

# Work begins on first hi-tech health-care park

HCM CITY — The nation's first integrated hi-tech health-care park covering 37.5 ha will include teaching hospitals, research centres, medical institutes and other community facilities, its developer says.

The groundbreaking ceremony

was held yesterday for the International Hi-Tech Healthcare Park in the city's Bình Tân District.

The VNĐ6.75 trillion (US\$400.5 million) park is being developed by the Hoa Lâm-Shangri-La...

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Healthcare Limited Liability Company in a location that is just 10 kilometres from the heart of the city's commercial district.

The park will "not only attract local and foreign investment, but will serve both the healthcare needs of the expatriate community working in Việt Nam and also the nearly 85 million population of Việt Nam," said company chairwoman Trần Thị Lâm.

The park, located at 532A Kinh Dương Vương Street in Bình Trị Đông Ward, will be built over nine years in five phases, said the joint venture general director Lai Voon Hon.

In the first phase from 2008-2010, a 250-bed fully-serviced general hospital with advanced technology meeting regional standards, a training center, apartment blocks and nursery and primary school ar-

reas will be built.

In the 2010-2012 second phase, work will focus on a research center for experts, doctors and nurses and a recreational complex for patients.

A 250-bed cardio-vascular hospital will be built in the project's third phase from 2012-2014 when commercial and retail components and other community facilities will also be completed.

The fourth phase from 2014 to 2016 will see a 250-bed serviced paediatric hospital and accommodation for patients' relatives.

Another 500-bed general hospital will come up during the last phase from 2016 to 2018.

The general director said that Việt Nam, as the world's fastest-growing economy after China with an average GDP growth rate of 7 per cent over the last five years, is suffering from an acute shortage of quality world-class medical facilities.

The Government has therefore placed high priority in developing the country's healthcare facilities for its people and the community.

By 2017 or 2018, he said, this Medical City will have approximately 1 million sq.m of gross floor area which will have 1,750 hospital beds able to house 45,000 in-patients as well as 300,000 out-patients.

Lê Hoàng Quân, chairman of HCM City People's Committee, said, "This is the first hi-tech healthcare park in Việt Nam combining healthcare with training and education, and once completed will become a model for high-quality healthcare services to enhance public health."

Hoa Lâm-Shangri-La Healthcare Limited Liability Company is a 30:70 joint venture between Hoa Lâm Services Co., Ltd (Việt Nam) and Shangri-La Healthcare Investment Pte. Ltd. (Singapore). — VNS