

Work starts on biggest hi-tech healthcare park

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By Quoc Hung
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HCMC - Hoa Lam-Shangri-La Healthcare Limited Liability Company commenced work on the country's largest healthcare park in HCMC shortly after it received an investment certificate yesterday.

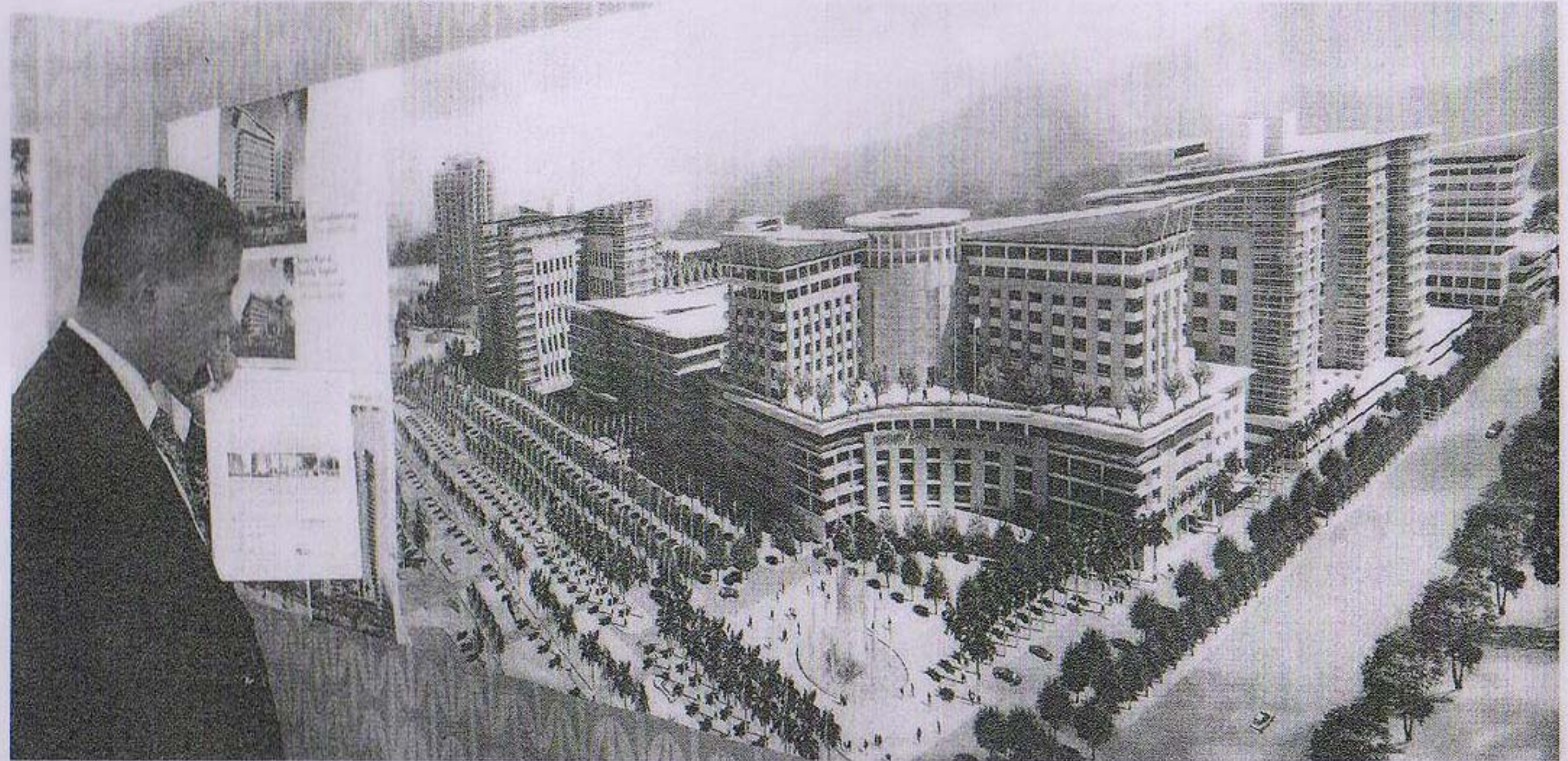
The company, a 30:70 venture between Vietnam's Hoa Lam Service Co. Ltd and Singapore's Shangri-La Healthcare Investment Pte. Ltd, will spend US\$400 million on the project at 532A Kinh Duong Vuong Street in Tan Binh District.

The park will cover more than 37.5 hectares in the district, about 10 kilometers from the city's central business district. It is easily accessible via a highway leading to Tan Son Nhat International Airport.

The development will span over a period of nine years and feature a world-class healthcare environment for medical professionals and patients, which includes private tertiary care and teaching hospitals, research centers, medical institutes, commercial and retail components as well as supporting service residences, hotel, offices and other community facilities.

Lai Voon Hon, general director of Hoa Lam-Shangri-La Healthcare, said the integrated healthcare park would provide a platform to improve existing medical facilities to serve not only HCMC and other parts of the country but also the region.

"Together with our joint venture parties in Vietnam and in foreign



A visitor views the plan of Vietnam's largest hi-tech healthcare park at the groundbreaking ceremony in HCMC yesterday

Photo: Quoc Hung

ing this vision a reality," he said.

"Termed as the 'Medical City' of Indochina, the park not only seeks to serve Vietnam's 85 million population but also strives to meet the medical professionals' needs from all over the world."

The research centers and nursing schools there will spur the development of the medical profession within Vietnam.

venture together with Aseana Properties Ltd, a property development company listed on the London Exchange, will be responsible for planning, developing and marketing the park in five phases.

"We will strive to build a 250-bed hospital by the end of 2010 or 2011 at the latest. By 2017 or 2018, this Medical City will have approximately one million square meters of gross floor space

the capacity to accommodate over 45,000 in-patients and 300,000 out-patients per annum," he said.

Hoa Lam-Shangri-La is going to enter into a partnership with a professional investor in the medical field, Tony Tan, who has over 20 years' experience in investment, establishment, operation of over 10 hospitals and healthcare centers in Asia.

port on the rooftop.

The city's chairman Le Hoang Quan underscored the importance of the project, saying it would contribute to boosting healthcare development in the city.

Lai Voon Hon said the project fell into line with the Government's effort to develop healthcare facilities in the country to cope with the lack of quality and world-class medical