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For immediate release

VinaCapital Foundation program accepted into Clinton Global Initiative at CGI Asia Meeting in Hong Kong

Hong Kong – Former U.S. President Bill Clinton today accepted the VinaCapital Foundation's telemedicine series on cardiac surgery, **The International Symposium for Cardiac Surgery**, into the Clinton Global Initiative at the CGI Asia Meeting in Hong Kong.



The International Symposium for Cardiac Surgery, created and funded by the VinaCapital Foundation, allows doctors and surgeons from all over Asia to congregate in teleconferencing centers in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Jakarta, Indonesia, Shanghai, Beijing, Dhaka, and New Delhi for a series of lectures by exemplary leaders in the field of Cardio-Thoracic Surgery.

The program links surgeons and doctors involved in cardiac care in developing countries with the world's top experts in cardio-thoracic surgery, cardiology and pediatric cardiac care during three series of symposia transmitted by video around the world. The series is interactive, enabling participants to ask questions after each presentation.

To produce the series, the VinaCapital Foundation worked with the World Heart Foundation and the World Bank Global Development Learning Center in Hanoi – a state-of-the-art teleconferencing center which is a member of the World Bank Global Development Learning Network.

The first session in the series for cardiac surgeons was held on 13 November 2008. Over 200 surgeons in ten countries tuned in for a live, interactive video broadcast on Atrial Fibrillation with leading researcher Dr Niv Ad and Dr James Cox, the surgeon who developed a surgical cure known as the Maze Procedure. Over 90 percent of the cardiac surgeons in Vietnam attended the session.

Simultaneous translation is available for each series, and the lectures and Q&A sessions are recorded. There is also a webcast which allows surgeons all over the world to participate in the sessions.

Participants receive a copy of the lecture translated to their native language as well as a DVD copy of the lecture for use in their home facility or for review. These lectures will be compiled into a DVD series which will be distributed by World Heart Foundation to surgical programs in developing countries around the world.

Each series will include several sessions with a total of 12-20 topics covered in each series. The series will be tailored specifically for:

- cardio-thoracic surgeons,

- cardiologists and
- pediatric and family care doctors involved in the care of children with congenital or acquired heart disease.

VinaCapital Foundation Executive Director Robin King Austin comments: “This series shows what we can accomplish in Vietnam by reaching out to regional and worldwide experts. Technology makes it possible for programs like this to have a truly worldwide impact.”

It is estimated that 500 doctors will substantially improve their cardiac surgery and care skills with each session, and over the course of their careers this will result in potentially tens or hundreds of thousands of saved lives.

“This series is a dream come true for the VinaCapital Foundation, and for the participating World Heart Foundation surgeons who presented in our first session. The program is extremely cost effective and we hope participation will continue to grow with each session.”

VinaCapital Foundation is seeking funding partners for this program, with donations matched 100 percent by VinaCapital Group for the expenses in Vietnam. Sponsorship in other locations can be arranged upon request. Each session will reach over 100 doctors in Vietnam.

“The attendance at the next session on December 11 will cover Coronary Artery surgery innovations with three world leaders in research and innovation in new surgical techniques. We expect over 500 doctors regionally to participate along with an unlimited number in other countries via the webcast,” said Robin King Austin.

Acceptance into the Clinton Global Initiative will bring worldwide recognition for the program. VinaCapital Foundation Chairman Don Lam accepted the honor at the Clinton Global Initiative Asia conference in Hong Kong.

“It is a great honor to be accepted in the Clinton Global Initiative and it will spur us to continue to develop and expand this program,” said Austin.

For more information:

The Clinton Global Initiative

The Clinton Global Initiative is an initiative of the non-partisan William J. Clinton Foundation. Established in 2005, CGI brings together a community of global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges. CGI’s more than 1,000 members are diverse and influential leaders from all over the world who make new, specific, and measurable “Commitments to Action” to create or support projects within CGI’s areas of focus and report to CGI on the progress made throughout the course of the year.

For further details on CGI, please visit www.clintonglobalinitiative.org.

For information on the Clinton Global Initiative Conference in Hong Kong and the announcement of the admission of the program into the CGI, please contact: Kate Harris at kate.harris@clintonglobalinitiative.org

The VinaCapital Foundation

The mission of the VinaCapital Foundation is to help to alleviate poverty and improve the status of the poor in Vietnam; to improve medical institutions (facilities and staff capacity) and access to quality medical care for poor patients in Vietnam; and to support programs that will build business knowledge and business leadership across the country to increase opportunities for investment and sustain economic development in Vietnam.

For further information on VinaCapital Foundation, please call Robin King Austin at 84 90 927 3850 and visit the Foundation website at: www.vinacapitalfoundation.org

Further information on partner organizations:

Global Development Learning Network

The World Bank Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) is a partnership of over 120 recognized global institutions, collaborating in the design of customized learning solutions for people working in development. GDLN affiliates put on 1,000+ learning events per year. Activities range from designing and organizing formal training courses to multi-country dialogues and virtual conferences, using effective blends of face-to-face and distance learning approaches.

GDLN clients include small non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, government agencies and multilateral development organizations. For further information see www.gdln.org.

World Heart Foundation

The mission of the World Heart Foundation is to decrease the global inequity in the delivery of high-quality health care by improving the access that the underserved have to cardiac surgery. Its initial efforts focus on, but are not limited to, providing heart surgery to the children and young adults suffering from congenital heart anomalies in developing countries.

The World Heart Foundation, established in 1999, is a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC. It maintains close affiliations with the medical professional societies that represent the cardiothoracic surgery specialty and with humanitarian organizations that aid in the delivery of heart surgery to those in need.

For more information see www.world-heart.org.