

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT: SEP/15/76 (HD & COIMS)

SPEECH BY MR LIM KIM SAN, MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS, AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR ON "ENERGY CONSERVATION IN BUILDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION" AT THE JURONG ROOM, SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, ON 16 SEPT 76 AT 10.00 AM

We depend on imported fuel oil for our energy requirements since our electricity supply comes from thermal generation. As a result of this reliance on fuel oil, Singapore cannot escape the far reaching effects brought about by any change in the oil pricing policy. Oil price has quadrupled since 1973 and with that the Public Utilities Board's oil bill has increased from \$41.5 million in 1973 to \$177.4 million in 1975. With the world slowly recovering from trade recession, the market for oil is buoyant. Lately, some members of the OPEC countries are getting restive again and are calling for another increase in oil prices. We have therefore to be particularly conscious of the need to conserve energy if we are to save large sums of foreign exchange used solely to purchase our energy requirements.

Prior to the 1973 energy crisis, our electricity consumption was increasing at an average rate of 20% annually. However, through our campaign to conserve energy, we managed to reduce the rate of increase in energy consumption to 4% in 1974, 7% in 1975 and 9% for the 1st half of 1976.

It is worth noting that in 1975, airconditioning accounted for about 28% of the total electricity consumed in Singapore. The use of electricity in this sector is likely to rise further with increasing development of high-rise buildings with central airconditioning.

And it is my belief that it is in this sector that substantial savings in energy use can be made. The problem is how to effect the savings without a corresponding loss in comfort.

So far, most of the multi-storied buildings in Singapore have been built without sufficient thought given to minimising recurrent costs on power consumption for airconditioning. In a tropical country like ours, the hot sun shining on a building contributes to the major portion of the heat load within the building. It follows that if we can reduce the heat load, we can cut down on the power consumption.

This can be achieved through careful design and orientation of a building with judicious use of measures to reduce solar heat gain. For example, it is estimated that the sunbreakers used in the Ministry of National Development Building have reduced electricity consumption for airconditioning by 15% to 20%. In monetary terms, it means a saving of about \$5,000 a month or \$60,000 a year. If this rate of economising in the use of electricity is realised in other high-rise buildings in Singapore, the saving would be substantial.

Today's seminar on "Energy Conservation in Building Design and Construction" is timely. Participants are drawn from Government Departments, professional bodies, developers and others interested in furthering energy conservation. The seminar would enable different types and methods of energy conservation

in building design and construction to be evaluated fully. My Ministry on its part is currently re-examining the Building Codes with a view to amending or introducing new standards to encourage the provision of sun-shading and other energy conservation devices for buildings. We will work together with the relevant professional bodies to achieve a practical and realistic Code of Practice. I hope the seminar will yield some useful results for this purpose.

May I then, in declaring this seminar open, wish all participants and those who have an interest in energy conservation a fruitful exchange of ideas and views on every aspect of energy conservation in buildings.

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