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SINGAPORE MINISTER FOR HEALTH MR. GAN KIM YONG OPENS HIMSS ASIAPAC 2014 DIGITAL HEALTHCARE WEEK

- *LEADING HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS RECOGNISED FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGY WITH EMRAM AWARDS*
- *"THE PARTICIPATION OF ASIA PACIFIC'S MAJOR INSTITUTIONS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, FROM AROUND 30 COUNTRIES, IN HIMSS ASIAPAC14 REFLECTS THE COMMITMENT BY THESE INSTITUTIONS TO BRING THEIR IT AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS UP TO THE HIGHEST ACHIEVABLE LEVELS." - MINISTER GAN*

15 September, 2014 (Singapore) – HIMSS AsiaPac14 - Digital Healthcare Week has been officially opened in Singapore today by Singapore's Minister for Health, Mr. Gan Kim Yong. The ceremony included the presentation of the **HIMSS Analytics EMRAM Awards**, presented by Mr. Gan to some of the region's leading healthcare institutions in recognition of their successful implementation of healthcare technology. The four-day **HIMSS AsiaPac14** event, which is being held at Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre, brings the world's leading healthcare practitioners, technologists, policy makers and academics together for a series of forums, talks and exhibitions on the very latest innovations and applications of healthcare technology.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of **HIMSS AsiaPac 2014**, Mr. Gan Kim Yong said, "Across the region, healthcare practitioners are confronted with varying stages of development and technological implementation. Each country, city and even institution has its own array of unique challenges that can hinder the successful implementation of technology. The participation of Asia Pacific's major institutions, both public and private, from around 30 countries, in HIMSS AsiaPac14 reflects the commitment by these institutions to bring their IT and communications systems up to the highest achievable levels."

HIMSS AsiaPac 2014 Digital Healthcare Week (HIMSS AsiaPac 2014) recognised healthcare institutions in the Asia-Pacific region for their successful implementation of technology with the **Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model (EMRAM™) Awards**. Under HIMSS' patented EMRAM system, institutions are ranked in 8 stages (0-7) with the goal of reaching stage 7 – a complete paperless environment. Minister Gan presented awards to institutions in the region that have successfully reached stages 6, recognising their efforts in the journey towards supporting the true sharing, information exchange and immediate delivery of patient data to improve process performance, quality of care and patient safety.

Winners of the **EMRAM Awards** include Apollo Speciality Hospital, Chennai India, Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Singapore and National Heart Centre Singapore for achieving EMRAM Stage 6.

National Skin Centre, Singapore, was also recognized as the first in Asia Pacific to achieve Stage 6 in the HIMSS Analytics Primary Care EMRAM.

Mr. Linus Tham, Chairperson, HIMSS AsiaPac14 – Digital Healthcare Week Organising Committee, said, “Following the success of Digital Healthcare Week in 2013, **HIMSS AsiaPac 2014** will build on the developments and breakthroughs in the healthcare industry over the past year. For this eighth installment in September, we are looking forward to showcasing the very latest advances and findings from the implementation of technology in healthcare. These will be shared by some of the industry’s most respected figures from the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe.”

“We congratulate the winners of the EMRAM awards for their dedication to implementing new technologies and systems, with the fundamental objective of improving patient outcomes in the region and beyond. Their successes are highly encouraging for the work that we do here, and show that events such as **HIMSS AsiaPac14** are having a positive impact on the industry and our patients,” added Mr. Tham.

Now into its 8th edition, **HIMSS AsiaPac14** brings together leading industry speakers to provide a unique learning and networking opportunity for government policymakers, hospital senior executives, care providers, clinicians, nurses, healthcare IT professionals and technology companies. Over the course of four days, these professionals will come together to collaborate and share innovation within the healthcare industry with the common goal of enhancing the quality of patient-care and increasing efficiency.

HIMSS AsiaPac 2014 features keynote addresses and engaging sessions from speakers such as Dr. Rafael J. Grossmann, General Trauma, Advanced Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgeon, Google Glass Explorer, Telemedicine and Health innovator, who was the first to use Google Glass in live surgery and will discuss how the device can open new possibilities in medicine. In addition, Professor Henrique Martins, MD, MPhil, PhD from the Ministry of Health, Portugal, will share his insights on how to engage patients and lead physicians into adopting healthcare IT.

In addition to the keynotes and sessions, visitors to **HIMSS AsiaPac 2014** can take part in informative tracks – panel discussions with policymakers, thought leaders and practitioners in the world of healthcare. Following their success in 2013, these sessions have been further expanded and developed as a unique opportunity for visitors to learn first-hand about the impact of technology and data in healthcare, from its development to implementation in some of the world’s leading medical institutions.

A series of seminars will also be held on topics such as:

- **Regional HIT Track** – The regional HIT track will bring together Government Policy Makers and Thought Leaders from Asia Pacific to discuss how the access to technology and data revolutionises the way health professionals work and deliver better care, with better outcomes.
- **Physician IT Track** – Learn from experts as they share their insights and experiences as Physicians in Healthcare IT. Join the discussion on the challenges in Healthcare IT governance, implementation and how they can be addressed.

- **Nursing Informatics** – Showcasing the importance of nursing informatics, as well as highlighting key challenges and obstacles in today's health systems, with sessions led by Professor Kylie Ward (Transformation Specialist, Australia) and Ms. May Yeok Wan Koo (School of Health Sciences, Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore).
- **Personal Connected Health** – Exploring how practitioners can make health and wellness a convenient part of daily life through technology, with an opening keynote by Dr. Steven Tucker (Founder, Tucker Medical, Singapore)
- **Technology & Standards** – Providing insights into the future of healthcare infrastructure and technology by exploring the state of current healthcare systems, hospitals and care providers, with an opening keynote by Don Sweete (CEO, The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation, Canada)

From 15-17 September, delegates are also able to visit the **HIMSS AsiaPac 2014 Exhibition**, where healthcare providers and vendors will be showcasing their latest innovations in technology, procedures and patient management from across the region.

Registration for **HIMSS AsiaPac 2014** is open at www.himssasiapac.org and on-site at Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre.

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About HIMSS AsiaPac14 - Digital Healthcare Week

Established in 2007, HIMSS AsiaPac Digital Healthcare Week (HIMSS AsiaPac) is a four-day event held at Marina Bay Sands Convention and Exhibition Centre, Singapore, bringing together leading industry speakers to provide a unique learning and networking opportunity for government policymakers, hospital senior executives, care providers, clinicians, nurses, healthcare IT professionals and technology companies to come together to collaborate and share with the common goal towards improving the quality and accessibility of care for patients.

About HIMSS Asia Pacific

HIMSS is a cause-based, not-for-profit organisation exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of healthcare. Founded 52 years ago, HIMSS and its related organisations are headquartered in Chicago with additional offices in the United States, Europe and Asia.

HIMSS represents nearly 50,000 individual members, of which more than two thirds work in healthcare provider, governmental and not-for-profit organisations. HIMSS also includes over 570 corporate members and more than 225 not-for-profit partner organisations that share our mission of transforming healthcare through the effective use of information technology and management systems.

HIMSS frames and leads healthcare practices and public policy through its content expertise, professional development, research initiatives, and media vehicles designed to promote information and management systems' contributions to improving the quality, safety, access, and cost-effectiveness of patient care.