

Embargoed till delivery
Please check against delivery

SPEECH BY MR. JULIAN HO, ASSISTANT MANAGING DIRECTOR, SINGAPORE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AT THE GSK-SINGAPORE PARTNERSHIP FOR GREEN & SUSTAINABLE MANUFACTURING AWARDS CEREMONY ON 2 JULY 2010, FRIDAY, 11:00 AM - 12:00 NN, AT BREAKTHROUGH AUDITORIUM, LEVEL 4, MATRIX BUILDING, BIOPOLIS

Mr. Christopher Dobson, Vice President and Managing Director, Global Manufacturing and Supply Singapore, GlaxoSmithKline,

Friends from GlaxoSmithKline,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

INTRODUCTION

1. Good morning. I am pleased to join you in celebrating the inaugural awards for the GSK-Singapore Partnership for Green & Sustainable Manufacturing.

THE GSK-SINGAPORE PARTNERSHIP

2. GSK and Singapore have enjoyed a strong partnership over the past five decades, since GSK first set up their sales office in Singapore in 1959 - a partnership built on trust and a shared commitment to address future opportunities and challenges.

3. GSK was *the* pioneer in pharmaceuticals manufacturing in Singapore when it first established its facility that manufactured penicillin-based products in 1972. I am glad that the original plant at Quality Road still stands today!

4. In the 1980s, GSK chose Singapore to manufacture *Ranitidine* for anti-ulcer medication Zantac. Zantac subsequently became a hit blockbuster, and was one of the key products that propelled GSK from No. 25 to one of the largest pharmaceuticals companies in the world.

5. This confidence in pharmaceuticals manufacturing was the trigger for investments by other leading companies. Today, Singapore is one of the leading locations for pharmaceuticals manufacturing in the world, and home to more than 25 commercial-scale facilities across a wide range of drug modalities. Singapore has also achieved high quality standards with zero major observations from international regulatory bodies.

6. Today, GSK's overall presence in Singapore has grown to encompass a full suite of activities that will drive their growth in Asia and the emerging markets. These activities include drug discovery, clinical development, process development, active pharmaceutical ingredients and vaccines manufacturing, as well as regional commercial and management functions. Singapore is proud to have been an integral part of this journey.

PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP TALENT

7. However, our partnership goes beyond growing the top-line. GSK and Singapore share a common vision of developing talent. This was evident when GSK presented a gift of S\$50 million to EDB in 1990 to set up a scholarship scheme that identified and educated future generations of EDB officers, who play an important role in shaping Singapore's economic future. Being a beneficiary of the Glaxo-EDB scholarship myself, I know that many of my colleagues and I would otherwise never have had the opportunity for an overseas education at the world's top universities.

8. I therefore find great personal satisfaction to see this spirit of partnership and commitment to talent development further embodied in the GSK-Singapore Partnership for Green & Sustainable Manufacturing, which is a key initiative under the GSK-Singapore 10-year Strategic Roadmap.

9. This Roadmap was announced in June last year by CEO Andrew Witty and PM Lee at the opening of GSK's first vaccines plant in Asia. As part of the Roadmap to chart GSK's growth strategy in Singapore and in Asia, a joint gift of \$50 million was announced to build future-ready capabilities in both Green & Sustainable Manufacturing and Healthcare Policy.

10. This gift includes \$33 million to build up Singapore's talent pool and research capabilities to co-develop novel and cost-effective chemical synthesis routes and processes, such as reactions that use less solvent, generate less waste and consume less energy.

11. The GSK-Singapore partnership has been visionary, and we would like to acknowledge the leaders from GSK who have vested their trust in Singapore - friends like Sir Paul Girolami, Sir Richard Sykes, Jean-Paul Garnier and Andrew Witty.

12. We are glad that GSK chose to launch this initiative here in recognition of Singapore's strong fundamentals in science that are critical for the success of our partnership.

13. We believe that this commitment towards green and sustainable manufacturing will galvanise our universities, research institutes and industry behind a common goal to develop innovative and multidisciplinary solutions in sustainable manufacturing for the future of our pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals industries worldwide.

CONCLUSION

14. I would like to thank the academic and scientific community in Singapore's universities and research institutes for their strong support towards this programme.

15. But most importantly, to GSK, our long-term partner, thank you for your trust and confidence in us, and we look forward to continuing this exciting journey to co-create the future of manufacturing.

16. Thank you.