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Media Release

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) Doing More

More than 1,000 people turned up to celebrate the 105th anniversary of Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital on 21 November 2015, Saturday, many of them residents in the nearby housing estates in the Jalan Besar constituency.

2 The Guest-of-Honour, Health Minister Gan Kim Yong, joined in the celebration and was presented KWSH's redevelopment plans.

3 Mr Gan shared that the government is on track to grow the nursing home capacity from 10,000 beds in 2014 to 17,000 beds in 2020. He said, "We appreciate Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital's contribution to this capacity increase with the redevelopment and expansion of its facility at this site. It has leveraged its experience in aged care in planning to operate over 600 beds at the new Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital. This is an increase of about 70% from its current 350 beds. Once operational, it will be the largest single-site home in Singapore."

4 KWSH has spent considerable effort in designing its new facility to provide an ideal environment for the elderly to recuperate. The elderly, family members and the public can look forward to taking a stroll comfortably in a beautiful heritage garden with its iconic pavilion and conserved buildings at this new home. For dementia residents, they can also enjoy a Dementia Garden specially designed to stimulate their senses and help reduce anxiety and depression for them. A "Memory Street" which is a reconstruction of a street scene typical of the 1960s will help them to revive fond old days.

5 To prepare for the expansion, KWSH continues to expand its range of services and improve on care quality for the elderly patients. Beyond its existing inpatient care, rehabilitation and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) services, KWSH has started reaching out to the community elderly with a suite of home care services as well as elderly activities and health programmes.

6 Working towards the vision of an integrated community hub, KWSH is also actively seeking partnerships with other community stakeholders to provide better care services to the elderly. Mr Patrick Lee, Chairman of KWSH, shared, "We will be working closely with the faculty and students of Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) on innovative projects and programmes that will improve our patient care and operations. Another partner working with us is HCA Hospice Care (HCA). With its relocation to KWSH's premises, HCA will continue to provide its day care and home hospice care services to the palliative patients in the community, and share its expertise to help us enhance our palliative care to inpatients."

7 The signing of the MOU with key community stakeholders like HCA and SIT is evidence of KWSH's continuous commitment to provide better care services for the elderly.

8 With closer collaboration and partnership, KWSH and HCA will be able to reach greater heights in improving patient care and services. Both parties will work together, supporting each other with the expertise and services to enhance the care of each patient. HCA's palliative nurses and doctors can assist and improve KWSH's nursing home services. In addition, KWSH can provide rehabilitative and other allied health services to the HCA Hospice Care's patients. KWSH and HCA will also work together on training programmes to improve the competency of the community care staff. In addition, special skills and training programmes will be designed for the caregivers and the community.

9 "KWSH is a national monument of noble health services that continues to serve the poor and needy in our society since its visionary founders bravely launched this institution over a hundred years ago. The traditional strengths in caring for the elderly through its inpatient services, rehabilitation and traditional Chinese medicine have established a standard of care that can only get better with its committed leadership. It is a distinct privilege for HCA Hospice Care to become partners in the health ecosystem at its enhanced campus. We are looking forward to contribute our experiences and expertise in end-of-care to this collaboration so that together we bring the best of holistic clinical services to our society." said Dr Tan Poh Kiang, President of HCA Hospice Care.

10 This milestone collaboration between KWSH and SIT will see both parties jointly work on community innovation projects to improve productivity and enhance the quality of aged care services at KWSH. For a start, KWSH is working with SIT on a technology-enabled monitoring equipment to assist clients in KWSH's Day Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) in their rehabilitation process. By leveraging technology-assisted solutions as part of the

DRC clients' rehabilitation process to enhance quality of care provided, it is hoped that the DRC clients' functional outcomes will be improved, thus allowing them to lead fulfilling lives in the community after rehabilitation.

11 Professor Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, said, "The MOU with KWSH exemplifies our vision to be a leader in innovative university education by integrating learning, industry and community. Such collaboration on innovation projects enables SIT to bring the industry and community into our classrooms, and vice versa. Moreover, the collaboration allows SIT and KWSH to leverage technology to provide better aged care services for the community, and enables SIT's students to gain invaluable applied learning opportunities at the same time."

About Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH)

Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital (KWSH) is a 105 year-old charitable healthcare organization and Institution of Public Character, committed to looking after the sick and needy. In the last century, it has continued the strong tradition of community service, having cared for many generations of Singaporeans, even before Singapore's independence. It is now one of the most established providers in the aged care sector.

At present, the hospital has a 350-bed nursing home, a Rehabilitation Centre, a Traditional Chinese Medicine Centre and home care services. Many of its patients are from the lower-income group and their hospital charges are heavily subsidized.

To cope with the rapidly ageing population, KWSH is undergoing redevelopment to be transformed into an integrated community hub, providing healthcare services to its inpatients and the community. In 2017, it will have the largest single-site nursing home with over 600 beds; and expansion in its other services such as rehabilitation, TCM and homecare services.

For more information, please visit <http://www.kwsh.org.sg>

About HCA

Founded in 1989, HCA Hospice Care provides palliative care to patients with life-limiting illnesses. It brings comfort and improves the quality of life of patients during their last days and helps caregivers and family members deal with the day-to-day care of the patient.

Our team of multidisciplinary workers which includes doctors, nurses and medical social workers makes regular visits to patients in their own homes. We have five home hospice teams dedicated to serving about 900 patients at any one time throughout Singapore.

Star PALS (Paediatric Advanced Life Support), a service of HCA Hospice Care, is Singapore's very first paediatric palliative home care service which aims to improve the quality of life for children with life-threatening conditions of ages 19 years and below.

HCA Hospice Care Headquarters and Day Hospice Centre located at 12 Jalan Tan Tock Seng will be relocated to Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital by 2017. The day hospice centre will continue to see to a patient's needs away from home and serves about 30 patients daily. Patients are able to interact with others and engage in constructive and therapeutic activities in the centre lead by staff and various corporate and individual volunteers alike.

HCA Hospice Care continues to bring holistic palliative and hospice care to patients and their families, now and in the years ahead. For more information, please visit www.hca.org.sg

About Singapore Institute of Technology

Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) is Singapore's new autonomous university of applied learning. It aims to be a leader in innovative university education by integrating learning, industry and community.

SIT offers applied degree programmes targeted at growth sectors of the economy. As a new university, SIT offers its own applied degree programmes with a unique pedagogy that integrates work and study. It also offers specialised degree programmes in partnership with world-class universities.

To find out more about SIT, visit singaporetech.edu.sg.

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