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Singapore, a node to forge partnerships and co-create knowledge and solutions for the Asia Pacific region

Tanglin International Centre, a first dedicated cluster for International Non-Profit professionals in Singapore, will boost this effort

Singapore, 2 July 2010 - Global issues such as environment conservation, sustainable development, public health, and peace and security have become increasingly complex. Like all regions, Asia Pacific has its specific set of needs. As such, the sharing of knowledge and expertise among organisations to co-create and adapt solutions and programmes for the region is pertinent. Singapore, as a small and highly connected country, is well poised to facilitate such collaborations.

As a response to International Non-Profit Organisations' (INPO) growing interest in being in Asia Pacific, the International Organisations Programme Office (IOPO) at the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) was established to facilitate INPO's presence here and develop Singapore as a platform for non-profits to effectively collaborate with one another and reach out to the Asia Pacific region.

The Office, which has been set up for close to 3 years now, aims to establish a critical mass of INPOs that will create a vibrant non-profit sector where organisations benefit from sharing ideas and working with one another on various initiatives. IOPO targets to facilitate the establishment of 150 INPOs in Singapore by 2015. The sector is also expected to increase the diversity of employment options available to those in Singapore, generating approximately 2,500 positions by 2015.

Complimenting the goals of the IOPO, the Tanglin International Centre (TIC) was set up as a first dedicated office cluster for International Non-Profits in Singapore. Developed in partnership with the Singapore Land Authority (SLA), the Centre adds to the variety of space options already available for INPOs.

Conveniently located near the central business district, hotels, convention venues and embassies, the TIC offers a conducive platform for INPOs, local organisations, institutions and corporations to interact, share ideas and foster collaborations with one another. Consisting of 2 refurbished buildings that

were once part of the old Ministry of Education headquarters, TIC offers up to 59 office units for non-profits here. At competitive rental rates, the centre also provides shared facilities such as meeting areas, conference rooms, outdoor gazebos and gathering spaces to meet the unique operating needs of non-profit organisations.

“SLA is committed to supporting this Whole-of-Government initiative to create a dedicated environment for international non-profit organisations to establish themselves here”, said Mr Lee Seng Lai, Director, Land Operations (Private), Singapore Land Authority.

Today, more than 90 INPOs addressing issues such as environmental conservation, sustainable development and humanitarian relief, have chosen to base their regional teams in Singapore.

The organisations which have set-up in TIC represent this diversity, covering areas ranging from development to social organisations and industry associations. These include GK Hope Initiative, Special Olympics Asia-Pacific, Operation Smile and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology. As of this year, Operation Smile for example, with its team of volunteers, including Singaporean medical professionals, has contributed to 17 missions across Asia performing over 2000 reconstructive surgeries for children born with facial deformities.

GK Hope Initiative (GK Hi), a Philippines-based International NPO that works to alleviate poverty in slums through education, infrastructure building and healthcare, has set up a presence in Singapore and is also operating from the Tanglin International Centre. GK Hi has partnered Singapore’s National University and Ngee Ann Polytechnic to research on programme impact assessments in order to refine, replicate and scale up their development model in other countries in Asia.

“As the INPO community grows, Singapore will continue to serve as a springboard for non-profit organisations to develop and multiply capabilities, manage their regional operations and resources, and deliver their programmes in Asia. Tanglin International Centre can serve as a platform for the local and international non-profit organisations to synergize their efforts, gain insights and develop solutions and programmes for the region”, said Mr Quek Swee Kuan, Assistant Managing Director, Singapore Economic Development Board.

Quotes

“Operation Smile is happy to be working with the EDB, which has been unbelievably supportive and proactive in helping us make Singapore the focal point of Operation Smile’s activities in Asia. Going forward, the Singapore office, now conveniently located at TIC, will expand its role to planning strategies for the region even as Singapore becomes a key location for sharing medical expertise, providing logistical support, and growing developmental

work across Asia," said the Chairman of Operation Smile Singapore and Board Member of Operation Smile Inc., Mr Gary Loh.

"GK Hi is proud and privileged to be located at TIC as the Gawad Kalinga regional hub providing ample opportunities for connecting and collaborating with other credible International NPOs. This is essential to the mission of GK - rallying Asians and all living in Asia to end poverty in Asia - building friendship, goodwill and contributing to a stable and equitable economy ground up. On behalf of the GK family, congratulations to the EDB on the opening of the TIC", Ong Ai Lin, Chairman, GK Hope Initiative

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About the International Organisations Programme Office

The IOPO is a multiagency set up led by the Singapore Economic Development Board in partnership with the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Singapore Tourism Board. To facilitate INPOs interested in a presence in Singapore, a dedicated International Organizations Programme Office (IOPO) was established in 2007 as a one-stop-shop assistance and information centre. The Office also continues to assist organisations after they are established in Singapore.

About the Singapore Economic Development Board

EDB is the lead government agency for planning and executing strategies to enhance Singapore's position as a global business centre and grow the Singapore economy. We dream, design and deliver solutions that create value for investors and companies in Singapore. In so doing, we generate economic opportunities and jobs for the people of Singapore; and help shape Singapore's economic future.

For more information, please visit www.sedb.com

About the Singapore Land Authority

Singapore Land Authority (SLA) is a statutory board with the Ministry of Law. Its mission is to optimise land resources for the economic and social development of Singapore. SLA is responsible for the direct management of some 14,000 hectares of State land and about 5,000 buildings. It is also in charge of land sales, leases, acquisitions and allocation, developing and marketing land-related information, and maintaining the national land information database through digitised land information services. SLA is also the national land registration authority for property transactions, and the issuance and guarantee of land titles in Singapore. It also manages and maintains the national land survey system, including the defining of

boundaries or legal limits of properties based on a coordinated cadastre survey system. For more details, visit www.sla.gov.sg.

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