



Press Release

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Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital 101 Anniversary Celebration

Announcement of Hospital Redevelopment Plan

Singapore, 16 October 2011 (Sunday) – Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong announced today that Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) will be the largest single site nursing home operator in Singapore, with the hospital planning to increase its in-patient bed capacity from current 400 to 600 beds, under its redevelopment and expansion plan.

Speaking at the charity hospital's 101 Anniversary Celebration, Mr Gan commented on how KWSH was established out of kindness and compassion of its founders to help the sick and needy. From setting up tuberculosis wards and midwifery facilities in the early 1900s, to transforming itself into a geriatric facility to serve the nation's rapidly aging population. Every year, thousands of elderly patients of all races who need intermediate and long term care (ILTC), especially those from low income families, are treated and cared for at KWSH.

Mr Gan also noted that by 2030, one-fifth of Singaporeans will be more than 65 years old, and the need of ensuring adequate investment in ILTC facilities to prepare for the impending spike in demand. With its prime location in the community and its strong collaboration with other health care institutions such as Tan Tock Seng Hospital, KWSH is well poised to meet the demand of nursing home beds in the central region of Singapore

"I am confident that Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital will do well in providing these services and caring for the ageing population. Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital has accumulated substantial experience in delivering community services over the past century," said the Health Minister. "In addition, the tradition of selfless contribution from KWSH's board members, staff and its many regular volunteers have kept the good work going at the Hospital all these years. With its strong heritage, continued commitment and effective leadership in delivering community services, I have no doubt that Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital will keep pace with societal changes, adapting its services to serve the healthcare needs of Singapore."

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At the same event, Chairman of KWSH, Mr Patrick Lee revealed in his speech that a new multi-storied building will be built in order to accommodate the planned 600 beds. Additionally, to maintain the historical legacy of the hospital's colonial founding roots, all the three heritage buildings built in 1857, together with the iconic front façade building, will be conserved and continue to be put to efficient use. The construction cost is estimated to cost about \$70 million.

"I am appealing to all Singaporeans to continue supporting KWSH, and at greater measures. Not just with generous donations. But also with your volunteerism. Together, hand-in-hand, we can reach out and do more for our community with compassion and charity." Said Mr Lee.

About Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH)

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital is one of the oldest charity hospitals in Singapore. It is founded in 1910 by a group of compassionate Cantonese community leaders, to provide free medical services to needy Chinese immigrants from the three prefectures of Kwong-Chau, Wai-Chau, and Shiu-heng of Canton (present-day Guangdong) Province, in China. In 1974, to meet the needs of changes in Singapore's social developments, the Hospital opened all services to all members of the public, regardless of their ethnic backgrounds.

With staff strength of about 300 employees, the Hospital presently operates a 50-bed community hospital, a 350-bed nursing home, two outpatient clinics-- one Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and one Western Medicine, a Rehabilitation Centre, and a Day Rehabilitation Centre.

At Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital, we deliver quality standards of professional healthcare services with compassion and charity. Many patients are from lower-income families, and their hospital charges are higher subsidized. The huge operating expenses are from the support and generous donations of the public.