



**News Release
For Immediate Publication**

CRITICAL NEED FOR HEALTHCARE SECTOR TO BUILD GREEN, RESOURCE-EFFICIENT HOSPITALS

Kuala Lumpur, 7 April 2016 – With the healthcare sector contributing significantly to carbon dioxide emissions as well as various waste materials from its operations, there arise an urgent need for existing hospitals to look at various ways to be more resource-efficient as well as for the industry to be committed in constructing new, green hospitals

“A lot of the focus is on greening commercial buildings or residential homes, as recently in malls as well as hotels. However, many are unaware that the healthcare industry is yet another sector that negatively impacts environment sustainability. Ironically, the trillion-dollar healthcare sector is working hard to save people from diseases attributed to environmental factors, but in parallel are unintentionally contributing to the world’s carbon footprint,” said Ar Chan Seong Aun, Chairman of Green Building Index Accreditation Panel (GBIAP).

On the definition of a green hospital, Ar Chan elaborated, ***“A green and resource-efficient hospital is one that promotes public health by continuously reducing its impact to the environmental and ultimately eliminating its contribution to the burden of disease. It also recognises the connection between human health and the environment, and demonstrates that understanding through its operations, governance and strategy.”***

Malaysia’s No. 1 coating solutions provider, Nippon Paint Malaysia Group (“Nippon Paint”), in collaboration with the Green Building Index Sdn Bhd, is urging hospital operators to be role models in greening their operations, in view of increasing evidence on health sector’s damaging impact on the environment. Its inaugural *Green Hospital Seminar 2016* aimed at educating and engaging various industry stakeholders, saw a line-up of various experts to share knowledge and expertise towards greening the healthcare industry – be it for hospitals or other medical institutions. Notable speakers include veterans such as Ir. Chen Thiam Leong, Co-Chairman of Green Building Index Accreditation Panel, Ar Von Kok Leong who

presented on a Case Study of Amanjaya Hospital, and Dr Richard Seow, Chief Technology Officer of Nippon Paint South East Asia Group who shared about the role of functional coatings within a sustainability-themed building.

“It is without doubt that the sustainability agenda is now reaching various industry pillars, and now the focus is on the healthcare sector. All industry stakeholders are urged to develop a deeper understanding of the first green hospital accreditation tool, developed by Green Building Index together with the Ministry of Health. The establishment of a rating tool for hospitals will provide specific and measurable yardstick in ensuring that the eventual operations are efficient, upon construction of a green hospital building,” said Ir Chen Thiam Leong, Co-Chairman of GBIAP.

The Green Building Index (GBI) is Malaysia’s green rating tools for buildings and townships, created to promote sustainability in the built-environment. GBI is developed specifically to suit the Malaysian tropical climate, environmental and developmental context, cultural and social needs. GBI launched The GBI Hospital Tool last year which covers six key criteria - Energy Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Sustainable Site Planning and Management, Materials and Resources, Water Efficiency and Innovation. Both existing hospital buildings and new constructions can be accredited under the tool. As of March 2016, a total of 11 hospital projects has been certified and recent certifications under the GBI Hospital tool is the Amanjaya Hospital in Kedah.

“There’s a key challenge when it comes to greening a building, be it a factory, a mall, a hotel or a hospital – as many operators have the funds and may even have the knowledge but it is always being prioritised lower as compared to other initiatives. With the extension of incentives for green technology initiatives to 2020 and amplified educational efforts, I am confident that there will be more urgency on the need to protect the surrounding environment as greater awareness that cost savings can be simultaneously achieved,” said Ir Chen when asked about the adoption rate of green buildings in Malaysia.

At the seminar, Nippon Paint also shared about the use of coatings as part of the greening process for hospitals and other buildings. Ms Gladys Goh, Group General Manager of Nippon Paint Malaysia Group said, ***“Nippon Paint has always been driven by our Total Green Solution philosophy to pioneer sustainable coatings innovation for buildings. For the medical environment, Nippon Paint Health Solutions deliver functional benefits through a wide range of coatings such as Nippon VirusGuard, Malaysia’s first anti-viral paint that fights H1N1 and Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease. Another product is Odour-less Aircare which absorbs formaldehyde, resulting in an improved indoor***

air quality while for the exterior, Nippon Weatherbond SolarReflect allow buildings to stay cool by reflecting heat, thus reducing energy consumption from air-conditioning. These benefits form part of the requirements of the GBI rating tool. With our capabilities to serve multi-segments in the industry such as Architectural, Protective, Industrial, Automotive and Marine, we will continue to stay at the forefront of championing green solutions.”

Hospitals are increasingly playing leadership roles in leveraging on their positions to advocate for policies and practices that promotes both human and environmental health. Ultimately a healthier environment will lead to healthier people, as the World Health Organisation attributes a quarter of all human diseases and deaths to environmental-related factors. These factors include indoor and outdoor air pollution, unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, and climate change amongst others.

“Ultimately we need to look beyond the short term. I urge operators, business owners and every stakeholder of this planet to claim ownership in safekeeping and nurturing the lands in which we operate in, and understand that it is our children who will bear the consequences of our neglect to the environment,” Gladys added.

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 (2006-2015) and Putra Brand Awards (2010-2015), 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. 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.

For more information on Nippon Paint Malaysia:

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