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# SPEECH BY CHNG KAI FONG, MD, EDB AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF HOYA SURGICAL OPTICS' NEW GLOBAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018, 10:20 A.M. AT HOYA SURGICAL OPTICS GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS

Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, President and CEO, Hoya Corporation

Mr. John Goltermann Lassen, CEO, Hoya Surgical Optics

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning

#### **Introduction**

I am delighted to join you today to celebrate the opening of HOYA Surgical
 Optics' new global Research and Development (R&D) facility.

- 2 This is Hoya Surgical Optics' (HSO) first R&D Centre outside of Japan.
- 3 It is a strong testament to the Company's confidence in Singapore and our region.
- HSO and Singapore are long-time partners. 15 years ago, you established the first manufacturing plant in Singapore to manufacture intra-ocular lenses<sup>1</sup> (IOL).
  You have gone on to establish your commercial HQ in 2012 and today, the global R&D Centre.

# Eye care research will be increasingly important as the Asian population ages

- 5 The work that the research facility does is an important one, for the world and for Singapore because eye disease is a major global challenge.
- 6 WHO estimates that nearly 300mil people in the world are visually impaired. Of these, Southeast Asia accounts for 73% of those classified as moderate to severe visual impairment. This includes cataract disease. In Singapore, visionrelated disorders are the 2nd highest cause of disability and cataract<sup>2</sup> is amongst the top 3 causes of visual impairment. This could get worse as our population ages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> An intraocular lens is a tiny, artificial lens implanted in the eye during cataract surgery

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Cataract refers to the clouding of the lens in the eye, with the most common symptoms being blurry vision, faded colors, glare and double vision or multiple images. Apart from age, the risk factors of cataract mainly include smoking, diabetes, and ultraviolet exposure.

# Deepening Singapore's leadership in Ophthalmology

- 7 That is why we have been building up our capabilities to address this challenge. In the government's latest 5-year R&D funding plan - the Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2020 (RIE 2020) – we allocated S\$4 billion to fund biomedicalrelated research, of which ophthalmology is one of the key focus areas. Through the efforts of our clinicians and scientists, Singapore has become a leader in the field of ophthalmic research, ranking first in Asia and #2 worldwide<sup>3</sup>.
- 8 HSO's global R&D Centre will be a key partner for Singapore. Through the R&D Centre, the facility will train critical talent such as vision scientists and engineers. It will also work with other research players such as the Singapore Eye Research Institute (SERI), as well as our strong base of ophthalmology-focused companies, such as Santen Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd<sup>4</sup> and Peregrine Therapeutics<sup>5</sup>, to develop novel therapies and solutions. More importantly, HSO's global R&D Centre's forward-looking research to address cataract and other eye diseases will benefit patients in Singapore and the region through better treatments.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> According to a study published Jan 2016 in Peer Journal, Singapore ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in APAC and 2<sup>nd</sup> globally for number of peer-reviewed scientific articles and Impact factor per scientific article. For absolute number of scientific articles, Singapore is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in APAC and 20<sup>th</sup> globally.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Santen announced in Mar '17 a new joint a joint laboratory with Singapore Eye Research Institute ("SERI") to develop novel ophthalmic therapeutics, diagnostics and devices.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Peregrine is a private company founded in 2013 in Singapore. Its flagship product is the world's first nanomedicine product in ophthalmology (liposomal latanoprost) licensed from SERI and NTU.

# Singapore as a hub for companies to undertake end-to-end Innovation and Commercialisation

- 9 With the new global R&D Centre, HSO will have a full stack of capabilities in Singapore, from product innovation to process improvement to commercialization. By co-locating the R&D team with the manufacturing team and commercial team, HSO will be able to rapidly iterate their product, scaleup their manufacturing and go-to-market to take advantage of a growing medical device market in Asia<sup>6</sup>. This reflects not only optimism about Asia's prospects, but confidence in Singapore's position as an integrated hub for companies, not just in biomedical services, but in many industries, who want to access new markets in Asia.
- 10 Congratulations to HOYA again on the opening of HSO's new global R&D Centre. I look forward to working with HSO as you pursue your Mission to alleviate eye disease in the world. Thank you.