

News Release

**August 19, 2005
For Immediate Release**

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital and Nursing Home (KWS) launched new Gardening Programme to bring therapeutic help to their patients.

With help spearheaded by Alexandra Hospital (AH), and a group of community volunteers from Zhangde Primary School, NParks, the Nature Society and other individual volunteers, KWS's directors, staff and patients planted 100 trees and 1000 shrubs to beautify the cement car park which previously gave the hospital grounds a harsh concrete feel.

Wheelchair bound resident patient of KWS, Mdm Chu Swee Lin, 87, jumped in to join in this greening effort and embraced it as her hobby. A visibly happy Mdm Chu said "Now I can look forward to doing some gardening each day".

Nodding with great empathy is Ms Yim Sau Kit, CEO of KWS. She said "this is the reason why KWS launched this Gardening Programme. It provides both physical exercise and mental stimulation for our patients. We want to build a healing environment here".

Guiding Mdm Chu is Rosalind Tan, a former Chief Occupational Therapist from AH. They propagated Philodendron cuttings taken from AH's very own garden. Said Rosalind Tan, who has since retired to a role of "Chief Gardener" for AH the last 5 years, "with the experience gained and the success we have had at our hospital, we are most happy to do our part and share our experience to help KWS. It's also our way of giving back to the community of nature loving groups, like the Butterfly Interest Group, the Nature Society and the NParks. They helped turned Alexandra Hospital into a garden hospital"

About KWS

KWS is a 94 year old charitable organization committed to look after the sick and needy. KWS is renovating the buildings and upgrading its facilities to serve the people better. In 2004, KWS added a TCM Centre. On 1 August 2005, the newly renovated Out-patient Department was re-opened. The new Chronic Sick Unit is now receiving patients referred to from other hospitals.

About AH

AH transformed their barren hospital grounds into a healing garden of flora and fauna that is now visited by the general public, and even 83 species of butterflies as well as 55 species of birds. Recently they added another attraction to the garden - the AH Medicinal Garden which is home to about 100 medicinal plants. This was the farsighted vision of Mr Liak Teng Lit, CEO, who pioneered the healing hospital concept. With this success, AH has now embarked on its mission to spread the green message beyond their own backyard.

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For further information

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