



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN
CONSTRUCTION (SINGAPORE)



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are now entering into the festive season. This is the second year that we are experiencing the season under the Covid cloud. To help our members deal with the Covid, we had a webinar on Covid related claims in the Built Environment Sector, and another webinar on the possible use of office space post-pandemic.

Our MOU with Singapore Institute of Building Limited [SIBL] and Sphere has resulted in a webinar on Driving Sustainability through Digital Construction Practices. This gave us the opportunity to hold an e-booth in BuildTech Asia too.

As the Industry Partner with KPMG on the development of talents post pandemic, we have helped in providing information to the study, resulting in a paper called "The Future of Talent Development – accelerating mindset shifts in the New Normal". This study has been shared with members.

I would like to thank all the speakers for the webinars for their valuable contributions, and the committee and sub-committee members for their unwavering efforts through 2021. Physical networking was not possible, and I hope that in 2022, we will be able to conduct networking sessions, and other events that would interest AWiCS members.

AWiCS will continue to play her role in the growth, development and retention of women in the Singapore Built Environment Industry. I look forward to meeting all of you in 2022. Happy New Year.

Best Regards,

ER Emily Tan
Founding President

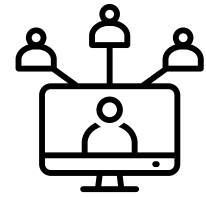
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BTA BuildTech Asia • Digital Series 2021

Topic:
“Driving Sustainability through Digital Construction Practices”

8 JULY 2021 | THURSDAY
2 PM - 3 PM
SINGAPORE TIME, GMT 8+

Speakers:
Emily Tan
Managing Director, TSM Consultancy, President, Association of Women in Construction (AWICS)
Dr. Sussie Ketit
President of Singapore Institute of Building Limited (SIBL), Regional Director, Skold A/S
Lau Shih Hor
Chairman, Smart Nation
Farizan d'Avezac de Moran
Senior Partner, GreenA Consultants & Vice President, Singapore Institute of Building Limited
Vanessa Tang
Director, Singapore Institute of Building Limited Director, ACEPLP, BIM Advisor
Theodore Chan
Senior Director, CIAP Architects

Brought to you by:
AWICS
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION (SINGAPORE)

Register your free pass to the event by scanning the QR code.

www.buildtechasia.com



On the 8 July, Association of Women in Construction Singapore (AWICS) co-hosted a panel discussion together with the Singapore Institute of Building Limited (SIBL) on the importance of achieving sustainability through construction practices across the value chain. The session opened with a welcome address from AWICS President Er. Emily Tan and was closed by SIBL's President, Dr. Sussie Ketit.

Keynote speaker Mr. Lau Shih Hor, Chairman of the SMART Nation Chapter chaired a very lively discussion together with a panel of three prolific industry representatives from the Built Environment sector. The keynote provided insights into the Singapore Green Plan's decade-long roadmap in charting the nation's sustainability goals. Singapore's built environment sector has an impressive target to achieve in obtaining 80% efficiency in these three areas: greening our buildings, developing new building with super low energy and energy-efficiency improvements for best-in-class green buildings.

The panel session was moderated by Ms. Vanessa Tang, ACEPLP and consisted of two other industry veterans namely Ms Farizan d'Avezac de Moran, Senior Partner at Green A Consultants, Ar. Theodore Chan from CIAP Architects. Echoing the importance of the national sustainability movement, the speakers covered a wide range of topics including the importance of business transformation by keeping the digital parallel in mind whilst remaining relevant and competitive in today's challenging environment. Social responsibility and the need for businesses to take heed beyond just the bottom line was also covered. The significance of building design and parallels drawn towards achieving a lower carbon emission and more green buildings are important as part of Singapore's climate change migration strategy.

The advent of digitalisation within the built environment sector is integrated with sustainability practices. Businesses need to understand and adapt to increased automation and incoming new technologies to their own business models in order to remain competitive. Mr Lau added that as companies embrace AI and automation, it is inevitable that redundancies will occur in place of new jobs creation.



CREATING A PEOPLE-CENTRIC WORKPLACE FOR A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

In kind sponsors:



The AWiCS-Unispace Webinar, an inaugural event under the AWiCS' Mentorship Programme 2021, attracted close to 50 attendees.

Three speakers from Unispace brought attendees on a case-study walk through of their recently completed project to illustrate how Unispace's team worked during the pandemic to successfully deliver to client's satisfaction. The project was to redesign Boston Scientific's office in Singapore, to enable greater connectivity and collaboration for their on-site, remote and hybrid workers. It began in May 2020 with a planning period of 4.5 months followed by a 10-week construction period.

The first speaker, Ms Lee Pui Kheng, said that the long planning (pre-construction) stage upfront ensured that variation needed during the construction stage could be minimized. This in turn translated to cost-savings for the client and on-time delivery.

