



For Immediate Release

HKSH Partners with Hitachi to Bring in First Proton Therapy to Hong Kong

(18 April 2016, Hong Kong) Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital today announced its collaboration with Hitachi, Ltd. to bring in Hong Kong's first proton therapy system in four years' time.

Proton Therapy (PT), which has been regarded as one of the most advanced radiation technologies in the world, will be made available at the future HKSH hospital complex in A Kung Ngam, Shau Kei Wan in 2020 the earliest.

PT is an important arsenal in combating cancer and will bring new hopes to local cancer patients, particularly paediatric patients and those suffering from lung and liver cancers with a relatively higher mortality rate.

The system, owned by a subsidiary of the Hospital, Million Hope International Limited, will be integrated in a centre with a footprint of 1240 square meters, making it the smallest footprint to house a two-treatment-gantry-room PT system in the world. The Hospital hopes this marvel can serve Eastern District and Hong Kong people well, and be the pride of Hong Kong.

A ceremony to announce the collaboration was held today and officiated by the Secretary for Food and Health of The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Dr. KO Wing-man.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Hospital's Medical Superintendent, Dr. Walton LI said that over the past 90 years, the Hospital has been committed to bringing the most advanced medical technologies to Hong Kong. Proton therapy demonstrates such commitment.

As cancer remains the No. 1 cause of death in Hong Kong, the Hospital has made cancer as one of its clinical priorities and is confident that greater clinical outcomes can be achieved integrating the new PT service into its comprehensive cancer programme.

At present, mammography, X-ray examinations, PET-CT scan and the latest PET/MR are provided for screening and diagnosis in the Hospital, while surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, are delivered by clinicians using latest technologies and these form the backbone of the Hospital's arsenal against cancer disease.



Despite the Hospital's efforts and success in diagnostics and multi-modality treatment of cancer, some gaps still remain. Lack of Proton Therapy in Hong Kong is one of those major gaps.

Compared with radiotherapy using X-rays, PT can achieve a better treatment outcome with fewer side effects. Due to the unique physical property of protons, patients undergoing proton treatment are exposed to an extremely low dose of radiation when proton rays are penetrating through the body at an early stage. High-dose radiation is emitted at high velocity only when the rays reach the targeted tumour for pinpoint, intense destruction.

"This PT is not just one machine, one technology but a full concept of collaboration of how to approach cancer this deadly disease. We will be commissioning a new centre in A Kung Ngam in a few years, providing a different service and environment for different cancer patients and offering them hopes and support."

"The whole concept is how we should work together, all sectors and beyond countries, to provide best care for people of Hong Kong," Dr. LI added.

Dr Ko noted that the introduction of proton therapy into Hong Kong certainly adds to our armamentarium an advanced piece of equipment for fighting cancer.

"HKSH's introduction of the new proton therapy service will not only help the local healthcare sector master the relevant clinical experience and skill, but also promote the future development of public and private healthcare services with the gathering of more operational experience and pertinent clinical data and scientific evidence on the local population. More patients together with the total healthcare system will therefore benefit from it in the long run," he said.

"Given the huge total burden and complexity of cancer diseases and treatment, we certainly need stronger and better collaboration amongst healthcare professionals and clinical teams in both the private and public sectors in formulating treatment strategies and in organization of service delivery," he added.

Echoing his views is Mr. Wyman LI, Manager (Administration) of the Hospital and Chief Operation Officer of Million Hope International Limited, who said it is high time to introduce PT in Hong Kong to help combat cancer.

"At present, there are more than 50 PT centres in operation globally, including Japan, the US and Europe. Another 29 centres are under construction, 17 centres are in planning process. It is high time for Hong Kong, as a centre of



medical excellence, to build its own proton system which will be a powerful weapon to add to our cancer fighting efforts,” Mr. LI said.

Proton therapy is recognized as the best course of treatment for solid children cancer for fewer side effects and impediment to their future growth. The Hospital is committed to allotting time as well as financial resources for the benefits of children in Hong Kong.

Mr. LI pointed out that the Hospital has started looking at the possibilities of proton therapy more than 10 years ago and identified two major challenges: the size of the proton system and the support space required as well as specialty manpower.

“The space requirement of proton system and its supporting facilities is huge. We have since then identified and acquired a site at A Kung Ngam where we will launch our project,” Mr. LI said, adding that on top of hardware, the Hospital has also built up its professional team to prepare for the proton therapy programme. More recruitment and training are expected in the coming years leading to centre opening.

Dr. KO noted that he is sure the Advanced Medical Centre situated at the Eastern Hong Kong Island, can also help alleviate the congestions in public hospitals such as the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital.

