



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE**

HSA CEO STEPS DOWN TO RETURN TO FULL-TIME FORENSIC PRACTICE

Dr Clarence Tan, Chief Executive Officer of the Health Sciences Authority (HSA), has decided to relinquish his medical administrative portfolio and to return to full-time professional work as a Forensic Pathologist in HSA's Centre for Forensic Medicine (CFM) with effect from 1 August 03.

2 During his tenure as CEO, HSA, Dr Tan provided the leadership for the implementation of the successful formation and restructuring of HSA. He was also instrumental in the strategic positioning and professional recognition of HSA as one of the regional leaders in all eight professional areas namely, in the regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and radiation emitting devices; blood banking and transfusion medicine; forensic and analytical science services and forensic medicine. Dr Tan led his team in forging several firsts-in-Asia achievements in areas of strategic alliances and collaborations locally and internationally and attaining internationally recognised accreditations from its key benchmark agencies. Milestones include a Memorandum of Intention of Co-operation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia; with recognition and accreditation by the World Health Organisation and the American Society for Crime Laboratory Directors. Under the Singapore-International Atomic Energy Agency Memorandum of Understanding, HSA became a key regional player in radiation protection training. Dr Tan also spearheaded the effort towards the harmonisation of medical devices regulation amongst Asian economies.

3 Along side the successes in the professional arena, Dr Tan's efforts in leading HSA towards attaining organizational excellence include recognition for its world-class Centre for Transfusion Medicine as a national model under the SPRING's Model Company Programme to the Singapore Quality Class for its Centre for Analytical Science. Dr Tan, who is well known as an inspiring and a model leader, holds fast to HSA's value of nurturing and valuing his staff. He is exemplary in promoting a corporate culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and staff welfarism which has resulted in the attainment of enterprise-wide recognition such as the People Developer Award and the Singapore Innovation Class (I-Class). On the latter, HSA is among the first few organisations to be awarded the Singapore I-Class, the highest accolade given to innovative organisations whose outstanding innovation capability development approach or innovations have contributed significantly to business excellence.

4 The HSA Board paid tribute to Dr Tan, indicating that it was deeply appreciative of his service and achievements. HSA Chairman, Prof Lim Mong King said "On behalf of the Board, I would like to record our deep appreciation to Clarence for having built a strong foundation for HSA – this foundation gives us the confidence to reach out for the next phase of our development. We greatly respect his high sense of integrity and his drive and energy. We are very glad to have his continued service in the field of forensic medicine."

5 The Board is pleased to welcome Dr Tan Chor Hiang who will succeed Dr Clarence Tan and be appointed as the new HSA CEO from 1 August 03. She is presently the Deputy Director of Medical Services (Health Regulation) in the Ministry of Health.

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Notes to the Editor

1 Memorandum of Intention of Co-operation (MOI) with the Therapeutic Goods Administration of Australia (TGA)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) signed its first Memorandum of Intention of Cooperation (MOI) its Australian counterpart, Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on 15 May 2002 to jointly collaborate and co-operate in their regulatory framework for pharmaceuticals, medical devices and complementary health products.

The scope of the MOI covers the following areas:

- Exchange of Information
- Development of Professional Competencies and
- Scientific Collaborations

This MOI, a significant milestone in regulatory arena, not only seals the already strong links and contacts between HSA and TGA, but also serves as a model for regulatory coordination in the Asia Pacific region. The MOI will also enhance initiatives to harmonize regulatory standards amidst the diversity of regulatory approaches across national borders.

A special recognition of TGA's approval of new prescription drugs by HSA was recently launched on 18 June 2003.

For more information, please visit the HSA website www.hsa.gov.sg at News Centre, under Press Releases or Speeches.

2 Singapore - International Atomic Energy Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Under the Singapore-International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) MOU signed in 2000, HSA became a key regional player in radiation protection training. Its Centre for Radiation Protection (CRP) was recognised as a regional training centre for fellows. CRP hosted a 2-week IAEA Training Course on Safety Assessment Methodologies for Near Surface Radioactive Waste Disposal from November 2001 – December 2001 for participants from 17 countries in the region.

3 Recognition & Accreditation By World Health Organisation (WHO)

a] WHO Collaborating Centre in Transfusion Medicine

As a WHO Collaborating Centre, in recognition of its high standards and quality, the HSA's Centre for Transfusion Medicine (CTM) has an important role to play in assisting WHO with promoting blood safety and quality in the Western Pacific Region. CTM was selected to host the first meeting on the Quality Management Project (QMP) for Directors of the Blood Transfusion Services in the Western Pacific Region which was held in October 2001. Following the landmark meeting, CTM was designated as a WHO Regional Training Centre for QMP and held the first QMP training course in April 2002 for quality management personnel from blood transfusion services in the region.

b] WHO Collaborating Centre for Food Contamination Monitoring

c] WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Quality Assurance

HSA's Centre for Analytical Science (CAS) works closely with WHO in various international activities with the designation of its two laboratories as WHO Collaborating Centres.

The Food Laboratory of CAS is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Food Contamination Monitoring. It was re-accredited in Oct 2000 for another 4 years. As a WHO Collaborating Centre, it

- establishes a food database
- participates in quality assurance programmes, and
- provides training on food contaminants.

The Pharmaceutical Laboratory of CAS is a WHO Collaborating Centre For Drug Quality Assurance. It was re-accredited in April 2001 for another 4 years. As a WHO Collaborating Centre, it

- reviews monographs for International Pharmacopoeia
- validates international chemical reference substances, and

- provides training on pharmaceutical analysis.

CAS was invited by WHO in December 01 to take part in a Proficiency Testing Programme, an initiative only open to selected government laboratories which enables CAS to benchmark its Pharmaceutical Laboratory with its counterparts overseas.

CAS was also the only laboratory in Asia that was invited by WHO in July 2002 to participate in the collaborative study on the development of screening tests for a 4-fixed dosed combination anti-TB drug. CAS' role was to cross validate the results from other laboratories in the United States and Europe and to comment on the experimental conditions proposed by WHO and carry out assay on 7 different brands anti-TB drugs.

4 Accreditation by American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)

In June 2001, HSA's Centre for Forensic Science (CFS) was re-accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) for another five years in the disciplines of:

- Controlled substances
- Toxicology
- Trace evidence
- Serology
- DNA
- Firearms/toolmarks and
- Questioned Documents

The accreditation demonstrates the high standards of the Centre's forensic expertise and quality management. This recognition also highlights the Centre's commitment in providing world class services to meet clients' high expectations and requirements.

In June 2001, its Narcotics I Laboratory was invited by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to be a reference laboratory for the Seized Materials Group. In April 2002, CFS' Narcotics II Laboratory was also invited by UNDCP to be a reference laboratory for the Biological Specimen Group. The reference labs provide the baseline information which is used to evaluate results reported by participating labs in UNDCP's biannual International Collaborative Exercises.

5 About the Health Sciences Authority

At the Health Sciences Authority [HSA], we apply medical, pharmaceutical and specialised scientific expertise to safeguard public health and safety in Singapore. As one multidisciplinary agency, we serve as the national regulator of all therapeutic

products by providing a seamless yet rigorous regulatory process to the healthcare and biomedical sciences industries. We also run the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, protecting the integrity of the nation's blood supply. As the national reference agency, we exploit specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in order to serve the administration of justice and enhance safety in our community. For more details, visit: **www.hsa.gov.sg**