Innovative Philanthropy in Health – Introduction by Prof Audrey Chia

Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the session on Innovative Philanthropy in Health. I am Audrey Chia, Associate Professor at National University of Singapore. This session is jointly organized by the Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship & Philanthropy at the NUS Biz School and the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health.

Philanthropists have made huge contributions to health in Asia and beyond. Philanthropy refers not just to the giving of money but also of personal time, expertise and engagement with recipients. The session features some of the most innovative approaches used by notable philanthropists to make sustained, positive impact on health in Asia.

We shall explore the contributions of philanthropists through four different lenses.

The first lens is personal philanthropy. We open the session with Ms Karen Mok, international actress and singer, who will share why she gives her time and attention and lends her celebrity to health-related causes such as malaria and osteoporosis.

The second lens is strategic family philanthropy. Mr David Zuellig, member of the Board of Trustees of the Zuellig Family Foundation, will present his foundation’s strategic approach to philanthropy, which spans capacity building, custom-designed interventions and collaborations with local government and communities in the Philippines.

Dr. Klaus Leisinger, former Chairman of the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, provides us with the third lens, of corporate philanthropy. The Novartis Foundation approaches philanthropy using a multi-pronged approach that includes research and sustained programs in several countries.

The fourth innovative lens is that of entrepreneurial philanthropy, presented by Mr John Forsyth, Managing Director of Viva Healthcare at Richard Chandler Corporation. Richard Chandler Corporation moved from grant making to developing its own brand of philanthropy. Its entrepreneurial approach fuses business approaches and discipline with social causes to achieve higher efficiency, scale and impact.

Closing:

It is clear that beyond committing their time, money and expertise, our speakers have used disciplined, structured approaches to their philanthropy in health. In all their efforts, community engagement has been a clear theme. Thank you for
participating in this session. Please join me in showing our appreciation for the speakers.