

## MEDIA FACTSHEET

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNEX G

### BCA-MOE BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

#### Background

Officially launched in September 2016, the **BCA - MOE Back to School programme** (B2S) is an initiative to enhance student engagement and education in environmental sustainability, and to groom the next generation of "green-collar" professionals. Under the programme, students from Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) are given the opportunity to act as Green Mark consultants to help their alma mater schools attain the BCA Green Mark certification. This programme leverages on the student's familiarity and relationship with the school to kick-start the greening of schools in Singapore.



In 2015 and 2016, BCA conducted a pilot run of the programme in collaboration with Temasek Polytechnic. BCA staff mentored 12 internship students who went on to help 10 schools attain the BCA Green Mark certification. The programme provides great exposure and learning opportunities not just for the interns but also their schools. Past interns have gone on to further their studies in built environment related courses in National University of Singapore (NUS).

#### Objective

The objectives of the programme are:

- **EXPOSE:** To expose students to sustainability and green building careers
- **EMPLOY:** To provide a platform for students to employ their technical and management skills that they acquired in school and at BCA
- **ENVOY:** To get students to be envoys of the sustainability message

#### Target Audience

1. **Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) students** who are enrolled in built-environment related courses will be given the platform for practice-based learning and be directly mentored by industry professionals.
2. **Built Environment firms** may volunteer as industry mentors to help guide the next generation of green professionals.

## How it works

The student intern would be paired with a mentor, and undertake the following tasks to help schools to achieve Green Mark certification.



## Partners of the Programme

The programme has now been extended to students from 7 Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs).

### Participating Institutes of Higher Learning



BCA and MOE have roped in professionals from industry firms to come on board as mentors to guide and share their work experiences with students. The following green-minded Built Environment firms are currently on board the programme:

### Partnering Industry Mentors



## Schools that are Green Mark-certified after the Programme

### In FY15:

School	GM Award
Admiralty Secondary School	Gold
Beatty Secondary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>
Peicai Secondary School	Gold

### In FY 16:

School	GM Award
Da Qiao Primary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>
Hong Wen School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>
Xinghua Primary School	Gold
Ang Mo Kio Secondary School	Gold
Chung Cheng High School (Main)	Gold
Serangoon Garden Secondary School	Gold
Serangoon Secondary School	Gold

### In FY 17:

School	GM Award	School	GM Award
Bukit Panjang Primary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>	Corporation Primary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>
Nan Chiau Primary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>	Marsiling Primary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>
Westwood Secondary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>	Woodlands Ring Secondary School	Gold <sup>PLUS</sup>
Ai Tong School	Gold	Fuchun Primary School	Gold
Chung Cheng High School (Yishun)	Gold	Gan Eng Seng Primary School	Gold
Gan Eng Seng Secondary School	Gold	Hua Yi Secondary School	Gold
Keming Primary School	Gold	Queensway Secondary School	Gold
West View Primary School	Gold	Zhangde Primary School	Gold

## On-going Projects

Elias Park Primary School	Cedar Girls* Secondary School
Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School	Damai Secondary School
Tampines North Primary School	Dunman Secondary School
Tampines Primary School	Ngee Ann Secondary School
Unity Primary School	Regent Secondary School
Yu Neng Primary School	St. Andrew*s Secondary School
Bedok Green Secondary School	

## Accolades

The programme received Gold Award at 2017 Best Practices Awards organised by APEC Energy Smart Communities Initiatives (ESCI) for its impact on the community. Past interns from this programme (Gordon, Jie Min, Zoe, Jiade) have also received the IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Awards 2017 (Special Awards) for their outstanding contribution to the green building sector through their participation in the pilot run of the Back to School Programme in 2016.

## **Students' Profiles**

### **1. Ms Chen Xin Zhu**

GREENtern, BCA-MOE Back to School Programme 2017

National University of Singapore

Assisted in BCA Green Mark Certification for Keming Primary School

- Xin Zhu took up an internship at BCA to participate in the Back to School (B2S) Programme as she saw it as an opportunity to help schools achieve the BCA Green Mark certification and at the same time, help spread the green messages to the younger generation.
- Xin Zhu hopes to extend the impact of her project beyond the duration of her internship. Together with the Keming Primary school, she co-developed an environmental policy that guides the school's procurement and management to achieve greater resource efficiency over the next few years.
- Besides raising awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability to the school's management, Xinzhu created a suite of initiatives, such as developing a green corner with learning materials on sustainability, a framework to help the school to guide and coordinate their environmental education programme, and posters to garner greater participation from the students and staff in combating climate change. She believes her contribution to the programme can help to inspire students to start their own green building journey early.
- Xin Zhu said "The internship experience at BCA has deepened my insights and expanded my understanding of green buildings. I see great potential in bringing together effective building management and changing occupants' behaviour to sustain good building energy performance." Following her internship at BCA, Xin Zhu will be furthering her studies and pursuing Master of Science in Project and Facilities Management at the National University of Singapore.

