

Speech by Dr Lee Boon Yang, Chairman of Keppel Corporation, at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of Keppel Marina East Desalination Plant on 29 June 2017

Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

Introduction

Welcome to the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Keppel Marina East Desalination Plant. On behalf of the Keppel Group, I would like to thank everyone especially Minister Masagos for joining us to mark this important occasion for Keppel, PUB and Singapore.

The Keppel Marina East Desalination Plant is Singapore's fourth desalination plant. It marks another step towards water sustainability. When completed in 2020, it will produce up to 30 million gallons of fresh drinking water per day.

The Keppel MEDP holds the distinction of being the first that will treat both freshwater from the Marina Reservoir and seawater. This ability to switch from treating freshwater to seawater during drier seasons ensures a more weather-resilient water supply for Singapore.

Solutions for sustainable urbanisation

The Keppel Group has a long and well-established track record in developing robust solutions to meet the needs of sustainable urbanisation. Whether it is demand for

clean urban environments, energy, high-quality homes and offices or connectivity, Keppel is primed to support the demands of rapid urbanisation around the world.

In doing so we uphold the principle that development does not have to come at a steep social or environmental cost.

Therefore, when the site for Singapore's fourth desalination plant was identified to be at Marina East which is adjacent to Singapore's iconic city skyline, we realized the potential for the utilitarian facility to be woven into the urban landscape.

Keppel therefore proposed a creative design by locating all the water treatment equipment underground. With the plant largely underground, its sprawling green roof will blend into the surrounding Eastern Coastal Park Connector Network, which bridges East Coast Park and Gardens by the Bay East. The plant is fully integrated with public parks surrounding the site. It will become an additional recreation space for all to enjoy.

The plant will also incorporate environmentally friendly design elements such as natural ventilation to cool the facility, as well as the harvesting of rainwater to irrigate the green roof and support the facility's water features.

I am confident that the plant, with its refreshing design set against the backdrop of Marina Bay, will serve its dual purpose of meeting Singapore's water needs, and be a vibrant focal point for recreation for Singaporeans and visitors to Singapore.

Conclusion

As we mark the groundbreaking on Keppel's first large scale desalination plant in Singapore, it is also timely to note that it was also about a decade ago that Keppel marked its partnership with PUB with the Keppel Seghers Ulu Pandan NEWater Plant turning on its taps and commencing operations.

As a homegrown company, Keppel is proud to be able to play a role in strengthening the nation's water resiliency. We look forward to further strengthening our partnership with PUB in the years to come.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Minister Masagos and all our distinguished guests for taking time to join us today as we celebrate the groundbreaking of Keppel Marina East Desalination Plant.

I would also like to express appreciation to our process and mechanical consultant, AECOM Singapore; Architectural consultant, PO Design, and Civil and structural contractor, Koh Brothers Building & Civil Engineering Contractor. Thank you all for partnering Keppel to deliver a reliable and efficient desalination plant to serve Singapore. We look forward to welcoming all of you at the opening of the Plant in 2020.

I wish all of you a very pleasant day ahead.

Thank you.