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BCA announces new \$15 million incentive to boost capabilities in sustainable construction

Singapore—The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) announced a new \$15 million Sustainable Construction Capability Development Fund to build up the capabilities of industry players in adopting Sustainable Construction (SC) practices and technologies, and eventually steer the industry towards self-sustenance in the demand and supply of SC materials in Singapore.

The SC Fund will focus on developing capabilities in recycling of waste arising from the demolition of buildings and in the use of recycled materials for construction. This is in line with the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development's (IMCSD) goals to mitigate impact to the environment by boosting our resource efficiency through waste minimisation and recycling.

Designed to boost the construction industry's demand and supply for sustainable materials, the SC Fund will help enhance long term sustainability in the use of essential construction materials.

The Fund will be used to promote demand for and wider adoption of SC materials in the construction industry. Through training, promotion and education programmes within the industry, and more extensive test-bedding of SC technologies, materials and technical know-how, the Fund will encourage more industry players to integrate SC into their designs, construction processes and business operations.

To support this increased demand for SC materials, the Fund will be used to support technology upgrading and adoption among demolition contractors, recyclers and ready-mixed concrete (RMC) suppliers, and help improve their work processes to enhance the quality of recycled products and to meet specified industry standards. RMC companies supplying concrete for structural use in Singapore can also take advantage of this new fund to upgrade their plants or develop 'green' products and technologies for the construction industry.

The new Fund was announced by Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education, Ms Grace Fu, at the official opening of Samwoh's Eco-Green Park. This Eco-Green building project is one of the 11 sustainable construction related projects funded by the MND Research Fund for the Built Environment established in 2007. Samwoh's Eco-Green Park is the first building in Singapore to use Recycled Concrete Aggregates (RCA) extensively in its structural concrete elements. The success of Samwoh's project is testament to the critical role of Research and Development in advancing sustainable construction, and serves as an important showpiece of applied R&D in concrete technology.

Funding areas to support the demand for sustainable materials

The key in building up demand for

sustainable materials is to enhance the industry's knowledge and competency in the use of new sustainable construction materials and technologies. The following are some examples of how the fund can help.

- 1) Test-bedding to study feasibility of alternative materials such as using soil hardeners or precast slabs to construct temporary roads.
- 2) Development of Green/ Eco Concrete that contains recycled materials such as Ground Granulated Blastfurnace Slag to partially replace cement.

Funding areas to support the supply of sustainable materials

To increase the supply of sustainable materials industry players are encouraged to make use of technology to increase work efficiency or adopt control measures to improve product output. The following are some examples of how the fund can be used.

- 1) Purchase of equipment such as remote-controlled demolition equipment to facilitate improved resource recovery.
- 2) Process enhancements in demolition waste recycling plants to enhance the quality of recycled aggregates and recognition through accreditation schemes. ■



Samwoh Eco-Green Park. Photo courtesy of Samwoh Corporation Pte Ltd