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For MEDIA RELEASE

Genealogy Society Singapore (GSS) and My China Roots (MCR) Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Making it easier for Singaporeans to connect with their roots & national cultural identity

On 28 January 2023, Genealogy Society Singapore (GSS) and My China Roots, Ltd. (MCR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on a range of custom service projects to help Chinese Singaporeans trace their roots. The MOU provides a collaboration framework for the two organizations to build a long-term partnership.

MCR is a for-profit company established with the goal of helping Overseas Chinese trace their roots through an online platform and offline, custom genealogy services. It has a searchable database of 200 million Chinese ancestors, 16 full time staff in China, Europe and USA, and is now expanding its presence in Singapore. It plans to establish a Family History Centre in Singapore to help Singaporeans trace their family connections in China. Its staff based in southern China conducts field investigations in China to trace family connections and roots of ethnic overseas Chinese. These services are invaluable to overseas Chinese who may not understand the Chinese language or speak the dialects of their ancestral homes.

GSS is a Singapore non-profit society registered with the Registry of Societies to provide a multi-racial forum for Singaporeans to meet, interact, share and exchange knowledge about genealogy. It actively encourages Singaporeans to research and record their family histories for the benefits of their extended family members and descendants, which will also enrich Singapore's social history and heritage. It has published two books on the family history of 2 Singaporeans with minor project grants from National Heritage Board. A third book on the family histories of 12 Singaporeans is scheduled to be launched later this year. This book is to be jointly published with Goh Loo Club and would feature the family history of an Arab, a Bugis, a Eurasian, an Indian, a Peranakan and a few Chinese. It also receives a grant from National Heritage Board. GSS plans to publish more family histories of Singaporeans.

In the immediate term, custom service projects will include research and writing projects focusing on post-migration family histories, experiences, and memories of living family members in Singapore research focusing on pre-migration family histories back in China, China roots trips, and publications such as physical books, eBooks, and online content. GSS will market these services to potential customers, including clan associations, private businesses, civic organisations, and individuals, and GSS members, while MCR will provide the services based on its decade-long research and domain expertise in China and abroad.

Mr. NG Yew Kang, GSS President: "We are excited to work with MCR, its tech-based platform, and its passionate team of millennials. Both our organizations aim to help the Chinese Diaspora connect with its roots, and in the longer term- we aim to extend our services to other ethnic groups in Singapore."

"We want to connect families, stories & historical records. We want to strengthen people's confidence in their Singaporean cultural identity," says Hui Han LIE, MCR Founder-CEO.

The collaboration, a grassroots effort to build Singaporeans' sense of national belonging, will commence upon signing of this MOU. It will continue for three years.

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