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*For Immediate Release*

## **WCIC 2013: The Global Response to Care Integration**

*First global platform in Singapore to provide updated trends, case studies and recommended solutions in addressing challenges in Intermediate & Long-Term Care*

More than 1,000 social and healthcare practitioners, including voluntary welfare organisations' representatives, hospital administrators, clinicians, researchers, policy makers, and caregivers attended the first world conference on care integration in Singapore today. Conference delegates hail from Europe, United States, Australia, Middle East and Asia.

2. The World Congress on Integrated Care (WCIC) 2013, organised by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), in collaboration with the International Foundation for Integrated Care and McKinsey & Company was officially opened today by the Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong. The 3-day conference from 7 to 9 November is held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. It comprises workshops on the first day, followed by two full days of presentations from 94 local and international speakers.

3. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of AIC, Dr Jason Cheah said, "We are excited to organise this inaugural World Congress on Integrated Care (WCIC), following the success of our first Asian Conference on Integrated Care in February 2011. To my knowledge, the WCIC is the single largest conference in the World today that is focused on the broad topic of integrated care. We are committed to regularly organising or co-organising these events that promote the exchange of innovative ideas, and shared experiences, and which allow participants from around the world to learn about how different models of care have been successfully implemented in other countries. Through such global meetings, we hope to spur improvements and

transformations in the quality of community and home-based care, so that we are better able to meet the needs of a rapidly ageing population.”

4. Ageing populations is a prevailing global trend and this presents a major challenge in various aspects of care. As the conference theme suggests, “ACT!” which means Act, Collaborate, Translate, seeks to highlight the importance and urgency of care integration as a means to transform healthcare systems to better deliver cost-effective health and social care. The conference allows delegates to come together to highlight opportunities and present possible solutions to this highly relevant topic of care integration.

5. Over the following 2 days, running in conjunction with three keynotes and five plenaries are 11 concurrent sessions, five symposium sessions and a panel discussion on issues relating to community mental health, health and social care initiatives, research and evaluation in integrated care, technology and business and new initiatives and emerging evidence for integrated care. Seven pre-conference workshops were held on 7 November, and these were attended by close to 400 delegates.

6. Delegates from 30 countries would be able to learn about the various care models and case studies from notable speakers from Europe, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and Singapore. Keynote speaker, Dr Chris Ham, Chief Executive of the Fund and Professor in Health Policy and Management in University of Birmingham, UK, will be sharing on the common ingredients needed for different care models and how to successfully adapt and shape them into applications in different contexts in his talk entitled, “*Around the World in 40 minutes*”.

7. Interesting concepts centred on caregiving such as a paradigm shift to view caregivers as recipients of care, and ways to develop a dementia-friendly community will also be addressed at this platform. Additionally, participants will get to learn about the power of technology in transforming intermediate and long-term care services from technology experts such as Microsoft, Phillips Healthcare and HSA Global. The conference will also allow our foreign counterparts to gain a better understanding of the developments of Singapore’s ILTC landscape over the past 10 years.

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**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 care outcomes for our patients by empowering them with health and social care information and arranging for their care when they are discharged from hospitals. We enable stakeholders to raise the quality of care, and also enhance collaboration by working with health and social care providers to increase services to support the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more information, please visit [www.aic.sg](http://www.aic.sg).