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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

A very good morning to all of you

2 It gives me great pleasure to be here today to launch the Active, Beautiful and Clean or ABC Waters Design Guidelines, an initiative which marks a significant milestone in the exciting ABC Waters programme.

ABC WATERS PROGRAMME

3 The ABC Waters programme was launched by Minister (EWR) in April 2006. It aims for an islandwide transformation of our comprehensive network of drains and canals into beautiful, vibrant and clean flowing streams, rivers and lakes. This in turn will create new community spaces to bring people closer to water so that they cherish and develop ownership of our waters.

4 I am glad to note that the programme has been making good progress. PUB and its consultants have completed a Master plan in April 2008 to guide implementation of projects islandwide. The first two demonstration projects at Kolam Ayer and Bedok Reservoir have been completed and it is heartening to see good community support for these projects.

5 In the next two to three years, we can look forward to over 20 ABC projects around the island, of which 9 are already under construction. Over 100 other projects will be realised in the next 10 to 15 years. Indeed, through these transformations, our Prime Minister's vision to transform Singapore into a "City of Gardens and Water" will become a reality.

NEXT PHASE OF ABC WATERS PROGRAMME

ABC Waters Design Features

6 Currently, more than half of the island is water catchment. By 2011, this will extend to two-thirds of Singapore's land area. This continued increased in urbanisation calls for a paradigm shift in the way we manage stormwater.

7 Traditionally, we build plain concrete canals and drains for quick conveyance of stormwater. With ABC Waters Programme, we are now looking at integrating the canals and drains as part of the urban landscape and using natural elements (called ABC Waters Design Features) to retain and treat run-off before it flows into our waterways.

8 PUB has carried out a couple of pilot projects to study the feasibility and benefits of these features under local conditions. The pilot projects such as the rain garden at Balam Estate and Bioretention swales along Sengkang West Way have yielded success. They have shown encouraging results in improving water quality besides enhancing the biodiversity and aesthetics of the surroundings.

9 While PUB continues to incorporate these features in its ABC waters projects, **strong support** from the public and private sectors is essential for a *catchment-wide implementation* and more importantly, the *long-term sustainability* of the programme. Realising this vision hence depends on the joint efforts from all parties having a stake in Singapore 's environment. The full benefits can only be reaped when all of us approach developments with the environment and water in mind.

ABC WATERS DESIGN GUIDELINES

10 Against this backdrop, the **ABC Waters Design Guidelines** was conceived. It aims to encourage as well as guide developers and industry professionals to plan, design and incorporate innovative waterscapes into their developments through the use of ABC Waters design features.

11 Let me share with you on an example of how the Guidelines can be applied. Today, typical public plazas in Orchard Road or Shenton Way have a lot of green spaces dotted with plants as well as blue spaces filled with water features. But, there is a separation of these elements. So instead of having greenery and water features separately designed in public plazas, the ABC Waters design guidelines calls for the integration of the green with the blue through the incorporation of plants that not only beautify the surrounding landscape but also cleanse the stormwater runoff. The treated water could then be stored in ponds for aesthetic use or channeled to water features. In addition to improving water quality, the environment is now enhanced.

12 I am told that a number of public agencies have started to show interest in the use of the ABC waters design features in their developments. For example, we can look forward to bioretention swales along Punggol Waterway and wetlands at Gardens by the Bay in the near future.

13 I am also happy to share that some private developers have already started championing these design features in their developments. One such development is an upcoming condominium called "Goodwood Residence" developed by GuocoLand Group. They have planned for various design features, including vertical green walls that are integrated with a rain water harvesting system.

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS REALISING THE VISION OF ABC WATERS

14 The launch of the ABC Waters Design Guidelines is an important step in Singapore 's evolution in water management and our move towards sustainable

development. The ABC Waters design guidelines is a call for partnership with the private and public sectors to work towards integrating urban planning with the protection of water quality in a sustainable manner.

15 In drawing up the Guidelines, PUB has consulted and received good feedback and support from the public agencies and professional bodies. I understand that this is meant to be a 'living' document. As more projects are carried out by PUB and the industry, these new knowledge will be added to the Guidelines to make it a rich source of reference and also build up the industry capability.

16 As PUB continues to work towards transforming water bodies and waterways under the ABC Waters Programme, they would need strong support from the public and private sectors. I hope that the ABC Design Guidelines will challenge and stimulate the imagination of developers, architects and engineers to come up with more interesting proposals incorporating the ABC Waters concept into your developments.

17 On this note, I am pleased to announce the **official launch** of the ABC Waters Design Guidelines.

Thank you.

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