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**SPEECH BY DR BEH SWAN GIN, MD EDB  
AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF SINGAPORE-STANFORD BIODESIGN  
PROGRAM  
ON 29 JANUARY 2010, 4:30 PM, AT FUSIONOPOLIS**

Prof John Hennessy, President, Stanford University,

Mr Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman, A\*STAR,

Friends and Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon. It gives me great pleasure to join you today for the official launch of the Singapore-Stanford Biodesign program.
2. The launch of this program marks an important step forward for Singapore's medical technology (medtech) industry. Today, global medtech MNCs are rapidly expanding in Asia to take advantage of the numerous growth opportunities. Many Asian medtech companies are also keen to strike out into the region and beyond. These corporations share one challenge in common. They need a pool of Asian medical device talent who are globally-oriented and yet familiar with Asia's cultures and societies.
3. The Singapore-Stanford Biodesign program is a strategic collaboration designed to meet the medtech industry's demand for such talent. Through this program, we seek to train and nurture a pool of multi-disciplinary talents here in Asia to be familiar with the medtech innovation process, and equipped with the required skills to develop novel medical devices that will address unmet healthcare needs in Asia.

4. Singapore is well positioned to host this program. Aside from our geographical location here in the centre of Asia, we have a powerful environment where one can access unique clinical insights, strong engineering capabilities and a large biomedical research community.
5. We are proud to partner Stanford and A\*STAR in this pioneering effort. Together with our industry partners, we are confident that the Singapore-Stanford Biodesign program will further enhance Singapore's position as a home for medtech innovation in Asia. The Biodesign fellows will be essential contributors to the medtech industry by serving as valuable linkages to spread novel ideas and medtech innovation expertise between Singapore, Asia and Silicon Valley.
6. Thank you.