

Factsheet on UNEP-BCA MOU

A. 1st MOU between UNEP and BCA

- In 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and BCA was signed with the aim of promoting sustainable buildings and construction to the region and building capacity for sustainable building policies by exchange of best practices, policies and strategies.
- An MOU Exchange Ceremony was held on 26 October 2009 during the inaugural International Green Building Conference (IGBC 2009).
- Since then, BCA has been making its contribution to the global sustainability movement through its active involvement with UNEP and its Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) (*see section D and E*).

B. 2nd MOU between UNEP and BCA

- UNEP and BCA are now ready to elevate their collaboration to a more formal arrangement in the form of a Collaborating Centre.
- UNEP and BCA will sign the 2nd MOU at the IGBC on 14 September to lay the foundation for the setting-up of a BCA-UNEP Collaborating Centre in Singapore.
- The Centre that would be incorporated would be known as the “**BCA Centre for Sustainable Buildings**, a Centre Collaborating with UNEP”.

C. BCA Centre for Sustainable Buildings, a Centre Collaborating with UNEP

- With a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability, the Centre will be one of the few centres in the world and the first in Asia that are collaborating with UNEP to drive greater adoption of sustainable buildings.
- The Centre will develop and deliver policy tools, approaches and support for sustainable resource management in the building sector in tropical cities and regions worldwide. It will also undertake advocacy work in the region.
- UNEP and BCA will be actively identifying possible collaborative projects in the region for the Centre.

D. Current collaborative Projects with UNEP and UNEP-SBCI

- *UNEP - BCA Regional Status Report on Sustainable Building Policies in South-East Asia*

In partnership with UNEP, BCA is conducting a regional status report in South-East Asia (SEA) within UNEP-SBCI's framework of the global status reporting on sustainable

buildings. This regional status reporting will collate the current status and trends of initiatives in the region on promoting the development of sustainable buildings (SB). UNEP and BCA will be soft-launching the Country Reports during the WGBC Asia Pacific Network session on 14 September at IGBC 2011. The Regional Status Report is slated to be launched in the 2nd quarter of 2012.

- *UNEP SBCI – BCA Regional Workshops on Sustainable Building Policies in South-East Asia*

Two Regional Workshops were held in September 2010 and March 2011 with the aim to develop the Regional Status Report and review the sustainable building policies and initiatives in the region. The workshops were attended by government officials and industry advocates from 9 SEA countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The workshops served as a useful platform and forum for better understanding of the region's efforts on sustainable buildings and propel action from the building sector in SEA.

- *Pilot Test of the UNEP SBCI's Common Carbon Metric (CCM)*

The CCM, launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in 2009 at Copenhagen, aims to serve as a global metric for measuring energy and reporting carbon emissions of buildings to establish performance baselines. As a contribution to the global sustainability movement, BCA participated in Phase I of the CCM Pilot which had participation spanning multiple climate regions in Australia, Asia, Europe, India, North America and Africa. BCA has also committed to participate in the Phase II pilot in 3rd/ 4th quarter of 2011.

E. About UNEP-SBCI

The United Nations Environment Programme - Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) was established in 2006. It is a global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and all building sector stakeholders to jointly identify and promote opportunities for change towards sustainability in buildings and develop tools and mechanisms for realising those opportunities.