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**HIMSS Asia Pacific and the Ministry of Public Health Thailand signed MoU on HIMSS AsiaPac16 Conference and Exhibition Cooperation**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HIMSS Asia Pacific and the Ministry of Public Health Thailand (MoPH) was signed at the MoPH Headquarters in Bangkok on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

The MoU signed is for collaboration on the organization of the HIMSS AsiaPac16 Conference and Exhibition which will be held in Bangkok, Thailand next August.

Thailand has a rapidly-developing healthcare technology market. In recent years, the country has become a key focus market for numerous solution providers as its thriving medical tourism and rising affluence has led to greater demand on high quality healthcare.

While the private healthcare sector leads the race for technology uptake, the signing of this MoU is reflective of the Thai public healthcare sector's readiness to start embracing technology.

HIMSS believes that the MoU signed will further increase the awareness of the benefits of healthcare technology in Thailand and across the region, and eventually lead to greater uptake and implementation of IT to improve care and the access to care.

HIMSS Asia Pacific 2016 Conference and Exhibition will be convened under the theme **Advancing Digital and Patient-Centered Care**. The key themes that the event will be addressing include:

- Applying Better Data for Better Health
- Creating Smart Hospital Flows
- Moving Closer to your Patient
- Transforming Care Models

Under these themes, there will be topics aimed specifically at helping the public and private sectors to improve respectively. The public healthcare sector will be able to learn about resolving current critical issues such as data governance, population health, universal healthcare coverage and telemedicine. On the other hand, the private sector will be able to examine how to integrate silo-ed technologies and move towards truly paperless environments.

Simon Lin, Executive Director, HIMSS Asia Pacific commented: "This is the first time the HIMSS AsiaPac Annual Conference and Exhibition will be hosted in Thailand, and we at HIMSS are very encouraged to receive the commitment from the Ministry of Public Health Thailand. This is a very big step forward from a national and regional standpoint. This is not just about producing an event together, this is instead about the aspirations, dreams and desire to change healthcare and lives together. With the HIMSS AsiaPac16 being the first of its kind event in Bangkok, I can envision both our local and regional healthcare colleagues benefitting from the ease of access to this unique platform where global thought leaders and healthcare professionals will convene to learn, share and create new opportunities. I am certain that this initiative will be one of the catalysts for transformation, not just in Thailand, but also in the Asia Pacific region."

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