

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NEW DEGREE IN EVENTS AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT TO TRAIN 6,000 IN GREEN BUILDING MANAGEMENT CAREERS**

1. The Building and Construction Authority (BCA), SIM University (UniSIM) and the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) ) are jointly offering the Bachelor of Science in Events and Sustainable Facilities Management programme, the first of its kind in Singapore that equips graduates with competencies in both facilities and events management.
2. To achieve the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Sustainable Development's (IMCSD) target for 80% of buildings to be Green Mark certified by 2030, Singapore needs about 6,000 facilities management professionals within the next ten years. This new undergraduate degree would help in meeting this demand by producing practitioners with the requisite knowledge, skill and competency to manage buildings effectively and optimise the use of resources (such as energy and water) in the operation of buildings.
3. "The proper maintenance and management of the growing number of green buildings and the ambitious plan for green retrofits of the existing building stock will require an adequate pool of knowledgeable and competent facilities management practitioners to be trained up. This new degree programme will form the cornerstone of BCA's strategy to build a pipeline of facilities managers equipped with technical and managerial knowledge to improve building management and resource efficiency in our built environment" said Dr John Keung, Chief Executive Officer of the BCA.

4. A survey of the local polytechnics indicates that the sizeable cohorts who had graduated or are graduating with diplomas in both facilities management and events management will benefit from this degree programme. Each year SP produces about 600 graduates for the built environment and MICE-related industry (Architecture, Civil, Events & Facilities Management, etc).

5. Additionally, its first batch of 120 Diploma students in Property Development & Facilities Management and 80 Diploma students in Integrated Events & Project Management will be graduating in April 2010. Therefore, this integrated degree programme will tap on this pent-up demand for a degree qualification in both facilities and events management.

6. "According to the Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore's MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Exhibitions) sector is a key growth area of the tourism industry, driven by the demands in Asia and the up and coming integrated resorts at home. We have over the years, established a strong reputation of being an attractive business events destination to provide opportunities for growth. With the increasing focus and emphasis on sustainable development, the launch of the degree in Integrated Events and Sustainable Facilities Management is a timely one as it provides another avenue for our Diploma graduates to upgrade themselves," said Singapore Polytechnic's Principal, Mr Tan Hang Cheong.

7. This degree will be conferred by UniSIM. It will oversee the overall development of the programme, offer its curriculum development expertise and develop the modules in management. As with all UniSIM programmes, classes will be conducted on a part-time basis where students have up to eight years to complete their studies., this programme would also appeal to working adults who are contemplating a career switch,. Students will gain from a firm foundation in leadership, planning, design, financials, communication and management skills together with the essential specialized competencies in the areas of events and sustainable facilities management.

8. Commenting on the partnership, Professor Cheong Hee Kiat, President of UniSIM, said, "This partnership will enable UniSIM to introduce another programme that is industry relevant and meets the upgrading needs of yet another

cluster of adult learners. We are glad that UniSIM can play a role in supporting the Government's Green Mark movement by training events and facilities management practitioners who are skilled in green building management. The 40% government subsidy will make this new programme more affordable to current facilities management practitioners who want to upgrade their capabilities to meet the new demands of the industry."

9. The programme will be conducted at 3 campuses through a combination of face-to-face lectures, laboratory works and blended e-learning, and will also be delivered by academic staff from the 3 institutions. The first intake will commence in July 2010.

10. Interested students may visit [www.bcaa.edu.sg](http://www.bcaa.edu.sg), [www.unisim.edu.sg](http://www.unisim.edu.sg) or [www.sp.edu.sg](http://www.sp.edu.sg) for more information about the course.

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#### **About the Building and Construction Authority (BCA)**

The Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore champions the development of an excellent built environment for Singapore. At BCA, our mission is to shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment, as these are four key elements where BCA has a significant influence. In doing so, we aim to differentiate Singapore's built environment from those of other cities and contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in Singapore. Hence, our vision is to have "the best built environment for Singapore, our distinctive global city". Please visit [www.bca.gov.sg](http://www.bca.gov.sg) for more information.

#### **About BCA Academy**

The BCA Academy of the Built Environment is the education and research arm of the Building and Construction Authority, Singapore. It is the leading institution in Singapore that provides a comprehensive range of training and education programmes tailored to the needs of the building and construction industry. In support of the national effort to develop Singapore into a green and sustainable city, the BCA Academy is pioneering several initiatives in training and research on renewable energy, green building design and technology, and sustainable development. To enable our industry leaders and practitioners to learn from the experience and knowledge of leading experts in this field, the Academy collaborates with global leaders and institutions in running executive courses, academic programmes, seminars and workshops on sustainable development and green buildings.

**About SIM University**

**SIM University (UniSIM)** is the first privately-funded local university (on social mission) approved by the Ministry of Education to issue university degrees in a comprehensive range of disciplines. UniSIM focuses on the upgrading and learning needs of working professionals and adult learners. It adopts a flexible and practice-focused learning approach and offers more than 40 academic programmes in various disciplines. Its current enrolment is close to 10,000 students. Since July 2008, UniSIM's programmes became even more accessible to adult learners as eligible Singaporeans and Permanent Residents taking UniSIM undergraduate programmes enjoy a government subsidy of 40% and 20% of tuition fees. UniSIM has been a Singapore "Institution of a Public Character" (IPC) since September 2005.

**About Singapore Polytechnic School of Architecture and the Built Environment**

Singapore Polytechnic is the oldest local polytechnic. Its School of Architecture and the Built Environment already offers a diploma in Integrated Events and Project Management, training students to support the event life cycle in the technical and business aspects of growing events management industry.