



**Global Compact**  
Network Singapore



**CITY  
DEVELOPMENTS  
LIMITED**

19 September 2018

**City Developments Limited's Chief Sustainability Officer Ms. Esther An  
Honoured as a 2018 United Nations Global Compact SDG Pioneer**

- **First recipient from Singapore and one of the first two Southeast Asian women conferred the honour**

Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS), the local chapter of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), is pleased to congratulate Ms. Esther An, Chief Sustainability Officer at City Developments Limited (CDL), as one of the [2018 UN Global Compact Sustainability Development Goals \(SDG\) Pioneers](#) for Green Infrastructure and a Low-Carbon Economy. Ms. An is the first individual from Singapore and one of the first two Southeast Asian women to receive this prestigious recognition.

Each year, the UNGC celebrates a group of SDG Pioneers — individuals from around the world who are championing the SDGs through their own companies and inspiring others to join the movement. Hundreds of nominations were received from diverse regions globally, from which ten finalists were selected through a rigorous committee, exemplifying how business can be a force for good in addressing the challenges we face as a global society. The SDG Pioneers will be recognised during the [UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2018](#) on 24 September at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

[The SDG Pioneers Selection Group](#), comprised of representatives from the UN Global Compact Board Members, Expert Networks, Global Compact Network Council, Academia, UN Focal Points and previous SDG Pioneers, voted on the nominees based on a set of criteria. This criteria covers the individual's commitment to embed the [Ten Principles of the UNGC](#) and raise awareness on the SDGs, as well as their engagement with the UNGC and its Local Networks.

Ms. An said: "Sustainability is a priority and mainstream issue on international political, economic and business agendas. Globally, the opportunity for businesses to advance the SDGs is more than US\$12 trillion annually by 2030.<sup>1</sup> From conserving finite resources and the natural environment, to inclusiveness and investment in long-term financial stability and economic prosperity, there is tremendous potential for companies to align their sustainability strategy with the SDGs."

"For more than two decades, sustainability has been strategically integrated into all aspects of CDL's business and operations. We apply a three-pronged strategy as a property developer, an asset owner and a corporate citizen. We develop green buildings, manage them in a resource-efficient way and engage stakeholders on sustainability. Since 2016, CDL has also taken the initiative as one of the first companies in Singapore to align our material issues with the SDGs by effectively managing our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues and building innovative collaborations across sectors. We are poised to stay dynamic and resilient in delivering lasting value for our business, investors, stakeholders and the environment."

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<sup>1</sup> [Better Business, Better World report](#) by the Business & Sustainable Development Commission

To future-proof CDL's business and leverage opportunities presented by the SDGs, the CDL Future Value 2030 sustainability blueprint was established in 2017. The forward-looking blueprint underpins CDL's sustainability commitment and best practices of over 20 years and sets clear ESG goals and targets towards 2030, a milestone year for global climate agreement and sustainable development. These long-term ESG goals and targets are aligned with 10 relevant SDGs (See Annex). A forerunner in sustainability reporting since 2007, CDL tracks its sustainability-related initiatives and key ESG performance against its 2030 goals through annual Integrated Sustainability Reports and Sustainability Quarterly Reports.

In addition to her work at CDL, Ms. An has served on the Management Committee of GCNS since 2005. Since 2011, Ms. An initiated the flagship CDL-GCNS Young CSR Leaders Award, nurturing over 1,300 young leaders. The programme was rebranded as CDL-GCNS Young SDG Leaders Award in 2018, to educate and empower young leaders with SDG knowledge and skills while inspiring companies in Singapore to take actions for the SDGs. She also plays an active role in the organisation of GCNS' annual Summit and has been instrumental in encouraging SMEs to join the local chapter.

Ms. Goh Swee Chen, President of GCNS, also extended her congratulations to Ms. An: "Esther has been a sustainability champion long before it became an important corporate agenda. On behalf of GCNS, I want to congratulate Esther on being conferred the 2018 SDG Pioneer by UNGC. A very well deserved recognition, we are very proud of her."

Ms. An has played a pivotal role in advancing Singapore's national sustainability initiatives and sustainable development in the region. She conceptualised and led the establishment of the zero-energy Singapore Sustainability Academy (SSA). Developed by CDL, the SSA is Singapore's first major ground-up, tri-sector partnership in support of the SDGs and climate actions. Since opening in June 2017, the not-for-profit space dedicated to sustainability training and outreach has been an important catalyst in bringing together the People, Public and Private sectors to advance sustainable development in Singapore and the region. In its first year of operations, the SSA has held over 120 sustainability-focused events and training courses, and engaged over 4,500 representatives from the People, Public and Private sectors.

The Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) also recognised Ms. An's contributions to Singapore's national sustainability initiatives: "MEWR congratulates Esther An on being conferred the UN Global Compact SDG Pioneer for 2018. This prestigious award is testament to Esther's exemplary commitment to advancing the SDGs, and underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development. Esther embodies the Singapore spirit of passion made possible, of turning possibilities into reality, for a better Singapore and a better world. We hope that Esther's achievement will inspire other individuals to join Singapore and the international community's efforts in achieving the shared goals of the 2030 Agenda."

GCNS will continue to work with Ms. An on furthering the sustainability agenda in Singapore and the region.

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## ANNEX

### About Ms Esther An, CDL Chief Sustainability Officer



Ms. Esther An joined CDL in 1995 to establish the Company's Corporate Communications department and subsequently CDL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portfolio. She has been instrumental in building up CDL's leadership in sustainability. A forerunner in CSR and a member of the management committee of Global Compact Network Singapore since 2005, she also sits on board the Corporate Advisory Board of World Green Building Council, GRI Corporate Leadership Group for Integrated Reporting and Asia Pacific Real Estate Association (APREA) Singapore Chapter Board.

A founding member of the Singapore Business Council for Sustainable Development, she is a signatory of the UN Caring for Climate initiative and a member of the Urban Land Institute Women's Leadership Initiative Singapore Steering Committee. She is also founder of the Women4Green Network which harnesses the collective knowledge and expertise of successful female leaders in various green industries to empower other women to contribute towards climate action, sustainable business and social change. Her latest appointment includes the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative Investor Work Group and UN-initiated Sustainable Stock Exchange's Green Finance Advisory Group.

For her strong involvement and track record in championing the green building movement, Ms. An was recognised as the Green Advocate of the Year in the Singapore Green Building Council – Building and Construction Authority Sustainability Leadership Awards 2017.

## **About City Developments Limited**

City Developments Limited (CDL) is a leading global real estate operating company with a network spanning 100 locations in 28 countries and regions. Listed on the Singapore Exchange, the Group is one of the largest companies by market capitalisation. Its income-stable and geographically-diverse portfolio comprises residences, offices, hotels, serviced apartments, integrated developments and shopping malls.

With a proven track record of over 50 years in real estate development, investment and management, CDL has developed over 40,000 homes and owns over 18 million square feet of lettable floor area globally. Its diversified land bank offers a solid development pipeline in Singapore as well as its key overseas markets of China, UK, Japan and Australia.

The Group's London-listed subsidiary, Millennium & Copthorne Hotels plc (M&C), is one of the world's largest hotel chains, with over 135 hotels worldwide, many in key gateway cities.

Leveraging its deep expertise in developing and managing a diversified asset base, the Group is focused on enhancing the performance of its portfolio and strengthening its recurring income streams to deliver long-term sustainable value to shareholders. The Group is also developing a fund management business and targets to achieve US\$5 billion in Assets Under Management (AUM) by 2023.


CDL's long-standing commitment to sustainability and disclosure has been recognised by leading global sustainability rankings and benchmarks including FTSE4Good Index Series (since 2002), MSCI ESG Leaders Indexes (since 2009), Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World (since 2010) and Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (since 2011).



For more information on CDL, please visit [www.cdl.com.sg](http://www.cdl.com.sg)





More information on CDL's sustainability efforts can be found at [www.cdlsustainability.com](http://www.cdlsustainability.com)

## **SDGs Applicable to CDL**

In 2016, CDL took the lead in embracing the UN SDGs into its integrated sustainability strategy and reporting. CDL started with nine out of 17 goals and in 2017, expanded to 10 that complement its core business. CDL has aligned these 10 SDGs with the company's material issues and Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework in CDL's integrated sustainability business model and Integrated Sustainability Report since 2017.

<b>SDGs Applicable to CDL</b>	<b>CDL's Impact and Contributions</b>
	Recognising that creating and expanding opportunities for women are fundamental to CDL's sustainable growth and beneficial to the society at large, CDL established an internal CDL Diversity and Inclusion Task Force in 2017, to promote awareness and adoption of diversity and inclusion within our workplace and the wider community. With the opening of the zero-energy Singapore Sustainability Academy on 5 June 2017, CDL also created the Women4Green Network, Singapore's first network for women in sustainability, which aims to celebrate, inspire and empower women in our wider community to create a financially, environmentally and socially sustainable future.