### **2. Ms Tang Sze Tong**

GREENtern 2017

Singapore Polytechnic

Assisted in BCA Green Mark Certification for Corporation Primary School and Huayi Secondary School

- Sze Tong was keen to find out how a hotel functions and operates, behind the usual glamorous façade. This led her to embark on her journey at Singapore Polytechnic's Diploma in Hotel & Leisure Facilities Management.
- Her exposure in environmental Values in Action (VIA) programme during secondary school piqued her interest in pursuing sustainability. This interest in sustainability was further cultivated during her study at SP. She found the internship at BCA a marriage of her interests in facilities management and sustainability and allowed her to dig deeper into the realm of green building technologies.
- At BCA, Sze Tong identified areas for improvement on the school's infrastructure and programme, as well as conducted a check on the building's indoor environmental quality (e.g. lighting level, air conditioning and ventilation systems) to ensure that the school provides a conducive learning environment for its students. She has identified measures the school could undertake or take note of in their next round of retrofit cycle.

- She strongly values her internship experience in BCA as her BCA mentors provided her with a glimpse of the built environment and how the supply chain works. She said “I saw how varied functions and roles in the built environment helped to achieve a greater purpose. With the exposure to commercial projects, I am now more familiar with the various green building technologies and trends.”
- After her stint at BCA, Sze Tong will go on to share what she has learnt with her peers and family on the importance of sustainability and the roles they can play in this sustainability drive.

### 3. **Mr Seah Jun Jie**

GREENtern 2017

Temasek Polytechnic

Assisted in Green Mark Certification for Tampines North Primary School and Dunman Secondary School

- Prior to his internship at BCA, Jun Jie felt that the power of a single person was meaningless and insufficient to create substantial change. However, after his interaction with schools and the projects he has completed, he saw the value and importance of the single. At BCA, he successfully assisted Tampines North Primary School and Dunman Secondary school in their pursuit for a greener environment and education programme. Through the recommendations he has proposed, he saw how he alone could trigger a ripple effect in the community to effect behavioural change for sustainability.
- Though his work at BCA was challenging, Jun Jie found it extremely fulfilling to observe the changes that took place in the school. He saw greater environmental awareness amongst schools’ staff and more environmental-related programmes for the students. Despite Tampines North Primary School’s long history of promoting environmental sustainability within the school, Jun Jie identified green labels and sustainability as a new area for the school to incorporate in their procurement policy and proposed enhancing their environment education to encourage students to become prudent consumers. He said “I believe that the environmental values that students learn extend beyond the walls of the schools as students could bring these values home and share it with their family and relatives.”
- As part of the gap analysis conducted, Jun Jie helped the schools’ to benchmark their consumption trend against other schools. He saw great potential in reducing energy and water consumption in schools further and worked together with the schools’ management to identify areas for improvement. At Dunman Secondary School, Jun Jie worked with the school’s management to prepare a 3 to 5-year rejuvenation and upgrading plan for Dunman to improve the school’s building performance and to enhance the school’s green features and environment education programme.

### 4. **Mr Rahman Amin**

GREENtern 2017

Temasek Polytechnic

Assisted in Green Mark Certification for Yu Neng Primary School and Bedok Green Secondary School

- The engineering and business management components of the Integrated Facilities Management course caught Rahman’s attention and led him to pursue his Diploma at Temasek Polytechnic.

- With the passion to serve the community and play a part in the sustainability drive, Rahman seized the opportunity to participate in the BCA-MOE Back to School Programme. He saw the programme as a platform to green the schools' infrastructure and instil sustainability values to the younger generation. He valued the opportunity to collaborate with his alma maters to help them achieve Green Mark certification.
- Through the measures he has implemented at Bedok Green Secondary School, the school managed to achieve the BCA Green Mark Gold<sup>PLUS</sup> award. Through these efforts, he hopes to extend the impact of his work beyond his project term and assist the school in achieving higher BCA Green Mark rating in the next round of Green Mark certification.
- Following his internship at BCA, Rahman has plans to further his studies in the built environment sector with an interest in sustainability.

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