

3RD ASIA ENVIRONMENT LECTURE 2015 GREENING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: RAMPING UP GLOBAL PROGRESS

BY MS CHRISTINE ERVIN
FIRST PRESIDENT AND CEO, U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

Shaw Foundation Alumni House Auditorium (NUS)
11 Kent Ridge Drive, Singapore 119244
Friday, 6 November 2015
5.00pm – 7.30pm (Registration starts at 4.30pm)



ABOUT THE LECTURE

Today's vibrant green building market is arguably the single most encouraging trend for ushering in clean and resilient economies. More than ninety countries feature private-public green building councils and government programs to spur market development. In some countries, more than half of all new commercial office buildings are now certified "green". And in Singapore, building industry executives anticipate a greater percentage of green projects than anywhere else in the world.

What's remarkable about this market surge is that just fifteen years ago, there was no widespread understanding of what "green building" even meant! Let alone widespread examples of green homes, offices, hospitals and factories or ready access to skilled practitioners to design and build them. Even more surprising is this rapid pace of change unfolding in an industry historically slow to innovate.

What's behind this remarkable market transformation? Are green building trends on track to address environmental and social challenges that are accelerating, scaling up, and becoming increasingly interconnected – particularly in Asia where much of the world's rapid urbanization is occurring? What are the current drivers and obstacles to higher levels of performance and deeper penetration into existing and new developments?

As the first CEO for the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy, Christine goes behind the scenes to share stories of how the green building market and popular LEED rating system evolved. She points to inspiring examples of green buildings and urban developments in the U.S. and Asia to showcase best practices, lessons learned and emerging trends. Finally, Christine explores several key policy actions that could accelerate greening our urban landscape in Asia and around the world.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Christine Ervin is passionate about private-public collaborations to accelerate the green economy.

As the U.S. Green Building Council's first President and CEO, she led its evolution from a start-up organization to the highly influential coalition of industry leaders transforming the way buildings are designed, built, and operated in the United States and abroad. Over her tenure, the Council launched the popular LEED green building rating system and the Greenbuild conference and expo, which regularly draws 25,000 attendees. Christine is widely recognized as a major force behind the vibrant green building market, receiving USGBC's Leadership award in 2004 and 2014.

As U.S. Assistant Secretary of Energy for President Clinton, Christine directed \$1 billion in annual investments for clean technologies for buildings, transportation, industries and renewable energy. Her office also oversaw dozens of programs comprising the President's Climate Change Action Plan and a comprehensive assessment by five national laboratories on climate change mitigation strategies. Other initiatives included market-based partnerships to deploy clean energy and leverage private financing; research on integrated design for buildings; new centers for photovoltaic research and sustainable communities; and a major initiative to accelerate national appliance standards. Previously, she directed the Oregon Department of Energy and conducted research for the Washington-D.C. based Conservation Foundation/World Wildlife Fund.

From her Portland, Oregon base, Christine serves on fiduciary and advisory boards for venture capital firms; start-up companies; national advocacy efforts; and environmental standards programs including the Green Electronics Council, which certifies green electronic products in 40 countries; and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board, which develops corporate sustainability indicators relevant for investors. She holds natural resource degrees from Oregon State University and has published in scientific and popular literatures.

THE LECTURE SERIES

Environmental issues are constantly in the media forefront today. Countries and cities across the world grapple with climate change, which has brought unseasonal floods, droughts and wildfires, and caused severe economic losses, adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecological disasters and much human misery. Cities continue to face the challenges of population growth, inadequate clean water and energy supplies, deteriorating public health and hygiene, environmental degradation, and the pollution of air, land and water. While Asian states have made considerable economic progress in rapid time, they are finding it increasingly challenging to balance development and environmental sustainability. The current imperatives for national development, industrialization and a market economy should not be compromised. There is a need for sound, stable and sustainable environmental management practices. These can be found in the right environmental policies and laws, translated and implemented through effective governance and management. A holistic approach involving partnerships among stakeholders is necessary to address these challenges.

The Asia Environment Lecture provides a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange and networking with world leaders with expertise and experience on environmental sustainability in Asia. Environmental sustainability is multi-faceted and this event is organized by the two multi-disciplinary programmes on the environment at the National University of Singapore (NUS) - the Master of Science in Environmental Management (MEM) and Bachelor of Environmental Studies (BES); together with the Law Faculty's Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), the Building Control Authority (BCA), Ministry of National Development, Singapore and City Developments Limited (CDL).

Please email to lawapcel@nus.edu.sg for any enquiries

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PROGRAMME OUTLINES

- 4.30pm Registration of guests
- 5.00pm Welcome and Introduction to the Asia Environment Lecture, Assoc Prof Edward Webb, Chairman, NUS Bachelor of Environmental Studies [BES] Programme Management Committee & Director, BES
- 5.15pm 3rd Asia Environment Lecture 2015
Greening The Built Environment: Ramping Up Global Progress
- 6.00pm Question and Answer Session
Moderator, Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large
- 6.30pm Tea Reception
- 7.30pm End of Event

REGISTRATION

Registration is complimentary & seats are limited.
Your response by **30 October 2015** would be much appreciated.

To Register: Visit <https://goo.gl/zs7mpN> or Scan the QR Code