The second speaker, Ms Suang Ng, who was the Project Lead, elaborated on how the team used insights provided by the client to inform the strategy and translate into design that would meet their current and future needs. As the client's global workplace survey found that almost 50% of their workforce expressed preference to work from home at least 3 times per week in the post-COVID era (compared to just 13% pre-COVID), the agile-work design of the office space would be one that provides more for social and collaboration needs of hybrid and remote employees as a good part of focus-work and learning activities move online.

Ms Alfie Hsieh, who was the Project Manager then shared that early and constant engagement with both client and vendor were key to providing seamless delivery experience. As construction had to take place during the pandemic, extensive and strict site health and safety measures were implemented to minimize risks of stop-work orders and any COVID cases occurring among the workers. The use of 3D video capture of job site providing real-time visualization of work progress for the client was not only for conflict resolution as part of constant engagement, but also helped to minimize travelling and reduce risk during such times.

THE SPEAKERS



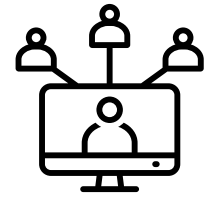
Lee Pui Kheng
Senior Project Manager
with more than 10 years'
industry experience delivering
large-scale workplaces
throughout Asia.



Suang Ng
Associate, Design,
with more than 10 years' experience,
designing technologically advanced
environments across a range of
industries



Alfie Hsieh
Assistant Project Manager, with
close to 5 years' excellent track
record of collaborative, client-
centric project delivery



DEALING WITH COVID-19 RELATED CLAIMS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT SECTOR



AWiCS' webinar on 23rd September 2021 was once again well attended and well received with requests for a part 2 and even part 3 coverage of the subject in future webinars.

As part of its ongoing efforts to address subjects of concern close to the hearts of members of the construction fraternity, Ms Danna Er, Partner at Eldan Law LLP, was invited to shed some light on how claims are to be made under the latest COVID-19 laws, including the recent BCA circulars and COTMA Part 10A. Ms Er also gave an overview on how COVID-19 related claims are to be made under select standard forms.

Respondents to a poll during the webinar unanimously voted that the current COVID-19 measures, albeit being of some help, are not sufficient for the construction industry, and more help could be given to private projects and sub-contractors. Material-price increase, apart from manpower cost increases, was raised as a concern and a point of consideration for stakeholders.

Ms Er spoke on three broad types of claims commonly made: extension-of-time (EOT) claims, loss and expense claims (related to and incurred due to EOT) and variations claims. She noted that while the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act does not provide for any EOT, contractors could be entitled for relief based on "material extent caused by COVID-19 event". Claims for EOT must be made based only on grounds set out in contractual clauses, with "Force Majeure" and "variation due to compliance with law" being some of the common grounds. In the absence definition in the contract, force majeure events are defined as "unforeseeable events which have prevented performance of the relevant obligation (and not merely made it more onerous), and which were circumstances beyond the parties' control".

Disclaimer: Contents are accurate at the time of writing of this article. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of events, please refer to the relevant links below for the latest development on the COTMA from BCA:

1. <https://www1.bca.gov.sg/docs/default-source/docs-corp-news-and-publications/circulars/circular-on-adopting-pandemic-resilient-contracting-practices.pdf>
2. [https://www.mnd.gov.sg/newsroom/speeches/view/further-extension-of-relief-periods-under-the-covid-19-\(temporary-measures\)-act-for-relevant-contracts-in-the-built-environment-sector](https://www.mnd.gov.sg/newsroom/speeches/view/further-extension-of-relief-periods-under-the-covid-19-(temporary-measures)-act-for-relevant-contracts-in-the-built-environment-sector)





SP Group is a leading utilities group in the Asia Pacific, empowering the future of energy with low-carbon, smart energy solutions for its customers. It owns and operates electricity and gas transmission and distribution businesses in Singapore and Australia, and sustainable energy solutions in Singapore and China.

As Singapore's national grid operator, about 1.6 million industrial, commercial and residential customers benefit from its world-class transmission, distribution and market support services. These networks are amongst the most reliable and cost-effective world-wide.

Beyond traditional utilities services, SP Group provides a suite of renewable and sustainable energy solutions including solar energy solutions, microgrids, cooling and heating systems for business districts and residential townships, electric vehicle fast charging and green digital energy management tools for customers in Singapore and the region.



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

*Good luck for
great beginnings...*

WHO ARE WE

AWiCS is the first association that is dedicated to the growth, development and retention of women in the Singapore's Built Environment Industry. Following its inception in June 2019 AWiCS has been taking the charge empowering women to be decision makers, inspiring them to continue improving and connecting spaces in Singapore and beyond.

AWiCS's dedication to unite all sectors of the built environment industry in creating positive impact and sustainable growth in society is evident from the strong corporate support and wide range of members within the industry. The association remains dedicated to mentoring, young adults to learn, grow and evolve to empower women professionals, inspire young adults and create valuable connections.

Regardless of your sector or gender. Join us on the journey of transformational growth. Step Up, Lean and Lead the Change!

CONTACT US

AWiCS Secretariat
18 Howard Road
#07-05 Novelty Bizcentre
Singapore 369585
Email : info@awicsg.org

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<https://youtube.com/rbScnmXJec0>