



## WORLD'S FIRST INTEGRATED ONLINE PORTAL TO BOOST SAFETY AND TRACEABILITY OF TCM HERBS

*First time chemical and genomic fingerprinting has been integrated with world class safety standards*

**Singapore, 16 April 2008** – Singapore's Eu Yan Sang International Ltd (Eu Yan Sang) and KOOPrime Pte Ltd (KOOPrime) are working together to develop a new integrated online portal to keep track of TCM herbs throughout the whole value chain.

Mr Richard Eu, Group CEO of Eu Yan Sang said the new online portal – “integrated **Good Agronomic Practice for Traditional Chinese Medicine Electronic System**” (iGATES) – will be a world first.

“There is no integrated system today which tracks the whole value chain from “seed to shelf” for either food or herbs,” said Mr Eu. “iGATES provides an online framework which integrates world class safety and quality standards with cutting edge fingerprinting technologies to ensure safety and traceability of TCM herbs. Once we build the portal, it can be licensed to national food and drugs safety regulatory agencies as well as industry players to enhance their existing food safety tracking system.”

Mr Eu said that Eu Yan Sang recently launched the “Eu Yan Sang Good Agronomic Practice-Herbs (EYSGAP-H) Certification Standard and iGATES completes the company's value chain.

iGATES will integrate advanced chemical and genomic fingerprinting of TCM herbs with the EYSGAP-H protocols on:

- farming;
- harvesting;
- post harvesting;
- Good Laboratory Practice (GLP);

- Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP); and
- Good Distribution Practice (GDP).

Chemical and genomic fingerprinting is used for the authentication and quality control of TCM herbs. Chemical fingerprinting profiles the chemical constituents of a herb and genomic fingerprinting provides an objective evaluation of the genomic identity of plants based on species, cultivated varieties or geographic origin. These fingerprinting technologies used in iGATES will greatly enhance the safety of TCM herbs and build consumer confidence.

Mr Eu said iGATES is part of Eu Yan Sang's continuous effort to deliver safe and quality products for consumers. This initiative comes at a time when consumers worldwide are increasingly concerned about the safety and quality of the products they consume.

"iGATES will be an invaluable tool for regulatory bodies globally. It will set higher standards and tighter regulatory controls for the TCM industry. As the system is scalable, it will help bring down the cost of regulating the industry and improve response time. And most importantly, the portal is expandable to include other health supplements and food items in the future," said Mr Eu.

"We are collaborating with KOOPrime to use state-of-the-art technology to develop an innovative and cost effective system that can be used anywhere in the world."

"Strategically, iGATES will help to raise the standard of TCM and allow Eu Yan Sang to move into the mainstream healthcare market more effectively," Mr Eu added.

Mr Lim Teck Sin, Chief Executive Officer of KOOPrime said, "KOOPrime aims to provide quality bioinformatics and medical informatics products across Asia. iGATES will improve Quality Assurance and Quality Control for one of its growing verticals - food and herbs. Using state-of-the-art technologies and leveraging our BioEngine platform, we are able to integrate chemical and genomic fingerprinting into the system to achieve more robust identification of the origin of TCM herbs right from source. The system will allow users to better streamline laboratory processes and create an open platform of communication between suppliers, distributors and industry

stakeholders. It is our goal to provide an integrative framework for legacy systems that cover the different portions of the entire TCM value chain.”

With a total project cost of \$445,000, the project has received funding support of \$262,000 from The Enterprise Challenge (TEC), an initiative under the Prime Minister’s Office to promote innovation in the Public Service. The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore has been appointed as the piloting agency for iGATES.

A new company has been formed to promote the venture. Called iGATES BioInnovation Pte Ltd, the new entity is 51 percent owned by Eu Yan Sang and 49 percent owned by KOOPrime.

Eu Yan Sang’s contribution is to bring its expertise in TCM including the EYSGAP-H protocols and KOOPrime’s role is to build and integrate iGATES using its expertise in cutting edge information technologies in the life sciences.

iGATES is expected to be ready by 2009.

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### ***About Eu Yan Sang International Limited (SGX:EYSI)***

Listed on the Singapore Exchange, Eu Yan Sang International Limited (Eu Yan Sang) is a progressive, global healthcare company with its core focus in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).

The Group has come a long way from its humble beginnings offering TCM remedies to tin mine coolies in Gopeng, Perak, Malaysia 128 years ago. Today Eu Yan Sang is a household name in Asia with an unrivalled reputation as the leader in the TCM industry.

Eu Yan Sang's ability to control the total supply chain – from the sourcing of its raw materials to the production and distribution of its products and the provision of treatments gives the Group an excellent competitive edge in the industry.

Eu Yan Sang strives to broaden its appeal by monitoring changing consumer trends and needs, investing in new business ideas, engaging in research and development with strategic partnerships and expanding its distribution network.

The Group markets fine quality Chinese herbs, Chinese Proprietary Medicines as well as health foods and supplements. It currently offers more than 280 products under the Eu Yan Sang brand name and over 1,000 different types of Chinese herbs and other medicinal products. In December 2006, the company signed an exclusive worldwide distributorship agreement with the Wisconsin Ginseng & Herb Co-op for Wisconsin grown American ginseng.

Manufacturing activities are carried out in two of its GMP-certified (Good Manufacturing Practice) factories located in Hong Kong and Malaysia. Eu Yan Sang has an extensive distribution network comprising more than 130 Eu Yan Sang branded retail outlets in Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan. Eu Yan Sang products are available in drugstores, pharmacies, medical halls, supermarkets, convenience stores, hospitals, health clubs and spas worldwide. Its cybershop at [www.euyansang.com](http://www.euyansang.com) offers global customers the ease and convenience of shopping online. The Group also operates a chain of 18 TCM Clinics in Singapore and Malaysia; and three Specialist TCM Centres in Singapore.

### ***About KOOPrime Pte Ltd***

KOOPrime is a leading Asian based life sciences IT company with focus to address critical informatics requirement in the life sciences industry.

KOOPrime integrative technologies have been successfully applied since 2000 in a number of market verticals. The bioresearch based product suite, iBIOSUITE is targeted at organizations that perform services for biomedical and agricultural-veterinary purposes. Within the pharmaceutical vertical, KOOPrime delivers knowledge management systems for drug discovery, pre-clinical research and clinical trial purposes. In the healthcare vertical, KOOPrime delivers iTRIALS for tissue registries, HL7 compliance data exchange, clinical studies and offers SAP IS-H consultancy for hospitals and health ministries. iCHEMS is recently launched to provide chemical and safety management features.

KOOPrime now has business operations in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Japan. KOOPrime's key shareholders include Bio\*One Capital, GlaxoSmithKline, National University of Singapore and Merlion Pharmaceuticals.

### ***About The Enterprise Challenge (TEC)***

The Enterprise Challenge (TEC) is an initiative to harness innovative ideas for the Public Service. It provides support for the trial testing of innovative ideas that has the potential to create new value and bring about improvements in the delivery of public services.

TEC charts a milestone in the Singapore Public Service's journey to excellence through innovation and enterprise.