



MEDIA RELEASE

INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL SKYRISE GREENERY CONFERENCE TO FEATURE WORLD RENOWNED INDUSTRY EXPERTS

Singapore, 25 August 2010 – Over 30 internationally renowned industry leaders from 10 countries will be sharing their insights at the inaugural International Skyrise Greenery Conference (ISGC). The Conference is the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region that will cover not only rooftop gardens and green roofs, but also vertical green walls – a growing trend around the globe. To be held from 1 to 3 November 2010 at the National Library in Singapore, ISGC will feature multiple award-winning experts such as Emilio Ambasz from the US, hailed as “The Messiah” of green architecture; Patrick Blanc from France, the inventor of the vertical greenery concept; and Dr. Ken Yeang from the UK, one of the foremost designers and a recognised authority on ecologically-responsive architecture and planning¹. *(Please see Annex A on keynote speakers)*

Organised by the National Parks Board (NParks), the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE), and International Green Roof Association, the Conference will also feature a **trade exhibition** showcasing related products and services from around the world, some of which are *innovations not yet available in many markets*, including Singapore. On the last day, delegates will be treated to **technical tours** of six skyrise greenery sites in Singapore. Delegates will not only be granted *exclusive access* to sites that are not usually open to the public, they will also learn firsthand from site architects about the projects. One such site is Gardens by the Bay, which is slated to open end 2011.

Organised with the theme ‘*Surfaces of Creativity: Space of Delight*’, the Conference will be officially opened by Ms Grace Fu, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education, Singapore. Delegations from more than 10 markets including countries in ASEAN, Australia, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, India, Italy and the US are expected to participate in the Conference. Apart from international speakers, the Conference will also feature presentations from eminent local industry leaders such as Mr Michael Teh, President of the Landscape

¹ Both Mr Emilio Ambasz and Mr Patrick Blanc will be speaking in Singapore for the first time.

Industry Association of Singapore, and Mr Lau Joo Ming, Managing Director, Housing Development Board Building Research Institute.

Mr Poon Hong Yuen, Chief Executive Officer, NParks, said: “Skyrise greenery is a fast-growing phenomenon and has become an integral part of urban greening strategies around the world. Indeed, it is a key strategy for Singapore to achieve our ‘City in a Garden’ vision. As skyrise greenery takes off, we hope that the Conference will facilitate timely sharing of knowledge and experience in this promising field. With the trade exhibition component already oversubscribed, we anticipate keen interest for this international conference.” *(Please see Annex B on skyrise greenery in Singapore and around the world)*

Mr Wolfgang Ansel, Director of IGRA, said: “The strong lineup of world-renowned speakers from so many countries and disciplines is impressive and makes this a much anticipated event. No other element in sustainable architecture has seen technical innovations develop so fast as in the field of rooftop greening and green walls. Singapore is also well-placed with its world-class architectural projects and several flourishing installations of skyrise greenery. No other place in the world offers a more suitable venue for this event.”

Dr Ken Yeang, one of the keynote speakers at the event, shared: “This is a unique event and Singapore, which is dedicated to greening on many levels, is an ideal venue. Besides reducing heat island effects and creating habitats for enhancing biodiversity, urban greening also has biophilic² benefits to the city dwellers. This is a must-attend event for all those whose work involves architecture and the environment.

More information can be found on <http://www.skyrisegreeneryconference.com/>. *(Please see Annex C for more information on ISGC)*

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Jean Louise Lee

National Parks Board

DID: +65 64717815 HP: +65 97313021

Email: Jean_Louise_Lee@nparks.gov.sg

² Biophilic: illustrative of the innate human affinity for nature

About National Parks Board

National Parks Board (NParks) is responsible for providing and enhancing the greenery of the Garden City. Beyond green infrastructure, NParks is committed to enhancing the quality of life through creating memorable recreational experiences and lifestyles.

NParks manages more than 300 parks, the park connector network and the lush roadside greenery in Singapore. Some of the parks managed include Singapore Botanic Gardens, Fort Canning Park, East Coast Park, Bishan Park, Telok Blangah Hill Park and Pulau Ubin Recreation Area. In addition, NParks manages nature reserves such as Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

As the scientific authority on nature conservation, NParks monitors and coordinates measures to ensure the health of Singapore's biodiversity.

NParks is also the lead agency in the efforts to continually upgrade the Landscape and Horticulture Industry in Singapore. It works closely with industry partners to promote good work practices and create a thriving, innovative and professional industry that will support Singapore's aspirations of being a City in the Garden.

For more information, log on to: www.nparks.gov.sg

About CUGE

*Jointly established by NParks and WDA, the **Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE)** is a one-stop training and knowledge hub in urban greenery and ecology, and a key initiative under NParks' Landscape Industry Masterplan to enhance the professional image and career opportunities in the landscape industry. CUGE offers a comprehensive range of skills training programmes for landscape and horticulture professionals in Singapore and the region.*

As the lead training provider for all levels of the landscape industry workforce, from new entrants, to mid-career workers and Professionals, Managers, Executives and Technicians (PMETs), CUGE also provides professional certification for specialisation in areas such as arboriculture (tree care), horticulture, nursery management, and turf management, to name but a few, and short skills courses for continuous training and professional development which will enhance the career progression of the landscape industry workforce.

In addition, the Centre works with industry associations, training organisations, learning institutions, Government agencies, and overseas institutions to develop comprehensive skills training programmes. Please visit www.cuge.com.sg for more information on CUGE.

About IGRA

The International Green Roof Association (IGRA) is a global network, for the promotion and dissemination of information on Green Roof topics and Green Roof technology.

IGRA´s targets are

- *worldwide promotion of the ecological Green Roof idea as a tool of sustainable, regional and urban development*
- *international knowledge transfer in the field of Green Roofs*
- *sensitisation of the population and political/business decision makers through publicity campaigns*
- *stimulation of international standards for good practices and reliable Green Roof technology*
- *promotion and active support of national Green Roof campaigns by IGRA members*

The basic idea of IGRA is the support of the Green Roof market on an international level by sharing knowledge and experiences in the field of Green Roof technology and public relations. In this context, the IGRA secretariat will serve as a global networking and co-ordination centre. Typical activities of IGRA include workshops, conferences, publications and newsletters.

Please visit www.igra-world.com for more information