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**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROF S.K. CHOU, PRESIDENT, THE INSTITUTION
OF ENGINEERS, SINGAPORE, AT THE LAUNCH OF ABC WATERS
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRY & HANDBOOK ON MANAGING URBAN RUNOFF
CUM SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN
SINGAPORE, THURSDAY, 30 MAY 2013, 2.00PM, AT NUS ENGINEERING
FACULTY AUDITORIUM**

Mr Chew Men Leong, Chief Executive, PUB,
Professor Chan Eng Soon, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, NUS
Mr Damien Tang, President, Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA)
Friends from PUB,
Members of IES, SIA, SILA,
Fellow Engineers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I would like to extend the warmest of greetings to all of you. It is indeed a pleasure to have the company of so many friends and colleagues amongst us today, as we launch the ABC Waters Professional Registry and the Handbook on Managing Urban Runoff.

Many years ago, when we talked about clean water, the focus had always been on ensuring a sufficient stream of clean water for consumption. But today, as you are aware, clean water means more than just drinking water. Today, we also talk about ABC, that is, Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters, and the aim of changing Singapore's network of reservoirs and water bodies into beautiful and clean streams, rivers and lakes, so that people can have more recreational spaces by the water for leisure activities. Championed by PUB, and with the support of other public agencies and private developers, the ABC Waters Programme is surely and progressively transforming Singapore into a wonderful City of Gardens and Water.

As the national society of engineers, The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, or IES, has been fully supportive of and involved in the ABC Waters Programme. In January

2011, IES made this support official by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with PUB to collaborate on the Programme. Our goals have been to raise awareness of the ABC Waters concept and provide training to engineers, architects, landscape architects, and other industry professionals in the design and implementation of ABC Waters design features. In addition, under this MoU, both parties have also been working closely together to raise the level of professional knowledge in environmental engineering in Singapore; as well as elevate the profile of these professionals in the international arena.

Subsequently, in the third quarter of 2011, IES took the MoU a step further by starting the ABC Waters Professional Programme, to build a core pool of professionals with the specialised knowledge and skills to play leading roles in the ABC Waters concept. The Programme consists of four core modules and four elective modules, and covers the concept, design, implementation and maintenance of ABC Waters design features. The Programme has been conducted by the IES Academy, the extension of IES that focuses on providing practical engineering knowledge and lifelong training for engineers and technical personnel in Singapore.

Today marks another milestone in the partnership between IES and PUB. First of all, we are launching the ABC Waters Professional Registry, a collective initiative between IES, PUB, the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) and the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA). The eligibility criteria of this Registry are completion of the modules that I've just mentioned, as well as fulfilment of the registration criteria set by IES, SIA and SILA.

This Registry is important for owners and developers because with effect from 1 June 2013, or the day after tomorrow, the revised Code of Practice on Surface Water Drainage will take effect. And after a grace period of six months, from 1 January 2014 onwards, it will be a requirement for developers and owners to get ABC Waters professionals to endorse on their concept design and design calculations, before submitting to PUB as part of their Development Control.

By taking on the ABC Waters Professional Registry, IES hopes to encourage the industry to incorporate more ABC Waters design features in their project developments; as well as to encourage individual engineers and professionals to equip themselves so as to more effectively contribute to the ABC Waters development.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 40 professionals who have completed the first run of the Programme and are on the way to being registered ABC Water professionals. They will be amongst the firsts to sculpt water bodies with ABC design features complementing our City of Gardens and Water.

Secondly, together with PUB, IES is very proud to present to you the Handbook on Managing Urban Runoff. We believe that it will become a vital reference on PUB's stormwater management approach for developers and the design community. IES has provided inputs to this handbook, particularly from the engineering perspective, so as to furnish the community with the necessary knowledge to build flood-resistant yet aesthetically pleasing developments.

The journey towards ABC Waters is a dynamic, collaborative one. To this end, IES hopes to organise or support regular industry events, such as today's seminar on Sustainable Stormwater Management in Singapore, to provide a platform for industry professionals to congregate, network and exchange ideas.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation, on behalf of IES, to PUB, SIA and SILA, for being good partners on the ABC Waters journey. Whether I am speaking as the President of IES, an engineer, or just a layman, I am excited about the prospect of having a future living environment consisting of sparkling waterways and charming by-the-water leisure spots. I look forward to working with all of you to make that happen.

Have a wonderful afternoon ahead.