The Hospital is also delighted for the partnership with Hitachi in launching proton therapy service in Hong Kong.

“Hitachi has more than 20 years of experience in proton therapy and the synchrotron proton system we have chosen has been widely used by major renowned medical centres around the world including MD Anderson, Sibley Memorial Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine in the US and Hokkaido University in Japan,” Mr. Li said.

Mr. Masaya WATANABE, Vice President and Executive Officer, CEO of Hitachi’s Healthcare Business Unit said the company is proud to work on its first project in Hong Kong in partnership with HKSH which is known for its medical quality and cutting edge technology as well as its patient care.

Hitachi will supply a two-treatment gantry PT system for the AKN facility and the order also includes a 10-year contract for service and maintenance.

“Our Proton Therapy system will certainly raise the standard of care and quality of life in the region and the world. It is expected that the system will serve not only patients in Hong Kong but also those from the surrounding areas who wish to receive the best treatment,” Mr. WATANABE said.



Hitachi's PT system has its roots in experimental accelerators dating back to 1970's and the first PT Center established at Tsukuba University Hospital and started patient treatment in 2001. Since then, Hitachi has supplied many systems in Japan as well as in the United States.

"We would like to further advance this Proton Therapy system with the collaboration with renowned hospitals such as HKSH," said Mr. WATANABE, who also shared three core values of Hitachi: "Harmony, Sincerity and Pioneering Spirit."

"I am confident that both HKSH and Hitachi will be able to focus in Harmony, act Sincerely and continue to move forward to help those in need with a Pioneering Spirit," he said, adding that Hitachi is looking at the next 50 years in Hong Kong and is committed to joining the Hospital on a journey into the next 50 years in the united front against cancer.

About Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (HKSH) is one of the leading private hospitals in Hong Kong. It is owned by the Li Shu Fan Medical foundation (LSFMF), which is a not-for-profit organization. HKSH is committed to fulfilling LSFMF's vision of providing quality health care and advancing medical education and research, with an overriding concern for the public good.

About Million Hope International Limited

Million Hope International Limited is a subsidiary of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital. It was established in 2011 with the intention to establish a proton therapy centre in Hong Kong.

About Hitachi

Hitachi, Ltd. (TSE: 6501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, delivers innovations that answer society's challenges with our talented team and proven experience in global markets. The company's consolidated revenues for fiscal 2014 (ended March 31, 2015) totaled 9,761 billion yen (\$81.3 billion). Hitachi is focusing more than ever on the Social Innovation Business, which includes power & infrastructure systems, information & telecommunication systems, construction machinery, high functional materials & components, automotive systems, healthcare and others. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company's website at <http://www.hitachi.com>.



HITACHI
Inspire the Next

For media enquiry, please contact :

Ms Esme LAU
Department of Corporate Affairs
Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital
Tel: 3156 8088
Email: esme.my.lau@cad.hksh.com

Ms Carol KWOK
Department of Corporate Affairs
Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital
Tel : 3156 8078
Email : carolkwok@cad.hksh.com

Photo Captions:

1. (From left), Officiating at the ceremony: Dr. Joseph CHAN, Deputy Medical Superintendent of HKSH; Dr. Walton LI, Medical Superintendent of HKSH; Dr. KO Wing-man, Secretary for Food and Health; Mr. Wyman LI, Manager (Administration) of HKSH; Mr. Masaya WATANABE, Vice President and Executive Officer, CEO of Hitachi's Healthcare Business Unit and Mr. LONG Jian, Vice President, Hitachi (China) Ltd.





2. Dr. Walton LI, Medical Superintendent of HKSH says that proton therapy is not just one machine, one technology but a full concept of collaboration of how to approach cancer.



3. Mr. Wyman LI, Manager (Administration) of HKSH says that more recruitment and training will be provided in the coming years to get prepared for the PT programme.





HITACHI
Inspire the Next

4. Dr. Ko notes that the introduction of proton therapy into Hong Kong certainly adds to the armamentarium an advanced piece of equipment for fighting cancer.



5. Mr. Masaya WATANABE, Vice President and Executive Officer, CEO of Hitachi's Healthcare Business Unit says that the company is proud to work on its first project in Hong Kong in partnership with HKSH.





6. (From left) Dr. Ben YU, Department-in-charge, Medical Physics & Research Department of HKSH, Dr. Joseph CHAN, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Mr. Wyman LI, Manager (Administration) and Dr. Simon TANG, Head of Development, Hospital Administration / AKN Lead introduces the proton therapy project to the media.

