

SPEECH BY DR LIM LAN YUAN
PRESIDENT, FIABCI SINGAPORE
AT THE 2010 PRIX D'EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER
ON TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2010
AT MARINA BAY SANDS SINGAPORE

Prof Ho Peng Kee, Senior Minister of State, Law and Home Affairs

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

Introduction

On behalf of FIABCI Singapore, let me welcome you, and in particular, our guest of honour, Minister Ho Peng Kee, to the Prix d'Excellence Awards Dinner. And in particular to our foreign delegates attending the International Real Estate Congress, a warm welcome to Singapore.

Let me first begin by giving you a background of FIABCI and the Prix d'Excellence Awards for those who may not be familiar with these awards.

FIABCI Awards

FIABCI is the French acronym for the International Real Estate Federation, with more than 60 years of existence and comprises 100 national real estate associations all over the globe. There are some 48 FIABCI Chapters throughout the world. Singapore is in the Asia Pacific Region. The Singapore Chapter comprises the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers (SISV), the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA), the Association of Property and Facility Managers (APFM), and the Association of Singapore Estate Agencies (ASEA).

The Prix d'Excellence Awards is one of FIABCI's highlights. The FIABCI Prix d'Excellence Awards recognize development projects that display distinction in various aspects of the development. Entrants are evaluated on the following criteria: overall

concept; architecture and design; development and construction; community benefit and environmental impact; and financial and marketing. In recent years, the “Green” element has been a prominent theme in many projects. The FIABCI Awards first started in 1992 although Singapore participated only in 1997 five years later. In 1992 there was only one category. We have now 11 categories including the traditional residential, office, retail and other new categories such as environmental and heritage categories.

The jury members come from various countries and continents in order to provide fair and objective judgement. Competition has been keen. I am glad that this year Singapore clinched the top awards in three categories, namely, office, hotel and residential categories, as well as runner-ups in residential and specialised project categories.

Over the 19 years, more than 170 FIABCI awards were given. Singapore entries won one-fifth of the total awards with 17 winners and 17 finalists. This speaks very well for Singapore property developers and professionals who have consistently performed well in this competition. The call for next year awards is out. We hope our Singapore projects will continue to do well in the categories we participated.

Role of real estate and construction professionals

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our homegrown developers Far East Organisation, City Development and UOL Group Ltd who have emerged winners in these Awards. I am also pleased to note that our real estate and construction professionals in Singapore work hand in hand with our developers and contributed to the design, construction, and management of the end products.

Being uniquely Singapore in our work style where sustainability, capability and productivity rank high in the list of our priorities, and coupled with the competitive Singapore spirit, the outcome of results are there for all to see. These principles that our construction professionals uphold are the very ingredients that contribute to a winning design. A good design is unfolded as the best come together sharing their expertise and experiences. As one of the jury members of the Awards myself, I have the opportunity to compare the outputs of the various projects submitted by developers from other countries. I am heartened to see the strong team spirit amongst our developers, architects and consultants in their work towards developing projects of great value in terms of aesthetics, quality and design sustainability.

The drive that comes through our development teams to create a sustainable built environment in Singapore is all that makes the difference for an exciting landscape for us to enjoy in our land scarce city state. Singapore, famously known as a little red dot

on the world map, is no different from any other urban cities in the world if our real estate and construction fraternity subscribes to mediocrity and simplicity in their work approach. Hence, the display of innovation, creativity, quality, and sustainability are attributes that have allowed our projects to shine and win awards in the international arena.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations to all winners of this year's prestigious FIABCI awards. We share your joy and together, let us continue to bring honour to Singapore. As professionals, we must continue to stay robust, take pride in our work and apply new knowledge and skills as we embrace changes in the global environment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, let me thank you once for your participation and attendance at this Awards Dinner. In particular, we would like to thank Minister Ho Peng Kee for his attendance despite his busy schedule, and all our distinguished guests and friends. Finally, I would like to thank the Organising Chairperson for this function, Ms Gillian Tay and her team, and the SISV secretariat for putting up a good show. I hope you have enjoyable and pleasant evening.

Thank you.