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Saint Jude's Hospital to sign twinning agreement with Changhua Christian Hospital in Taiwan

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Monday, July 6, 2009 – Further to the preliminary visit in February, a delegation consisting of Dr. Yee-wen HUANG and Dr. Nina KAO from Changhua Christian Hospital (CCH), one of the prominent teaching hospitals in Taiwan, is scheduled to arrive in Saint Lucia on Monday, 6th July to sign an “Agreement to Explore Avenues for the Twinning of St. Jude Hospital, Saint Lucia and Changhua Christian Hospital, Republic of China (Taiwan)” on the morning of Wednesday, 8th of July at Saint Jude's Hospital.

Hon. Dr. Keith Mondesir, Minister for Health, Wellness, Family Affairs, National Mobilization, Human Services and Gender Relations and H. E. Tom Chou, Ambassador of the Republic of China (Taiwan), will be present to witness the auspicious occasion, while Mr. Percival McDonald, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Saint Jude's Hospital and Dr. Yee-wen HUANG, Head of the CCH delegation on behalf of Dr. Shou Ren KUO, Superintendent of CCH, conducted the signing of the agreement.

Both medical facilities agree to undertake a comprehensive exchange of information on the health sector, provision of international volunteers, and to facilitate the increase in knowledge of health care professionals through the conduct of seminars professional training and exchanges of staff on the basis of equality and reciprocity.

Three technical staff members from Saint Jude's Hospital are currently undergoing a three-month bio-medical training program at CCH in Taiwan under the auspices of both the Government of R.O.C. (Taiwan) and CCH. They are scheduled to return to Saint Lucia to further strengthen the medical services at Saint. Jude's Hospital by mid-September this year. Many more programs and areas of cooperation along with relevant schedules, are to be discussed by the authorized representatives of both parties and agreed upon after the signing of the said agreement.

Prime Minister Stephenson King and Health Minister Dr. Keith Mondesir have stressed on many occasions the significance and urgency in areas of health and medical cooperation with Taiwan so as to upgrade the services and the capacity building for Saint Jude's Hospital, and to more strategically balance medical resources between the north and the south of the country. This appeal has been warmly echoed by Taiwanese Ambassador Tom Chou. He immediately managed to mobilize a medical mission to visit Saint Lucia last year, committed to the completion and upgrade of the National Mental Wellness Center which is going to be completed by mid-September, and bridged the sisterhood for Saint's Jude Hospital and CCH, among others.

With its doctrine of serving people and preaching gospels in the name of Jesus Christ the loving Savior of the world and a mission of medical care, evangelism, service, education and research in mind, Changhua Christian Hospital is a 1600 bed medical center located in central Taiwan. It is one of the country's premier academic medical centers and a major referral center for the mid-south area and beyond. The hospital affiliates/subsidiaries provide a range of health care services including acute and critical in-patient care, ambulatory care, wellness and prevention programs. In September 2008, CCH earned accreditation from Joint Commission International, the worldwide leader in improving the quality of health care.

It is the largest hospital in central Taiwan, employing over 3,800 people and receiving approximately 5,000 patient-visits daily. For more than a century, the hospital has built a reputation for excellence unsurpassed by any health care institution in Taiwan. It is given the highest mark "superior" in hospital accreditation and "excellent" in rank as a teaching hospital. CCH offers a complete array of patient-centered health care services delivered in a beautiful facility. Its medical team functions to coordinate and provide multidisciplinary specialty care for patients with special medical needs to meet the goal of providing patients and their families with the best health care service available.

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