as well as the National Productivity and Quality Specifications (NPQS) .

The voluntary declaration of Green Product by a manufacturer/supplier without any form of formal test or certification was launched on 26 Feb 2010.