Keen interest shows adoption of tech to boost productivity

BY MENDY TAN

This year’s building information modelling (BIM) competition attracted triple the participation rate of last year’s inaugural competition, at over 300 participants from close to 40 teams, speaks volumes of how the industry has been venturing into the technology to improve their productivity, said Minister for National Development, Khaw Boon Wan, on his blog yesterday.

To date, some 250 companies have applied for funds from the Building and Construction Authority’s (BCA) Construction Productivity and Capability Fund (CPCF) to cover their software and hardware costs, training, as well as consultancy.

To promote the early adoption of BIM, BCA had introduced the $6 million BIM fund in 2010, before doubling it to $12 million in 2012. To date, 50 per cent of the fund has been committed.

Indeed, the industry is actively recruiting graduates with BIM training, said Khaw, citing a recent Construction IT survey which found that as many as 30 per cent of companies are willing to pay 10 to 20 per cent more for graduates who are BIM-trained.

In 2012, about 1,100 professionals in the industry and graduates have been trained in BIM.

That being said, adoption rate is still low across the industry, noted John Keung, BCA chief executive. He added that BCA will be conducting a mid-term review of the BIM strategic roadmap next year.

Speaking at the opening of BuildTechAsia (BTA) 2012, Dr Keung also announced that BCA will be releasing a guide for builders to track their own productivity performance at both project and trade levels, this week. The new Builders’ Guide on Measuring Productivity was produced after consultation with 21 builders on best practices for measuring productivity for key trades.

The event also saw a MoU signing between BCA, Construction Industry Joint Council (CIJC) and SIM University (UniSIM) on advancing the continuing education in the built environment through the Bachelor of Building and Project Management programme.

Separately, the presidents of the member organisations of CIJC, and BuildingSMART Singapore declared their support for the use of the Singapore BIM Guide, which aims to provide a common BIM standard to accelerate the development and sharing of BIM knowledge and skills among industry professionals.

BTA 2012 will be an annual show moving forward. In addition, the organisers intend to introduce a facility management component next year.

BTA 2012 was organised by Sphere Exhibitions and hosted by the BCA.

Construction industry gears up for BIM contest