



EMBARGOED UNTIL 23 JULY 2012, 9.30AM

23 July 2012

Joint Media Release

For Immediate Release

Temasek Cares – iCommunity@North
First regional mental health network launched
in the Northern region of Singapore

Singapore's first regional mental health network was launched today for the northern region of Singapore by Dr Amy Khor, Minister of State for Health.

2. Named as “Temasek Cares-iCommunity@North”, this ground breaking regional pilot programme is the first partnership between Khoo Teck Puat Hospital (KTPH), Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities (THKMC), O’Joy Care Services, and the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) in providing community-based mental healthcare. The pilot is funded by Temasek Cares (TC), the philanthropic arm of Temasek Holdings. Through the Balaji Sadasivan endowment which aims to build capability in the long-term care sector, Temasek Cares is providing seed funding of \$1.1 million for two years.

3. In general, community mental health networks enable the efficient use of resources by integrating various branches of care – the medical care provided by hospitals, specialist outpatient clinics, polyclinics and general practitioners with allied health services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and counselling, and

social services such as senior activity centres, family service centres and other outreach services to serve ageing populations.

4. The Temasek Cares-iCommunity@North partnership brings holistic, integrated mental health care for people with dementia living in Admiralty, Marsiling, Sembawang, Woodlands and Yishun through specialised teams trained in dementia care – CREST and COMIT teams – established within the northern community. They provide seniors and their caregivers with quick, easy access to social, community and healthcare services, as close to home as possible, to enable them to age in place.

5. The pilot CREST or Community Resources, Engagement and Support Team, which is being piloted with Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities (THKMC), began in February while the COMIT or Community Intervention Team, being piloted by O'Joy Care Services, began in January.

6. CREST's key roles are community outreach and education, and recognising the elderly with dementia and mental health conditions in order to link them to the appropriate service for diagnosis and treatment. (See CREST Factsheet)

7. The COMIT Team primarily provides counselling therapy and care coordination services to the elderly with dementia and their caregivers, customising personal intervention plans for clients and their caregivers, covering counselling, coping strategies and education on managing dementia and its related issues. (See COMIT Factsheet)

8. Temasek Cares Chairman Mr Richard Magnus said TC is pleased to contribute to this milestone regional community mental health collaboration. He said: "The number of elderly with dementia is rapidly growing as our society ages. This

group of vulnerable seniors would need access to healthcare and social services within close proximity of their homes and community as they carry out their daily activities. We are therefore pleased to be able to work with the various community partners to put in place iCommunity@North, a two-year pilot programme guided by the AIC, to provide integrated care for elderly with mental conditions in the northern region of Singapore. The programme builds on, and evolved from, other mental health integration programmes supported by Temasek Cares, namely Employment Support Services which help adults to find and sustain employment, and YouthReach which enables youths to stay with their families.”

9. Mr S Tiwari, Division Director of THKMC, is enthusiastic about THKMC’s role in the pilot. He said: “This partnership is important to THKMC because it aligns with our work in the community. Community outreach projects help to build bridges as well as strengthen communities by building trust, confidence and reciprocity. For a person with dementia, this outreach connects his network of relationships, for example, his family, relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues, to the resources and support provided by the community partners and government agencies.”

10. Mr Choo Jin Kiat, Executive Director of O’Joy Care Services said his organisation is excited to be a partner in this pioneering project. He said: “The COMIT pilot dovetails nicely with O’Joy’s work in gerontological counselling over the years. This partnership gives us a formal structure to extend care of our clients to include the specialisations of our partners, especially in specialised medical care. This development is imperative in our work with our clients to minimise the development or reduce the duration of the co-existence of mental health issue and chronic physical medical disorder.”

11. KTPH’s team of specialists in geriatric care has been working closely with our partners to integrate the services and workflows for the initiative to ensure that

patients are right sited and receive holistic professional follow up care post discharge. The KTPH team also provides training and leadership to an interdisciplinary team working together to provide trans-disciplinary dementia care.

12. Dr Philip Yap, Senior Consultant Geriatrician, KTPH, said: “KTPH is keen to contribute to the TC-iCommunity@North partnership as it aligns with our vision of seamless and integrated person-centred care for elders with dementia. Our CREST and COMIT partners help to extend care beyond the hospital into the community and the home, where elders are most comfortable and can age in place with dignity.”

13. Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer of AIC, said: “AIC is excited to partner Temasek Cares, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities and O’Joy Care Services to pilot this new regional and community-based care delivery model for mental health. We are grateful for the strong support from these organisations to make this vision a reality. Our priority is to enable more elderly with dementia to age in place and have ready access to the appropriate care in the right settings. Such a holistic and co-ordinated form of mental healthcare will go a long way towards achieving the best health outcomes for the elderly.”

14. Also present at the launch were Mr Richard Magnus, Chairman of Temasek Cares; Mr Liak Teng Lit, Chief Executive Officer, Alexandra Health System; Mrs Chew Kwee Tiang, Chief Executive Officer, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital; Dr Jennifer Lee, Chairman, AIC and Dr Jason Cheah, Chief Executive Officer, AIC. The event was held at the Khoo Teck Puat Hospital Auditorium.

15. More details on CREST and COMIT can be found in the Factsheets at Annex A and Annex B.

###



For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Ong Chong Pheng
Assistant Director
Corporate & Marketing Communications
Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)
DID: 6632-1070
Email: chong.pheng.ong@aic.sg

Ms Woon Saet Nyoon
General Manager
Temasek Cares CLG Limited
DID: 6828-8752
Email: saetnyoon@temasekcares.org.sg

About the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is set up by the Ministry of Health (MOH) *to oversee, coordinate and facilitate all efforts in care integration*. Our mission is to achieve best health outcomes for our patients by empowering clients and coordinating access to appropriate care, enable stakeholders to strengthen the primary and community care sectors, and enhancing collaboration to create a well-connected healthcare system. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.

About Temasek Cares

Temasek Cares CLG Ltd is an Institution of a Public Character set up in 2009 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Temasek Holdings. The purpose and mission of Temasek Cares is to contribute to the well-being, dignity and livelihoods for underprivileged individuals, families and communities in Singapore. It aims to do so through the following thrusts:

Building People - Through support with dignity for individuals and families in times of need;
Building Capability - Through education, training and other initiatives to improve opportunities for livelihood;
Building Community - Through fostering racial and religious harmony and promoting understanding across cultures and languages for the underprivileged, poor and needy;
Rebuilding Lives - Through a helping hand for another chance for the disadvantaged individuals, families or communities.

Temasek Holdings has provided funds in the form of two endowments of \$100 million and \$70 million to the Temasek Trust. In turn, the Trustees of Temasek Trust acts as stewards of the endowment and decide on the sums to be granted to Temasek Cares. For more information, please visit www.temasekcares.org.sg.