



Ho Xue Mei

- 2009 BCA-CPG Built Environment Scholar
- Graduated with Bachelor of Science (Project & Facilities Management), 2nd Class Upper, from NUS
- 3 Gold Medal Award Winner :
 - SCAL Gold Medal
 - SIBL Gold Medal
 - Sally Meyer Gold Medal

Speech by Graduating Scholar, Ms Ho Xue Mei

1. Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education Ms Grace Fu, Chairman of BCA Mr Quek See Tiat, CEO of BCA Dr John Keung, distinguished guests, scholars, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon to one and all.

2 Today, I stand before you, humbled and honoured, to be given this opportunity to deliver this speech on behalf of the graduating scholars this year.

3 First, let me express how thankful I am that BCA has initiated the BCA-Industry Built Environment Scholarship Programme. For me, signing the scholarship with CPG has to be the luckiest thing that has happened in my university life.

4 Other than the fact that the scholarship award greatly reduced my family's financial burden - more so as my father is the sole-breadwinner - this joint scholarship offered by BCA and CPG will be more than just a key to the start of my career life. It will open a door of boundless opportunities for me to apply what I have learned. I'm grateful for this scholarship, and I am sure this is how my fellow graduating scholars feel in respect to their sponsors as well.

5 During my graduation, I was asked "What does the future hold?" And I answered, "I hold the future". Indeed, each of us has control over our own life; what matters is how we manage it. How we define aspirations also makes a difference to how we manage our future. Being a Quantity Surveyor, cost and value management are essential deliverables for our project client. Therefore to me, my aspiration is to make a difference, create an impact and be the significant energy to deliver our project with accuracy, value and client satisfaction.

6 I recently read a book by a well-known leadership author, John C. Maxwell, in which he questions about how we focus our energy. Do we focus our energy on survival, success or significance? He said that there are too many opportunities for survival alone and there's more to life than mere success. So we have to dream big and create significance in whatever we do. As I now embark on my career, I keep this piece of advice as a reminder to aim high and strive hard to make significant contributions to my company and the built environment sector. This way, I'm assured that years down the road, I will look back knowing that I have lived my life to the fullest, just like how I have spent my university life.

7 Four years ago, I entered NUS, as part of the pioneer batch of the Projects and Facilities Management Programme in the School of Design and Environment.

8 Four years later, I am proud to be a graduate representing the pioneers of this programme. However, the proudest thing is that I graduate with more than just an honors degree. More specifically I graduate with shared memories with my friends and with bonds that are meant to last beyond my university life.

9 Regardless of whether you are still a student or you are graduating and moving on to your career life, let us not forget about important elements of life other than CAP scores, status or monetary gains. Family, friends, love, health, happiness and growth are equally or even much more important in the pursuit of success in our life. I especially love this quote by Stephen Covey, that is, "To live, to love, to learn and to leave a legacy."

10 With that, may I appeal to all fellow scholars to let today be the day where we take charge of our life to create a future of significance and not forgetting to appreciate our multi-dimensional life as we strive to live, to love, to learn and leave a legacy in our life, and those of others.

11 Most importantly, today is a significant day for the scholars and also your parents and loved ones who have always been your pillar of support. Therefore, let's take this opportunity to show them your appreciation with a round of applause. All the best to you in your new journey that you are going to embark on, and I look forward to the day I work with you in the built environment sector. Thank you.