



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

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### **VinaCapital announces Challenge Campaign for Children's Hearts *Partnering with East Meets West Foundation***

**VinaCapital** is pleased to announce a partnership with **East Meets West Foundation** (EMW) to raise substantial funding for the expansion of **Operation Healthy Heart**. This program, started in 1994, funds heart surgery for poor children and is expanding throughout Vietnam.

**The VinaCapital Challenge Campaign** will help EMW to make a big difference for poor children in Vietnam with congenital heart disease. At any given time, over 20,000 children are waiting for surgery. The current medical infrastructure and number of surgeons in Vietnam can only handle 2500 to 3000 surgeries per year. Over 3000 new cases a year are diagnosed, so the waiting list grows and children's lives are lost.

East Meets West has helped over 1250 poor children get the life-saving surgery that they need. In doing so, they have learned about the deficiencies that cause the accumulation of old cases. They have created a program expansion that has many facets to help reduce the backlog and raise the standard of care for these children in Vietnam.

VinaCapital believes strongly in this effort and has chosen to support the campaign with a gift of 500,000,000VND (US\$31,550). The trustees and management of VinaCapital are challenging all the companies in the VinaCapital portfolio family, Vietnam Opportunity Fund investors and other businesses in Vietnam to join them with a donation in support of the **Challenge Campaign for Children's Hearts**.

"We are proud to be part of the team committed to making this dream come true for the children of Vietnam who need surgery so desperately," said Don Lam, Managing Partner for VinaCapital. "We believe that EMW is an organization with integrity and the ability to make this dream a reality and help many children."

The expansion of EMW's Operation Healthy Heart is a program with many components. The proposed program includes:

- The creation of additional medical infrastructure. More operating rooms and more intensive care beds will enable more surgeries each year
- The creation and implementation of a training program for caregivers and surgeons to improve outcomes
- The creation of an early detection program to enable surgeries to happen when the child is younger and the problem not as severe
- Organization and hosting of visiting surgical teams to help with the backlog of surgeries
- Recruiting and training of additional surgeons for permanent work here
- Creation of a prevention program through education and pre-natal care
- Funding for many more poor children who need surgery

Robin King Austin, EMW Development Officer for Vietnam stated, “The VinaCapital gift is a very generous beginning for this worthy campaign. EMW is honored to partner with such a fine Vietnamese company to campaign for funds for Operation Healthy Heart. VinaCapital has a strong reputation for results, as does EMW, so we make excellent partners. “

East Meets West Foundation ([www.eastmeetswest.org](http://www.eastmeetswest.org)) is a humanitarian organization working exclusively in Vietnam. Founded in 1988 by Le Ly Hayslip, a Vietnamese American, the organization focuses on improving the lives of poor children in Vietnam through a wide range of grassroots and construction projects located throughout Vietnam. In 2004, East Meets West programs in Vietnam benefited 184,485 people in Vietnam and totaled \$7,897,255 in expenditures. Funding of programs comes from foundations, grants and individual donors. East Meets West opened a development office in HCM in January and is expanding Operation Healthy Heart, which has focused in the past primarily on children in Central Vietnam, to help children throughout the country.

VinaCapital Group ([www.vinacapital.com](http://www.vinacapital.com)) is a leading fund management company with unrivalled experience in the emerging Vietnam market. The firm leverages on their experience and uses its strategic relationships to create and deliver investment products, strategic financing and provide mergers and acquisitions services in Vietnam. VinaCapital's key objective is to create and realize value for its investors and clients.

VinaCapital Group manages the Vietnam Opportunity Fund (VOF), which is a \$95 million investment fund, listed on the London Stock Exchange (AIM). VOF's investors include many of the leading institutional investors in the US, Europe and Asia. VOF was the best performing fund in Vietnam in 2004\* with a 25% increase in net asset value and 38% increase in share price. VinaCapital employs over 35 professionals and has offices in Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi and Hong Kong.

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*\* According to LCF Rothschild Research 2005*