

milestones

Singapore

GreenBuild South Asia 2009

Date March 3–5, 2009

Venue Grand Hyatt, Singapore

Organisers Beacon Events; Facility Media

Driven by government policy, regulations and incentives plus shifting market demand, Green buildings are emerging as the only way to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable built future.

With the vision of building economical and environmentally sustainable foundations for the rapidly growing South Asia markets, GreenBuild South Asia focuses specifically on the emerging markets of India, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines and Vietnam. Comprising a speaker cast of 25 experts, the event highlighted local case studies and drew on global expertise. Executives from developers, investment companies, governments, NGOs, architecture firms, suppliers and end users from the region attended the event.

Among the highlights on Day One included a keynote address on the topic of "Low Carbon, Low Water Communities in a Recovering World Market" and a panel discussion on the impacts of the global financial crisis and the commercial implications for Green buildings. Regional policies, regulations and the local markets; Green building projects; and the revenue potential of Green marketing and corporate responsibility were also other issues that were addressed.

On Day Two, the topics discussed included:

- Retrofitting and refurbishing
- Future-proofing life-cycle performance
- Green building mobility systems
- Sustainable products
- Opportunities and challenges using Green materials
- Renewable and clean energy
- Commissioning as a tool to achieve energy efficiency
- Sustainable communities and vertical cities

The two-day conference was preceded by a one-day workshop that examined Green building accreditation systems. It also took a look at redefining markets with sustainable master plans and innovative products.



Attendees at the conference

Gardens by the Bay Receives Commendation

Gardens by the Bay has received a commendation in the MIPIM Architectural Review Future Projects Awards 2009 under the Regeneration and Masterplanning category. Running since 2002, the MIPIM Architectural Review Future Projects Awards recognises outstanding unbuilt or incomplete projects spanning across eight categories including Big Urban Projects, Tall Buildings, Mixed Use, Offices, Residential, Retail and Leisure, and Sustainability. The awards were presented in a ceremony in Cannes, France on March 11, 2009.

The Gardens were launched in line with the vision of repositioning Singapore as a "City in a Garden" and comprises three gardens around the Marina Channel with a total area of 101 hectares. These include Gardens at Marina South—the largest among the three—Gardens at Marina East and Gardens at Marina Centre. Apart from plant-based edutainment and horticultural displays, the Gardens will also contain two conservatories and clusters of Supertrees which adopt Green principles. The first phase of the Gardens is scheduled to open in 2011.

In a statement from the Gardens by the Bay website (www.gardensbythebay.org.sg): "The commendation of Gardens by the Bay recognises the application of cutting-edge technology in creating a garden for the future. It is testament that Singapore is continually rejuvenating and improving itself as a city-state, increasingly becoming one where people would choose to live, work and play in."



Images courtesy of Gardens by the Bay, National Parks Board