



News Release
For Immediate Publication

INDOOR ENVIRONMENT POSES POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS TO YOUNG CHILDREN

Young Children Spend Up to 20 Hours Indoor Daily

Kuala Lumpur, 6 March 2017 – Paediatricians Dr Amir Hamzah and Associate Professor Dr Jessie Ann today played host to Nippon Paint’s Wellness for Children Expert Roundtable themed **“Mitigating Common Indoor Household Risk for Children”**, focusing on immunology and asthma in regards to indoor environments.

Dr Amir Hamzah, President of Malaysian Society of Allergy and Immunology, and Clinical Immunologist, Allergist and Paediatrician at Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur said, **“As children’s spend more time indoors, be it at home or at childcare centers, parents need to know the common indoor household risk that are present and also understand the ways to mitigate these risk.”**

“Allergies can occur anywhere indoors! Your walls, toys, and even furniture can be a root of an allergy attack. It is important for parents to understand that if they suspect their children of having allergies, they need to have relevant allergy tests to determine the cause of these allergic diseases,, and thus ensuring that their home is free of such allergens. One place parents often overlook are walls. Walls are usually not cleaned as often as other surfaces such as floors, thus it begins to harbour dust, mould, bacteria, and even viruses. It is these walls that children interact with and may lead to infections and/or allergies,” said Dr Amir.

Dr Amir’s presentation on *Why is My Child Developing Allergies Indoors* highlighted the various indoor aspects that parents need to understand in order to mitigate these allergy risk. In addition to walls, parents should also look at the safety and quality of various “touchpoints” of children, such as the toys, the pacifier, and various furniture at home.

The session was then followed by Associate Professor Dr Jessie Ann du Bruyne’s presentation on *Asthma: Indoor More Detrimental Than Outdoor?* According to Dr Jessie, Asthma is more than just pollen and dust. It is also contributed by indoor factors such as dust mites, animal dander, cigarette smoke, volatile organic compounds, and even mould.

“Play is essential to a child’s mental and physical development, almost as important to a child as his or her daily meal. Parents need to know that their children have safe environments for

play. Safe environments may be even more necessary for children with asthma. Optimal settings can contribute to control of asthma. Control your asthma, don't let your asthma control you," said Associate Professor Dr Jessie Ann du Bryune, Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Respiratory Physician at UMMC probed the audiences.

The Wellness for Children Expert Roundtable is part of Nippon Paint's Wellness for Children Campaign that aims to empower parents with the relevant knowledge to make informed decisions for their children's health and wellness development.

"From our recent survey, we found out that 88% of parents do not know that walls can be a medium to transmit viruses and bacteria, and a separate survey, 70% of parents claim that their children spend 8-20 hours a day indoors," said Ms Gladys Goh, Group General Manager of Nippon Paint Malaysia Group.

She continued, **"We all are parents ourselves, and we only want the best for our children. With limitless amount of information published online, in our favourite magazines, and even in the newspaper we read, how do parents decide what information is valid? Thus it is our aspiration for the Wellness for Children campaign to empower parents with the knowledge to make informed decision."**

"We do this through partnerships with leading health experts like Dr Amir and Associate Professor Dr Jessie Ann to create relevant educational platform that answers the most burning questions from today's parents. Previously we have also worked with Dr Chan Yoke Fun of University Malaya to conduct sessions on Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) to educate the public on this disease as well as other health-focused public forums," continued Ms Gladys Goh.

Back in 2015 and during an outbreak of HFMD IN 2016, Dr Chan Yoke Fun, Associate Professor of the University Malaya Department of Medical Microbiology delivered two sessions on HFMD's outbreak pattern, the symptoms, and viruses responsible for it. This was the beginning of Nippon Paint's Wellness for Children campaign that has since included larger events such as the BFM Health & Living Junior 2016 conference. The conference hosted over 700 members of the public to hear what Malaysia's leading paediatrics has to say about childhood allergy, diseases, and the importance of play.

Based on three principles - Importance of Indoor Air Quality, Protection Against Virus and Bacteria, and The Importance of Play, Nippon Paint's Wellness for Children campaign was birthed with the intention of creating conducive indoor environments for children to play and learn.

Ms Gladys Goh further added, **"Play is an important aspect of childhood as it sets the foundation for a child's cognitive and physical development. However from recent reports it seems that our little ones are playing less, and this is causing them to experience anxiety and stress at such a young age. With 70% of children spending 8-20 hours indoors daily, we are engaging through the Wellness for Children Campaign, to raise the awareness that with a conducive indoor environments, our children can play and learn better."**

“This is just the beginning of Nippon Paint’s efforts in raising the profile of green solutions and kids-friendly paint. Ultimately we are doing our part as citizens of this World to offer coatings that look good while helping to green the environment. We believe functional coatings that can reduce energy usage and increase indoor inhabitant safety and comfort will help propel us seamlessly into the green century.” Ms Gladys Goh concluded.

About Nippon Paint Malaysia Group

The Nippon Paint Malaysia Group (“NPM Group”) is currently Malaysia’s No. 1 Total Coating Solutions provider, enjoying its market leadership position since 2008. The NPM Group is part of the Nippon Paint Group, which is currently Asia’s No. 1 coating manufacturer spanning 15 countries, built on a heritage of over 130 years dating back to 1881 in Japan.

Established in 1967 as Nippon Paint (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., the company has since grown in leaps and bounds, and today, has emerged as a significant regional player within the coatings industry with presence in countries such as Pakistan, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Thailand and Indonesia.

The NPM Group places strong emphasis in Research and Development (R&D) activities, which remains a core priority to its success in product innovation. As a global leader in coating technologies with a database of more than 10,000 paint formulations, the NPM Group prides itself in being a Total Coating Solutions provider with a multi-segment portfolio of offerings ranging from Architectural, Automotive, Industrial, Protective to Marine coatings.

The Group has won consumer choice awards such as the Reader’s Digest Trusted Brand Awards (2006-2016) and Putra Brand Awards (2010-2016), as well as received industry accolades such as the Best Company for Leadership in Paint Technology Asia by IAIR in 2014 and Frost & Sullivan’s Paint & Coatings Company of The Year in 2011, the Paint Company of the Year 2016 and New Product Innovation Leadership Award 2016. In its concerted effort to champion sustainability towards a greener footprint, the Group has received the Green Label Certification (by the Singapore Environment Council), EcoLabelling Certification Licence (by SIRIM QAS International) and several Green Excellence Awards by Frost & Sullivan.

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