	<p>At the board level, we adopted a formal Board Diversity Policy in 2017, which sets out a clear policy and framework for promoting diversity on the Board of CDL. In addition, a target was established to have women make up 20% of the CDL Board by 2020, as recommended by the Diversity Action Committee Singapore.</p>
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	<p>Through best practices in energy management, low carbon operations, green features and retrofitting, as well as increased adoption of solar technologies, we build and manage certified green buildings and office interiors with energy efficiency and sustainable energy in mind. This aims to benefit our homebuyers, tenants, and business operations. Recognised as the leader in green building, CDL also plays an active role in sharing know-how within the built industry in Singapore and beyond.</p>
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>We adopt consistent, equitable, and fair labour policies and practices in rewarding, developing, and caring for our employees under the direct hire of CDL. Through our Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) policy and CDL 5-Star EHS Assessment System, we also ensure safe, clean, and dignified working and living conditions for the workers at our construction sites who are employed by our contractors.</p>
 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>CDL has contributed towards this goal by investing 2% to 5% of a new development's construction cost on sustainable designs and construction methods and committing to local and international certifications for quality green homes and offices. In 2016, we invested S\$2.25 million in a partnership with the NUS for two new research laboratories to catalyse innovation in smart and green building technologies which can be test-bedded in our future developments.</p>
 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>More than just a developer of living and working spaces, we have strived to be a builder of lives and communities. For over 20 years, we have championed innovation and invested in green building technologies to improve the efficiency, quality and comfort of our developments. By embedding the principle of Universal Design in all our developments, upholding EHS standards and driving innovations in smart solutions, CDL is well positioned to support Singapore's aspiration to become a smart and livable nation, and the global goal for sustainable cities and communities.</p>
 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>Through our sustained programmes to engage tenants, homebuyers, youths and members of the public through initiatives such as CDL Green Lease Partnership Programme, "Let's Live Green" outreach, EcoBank, North West Power Up Scheme, CDL actively advocates sustainable consumption through behavioural changes. We also uphold responsible sourcing along the supply chain through our Green Procurement Guidelines and by setting a target for 50% of our building material to be derived from recycled content, low-carbon sources, or are certified by recognised environmental organisations.</p>

	<p>Since 2008, CDL has established a target to reduce carbon emissions intensity across all our operations in Singapore. In 2018, CDL has set science-based targets to reduce its GHG emissions per square metre across our Singapore operations (Corporate Office, commercial and industrial buildings) by 59% from base-year 2007 by 2030. For our development projects, CDL also commits to use sustainable building materials, instead of their conventional equivalents, to reduce embodied carbon by 24% by 2030.</p>
	<p>CDL has taken steps to ensure the conservation of natural habitats and biodiversity by making it a standard practice during the planning stage of construction to conduct a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) and consult with environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and agencies, where applicable. In 2016, we took the initiative to voluntarily conduct a more comprehensive study, similar in scope with the Environmental Impact Assessment, for our Forest Woods condominium.</p>
	<p>CDL believes in creating a fair and inclusive society for our business to thrive and prosper in. Our steadfast commitment is evident in our 'zero-tolerance' policies and practices towards fraud and corruption, non-discrimination in hiring policy, as well as our human rights policy prohibiting child and forced labour in CDL's operations and supply chain. Legal compliance across all our operations is of utmost concern to our business.</p>
	<p>As signatory to the UN Global Compact, and member to the World Green Building Council and Business Council for Sustainable Development Singapore, CDL has taken on an active and leading role in promoting best practices and enabling collaboration in advancing the sustainability and green building agenda. We also further our advocacy efforts through participation in local and international forums.</p> <p>In 2017, CDL opened the landmark Singapore Sustainability Academy, the nation's first networking facility dedicated to sustainability advocacy and capacity building. The zero-energy academy is developed in partnership with the Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore and is supported by six government agencies and over 15 founding industry and NGO partners. In its first year of operations, the academy held over 120 sustainability-focused events and training courses, and engaged over 4,500 representatives from the People, Public and Private sectors.</p>

## **About Global Compact Network Singapore**

Global Compact Network Singapore (GCNS) is the national lead agency promoting Corporate Sustainability, providing a one stop concierge service for businesses to begin, deepen and broaden their sustainability journey.

As the local chapter of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), GCNS encourages companies committed to aligning their operations and strategies with the UNGC's 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Through various platforms for multi-stakeholder engagement and collective action, GCNS advances the stewardship of sustainable business practices, supporting Singapore's national agenda of becoming a regional sustainable business hub.

Since its inception in 2005, GCNS has raised the level of awareness, and adoption, of Corporate Sustainability in businesses through collaboration between relevant stakeholders and practitioners in businesses, government and civil society. In addition, GCNS nurtures the next generation of sustainability business leaders through youth initiatives. GCNS is a stakeholder of the Global Reporting Initiative.

### **Vision:**

Be the leading sustainability platform that enables its members and future business leaders to achieve outstanding sustainability ambitions

### **Mission:**

To progress economic growth and human development of the business community in Singapore through leadership in sustainable goals