**From Barrier-free Accessibility to Universal Design – The Singapore Experience**

Synopsis

Singapore, a city state, has evolved from an Island with slums in the 60s to today’s high density urban city. The first step taken towards creating a barrier-free built environment goes back as early as the 1980s with the provision of *barrier-free accessibility in buildings* made mandatory in 1990 under the Building Control Regulations.

With a fast ageing population and a need for an inclusive built environment to support ageing-in-place, it was important to take stock and review the adequacy of the prevailing policies and provisions. The Accessibility Master plan was developed and implemented to address the accessibility issues of the past, present and future. Going beyond barrier-free accessibility, the Building Construction authority has also step up the drive to adopt Universal Design in the design of buildings and public spaces.

The presentation will also show how the BCA UD Mark Certification Scheme has encouraged the developers and designers to adopt the user-centric philosophy in the design of the built environment.