



British  
High Commission  
Kuala Lumpur



cancer  
research  
malaysia  
formerly known as Cancer Research Initiatives Foundation

## PRESS RELEASE

### Malaysian Professor Awarded Honorary OBE from HM Queen Elizabeth II

**KUALA LUMPUR, February 2017** Professor Teo Soo-Hwang, Chief Executive Officer for Cancer Research Malaysia has received an Honorary OBE from HM Queen Elizabeth II for services to medical research.

Professor Teo, who hails from Subang Jaya and is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, has been recognised for her outstanding scientific leadership in developing research collaboration between Malaysia and the UK and on a global level, for working to improve the diagnosis and treatment for a variety of cancers.

Prof Teo works closely with a wide range of UK research bodies and institutions, such as Cancer Research UK and the Universities of Cambridge – specialising in Asian genetics and cancers particularly prevalent within Asian communities. With a particular focus on breast, ovarian, nasopharyngeal and oral cancers, research conducted by Professor Teo and her team has helped inform studies that underpin the development of Precision Medicine, which is revolutionising the way medicine is practiced in the UK and around the world by creating bespoke cancer treatments according to the genetic profile of individual patients.

Prof Teo, together with Tan Sri Tunku Ahmad Yahaya and Toh Puan Dr Aishah Ong, founded Cancer Research Malaysia in 2001, a non-profit which relies entirely on sponsorship and public donations. She has long-championed the importance of high-quality research as well as advocacy campaigns to educate the Malaysian public to encourage early cancer detection. Her fundraising activities have enabled more than 2000 Malaysian women to receive heavily subsidised mammogram screening, and more than 1000 Malaysian women to receive improved patient support through the patient navigation programme.

Professor Teo is also a member of the High Commissioner's Women's Action Group which brings together senior women from across sectors of Malaysian life to drive cooperation between the UK and Malaysia.

Upon receipt of this prestigious honour, Professor Teo said: "This award belongs to a large team of individuals who have supported our efforts in changing the outcome of cancer patients through research. When we first started, no one thought that a non-profit Malaysian organisation in a low resource setting could succeed in cancer research. Today is possible because of countless donors, supporters, partners, doctors and most importantly, patients who have walked with us along this journey. In particular, I would like to thank my

team for their sacrifices, their contribution and their diligence in ensuring impactful research. I hope that the Award highlights that anything is possible, and together, we can work towards a future free of the fear of cancer”

Her Excellency Vicki Treadell was delighted to confer this special award to Professor Teo, stating: “Professor Teo’s work has fundamentally contributed to global understanding of cancer risk factors and genetics amongst the Asian community. This will help inform better cancer screening guidelines and treatment worldwide. It gives me great pleasure to confer this award to Professor Teo on behalf of HM The Queen”.

An investiture event will take place at the British High Commissioner’s Residence next month when Her Excellency Vicki Treadell CMG MVO will confer the OBE on Professor Teo. Colleagues, friends and relatives will also be invited to attend the investiture ceremony to celebrate this unique recognition.

### **Notes to editor**

- Background information on Honours presented by HM Queen Elizabeth II

British honours are awarded on merit, for exceptional achievement or service.

‘OBE’ stands for Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. It is awarded in recognition for prominent national or regional roles and to those making distinguished or notable contributions in their own specific areas of activity.

Honorary decorations are awarded to people who, although not British nationals, have made a significant contribution to relations between the UK and their own country.

- Please find attached photos with the following captions
  - Photo 1 :
  - Photo 2 :
- For media enquiries, please contact :  
Charlotte Taylor, Press and Communications Officer, British High Commission.  
Contact: +60321702379 / +60166518208 / Charlotte.Taylor2@fco.gov.uk