



PRESS RELEASE

Unique investment Malaysian Golden Hope in Dutch Food Valley

Zwijndrecht, May 15, 2006

Malaysian plantation giant, Golden Hope Plantations Berhad (GHPB) will sign a unique four year collaboration agreement with NIZO food research, Food Valley, Ede, Netherlands. This agreement will allow the customers of Unimills, a European subsidiary of the Golden Hope group and a leading edge supplier of tailor-made vegetable oils, to tap from the unique food innovation expertise and facilities of the Food Valley organisations. Unimills can now offer effective innovative power as co-developer of new food products which fit in a healthy lifestyle. The agreement will boost innovation projects in the areas of margarines, spreads, bakery, spray-dried products and ice-cream resulting in shorter lead times and higher success rates than before.

The formal signing ceremony will take place on June 29th 2006 at the premises of NIZO food research (Ede, Netherlands) and will be witnessed by the Board of Directors of Golden Hope chaired by Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, Mrs. Dato' Noor Farida Ariffin – Ambassador of Malaysia to the Netherlands, Mr. Lody Embrechts – Ambassador of the Netherlands to Malaysia. The Mayors of Ede and Wageningen will attend along with political delegations of Malaysia and the Netherlands.

Along with the signing ceremony, a Unimills “Health and Progress” seminar will be held for its customers on “Co-development of new food concepts based on healthy oils and fats”. The seminar will be followed by a unique opportunity to visit the largest food grade pilot plant in Europe where the application possibilities will be demonstrated.

Dr Alexander van der Klauw, General Manager of Unimills B.V.: “This is an important investment of a major Malaysian company into the Food Valley and supports the strategy of Unimills based on innovation, responsibility and partnership with our customers. Unimills aims to excel as a co-developer of food products and wants to be the preferred supplier of tailor-made vegetable oil based ingredients. This agreement provides the food customers of Unimills unique innovative power. It combines the rich science based expertise of our R&D people on fat physics, chemistry and processing with the famous food innovation expertise and state-of-the-art food application facilities of the Food Valley organisations led by NIZO food research.”

Dr. Ad Juriaanse, CEO of NIZO food research: “We are proud to be recognised as a key player in on food innovation by respected global food ingredient companies such as Golden Hope. It confirms our strategy to establish long term cooperations with our partners to drive and realise market innovations for them by providing speed, both fundamental and food application knowledge, strict confidentiality and one of the worlds largest food grade pilot facilities.”

Unimills R&D team, headed by Dr. Gerhard A. De Ruiter, will strongly benefit from the Food Valley collaboration. De Ruiter said, “Food companies increasingly select their ingredient suppliers on their ability to innovate and to assist them with

developing new food concepts which support a healthier lifestyle. Unimills adopted the open innovation model and formed a strong new product development team with an extensive knowledge of oils and fats physics, chemistry and processing. Unimills can now offer effective innovative power with shorter lead times and higher success rates than before; both are key elements to rapidly enable our customers to bring new products to the market and gain competitive advantage.”

Editorial note:

In the Annex the programme for the signing ceremony and seminar is listed. Journalists are highly welcome to this event upon registration.

Please contact for more information

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Programme Signing ceremony Thursday June 29, 2006 from 14-19 h:

Place: NIZO food research, Kernhemseweg 2, Ede, Food Valley, Netherlands

14.00 h: Signing ceremony:

Chairman: Dr. Alexander van der Klauw (General Manager Unimills B.V.)

Signing of the contract by:

Mr. Dato'Sabri Ahmad, CEO of Golden Hope Plantations Berhad

Dr. Ad Juriaanse, CEO of NIZO food research.

15.15 – 16.30 h Unimills Acting on Progress seminar:

"Co-development of new food concepts based on healthy oils and fats"

Chairman: Mr. Khairudin Hashim (R&D director Golden Hope)

Presentations:

Prof. Dr. Ronald Mensink (Professor of Molecular Nutrition, Dept. Human Biology, Maastricht University). **"Health of fats: facts and future of trans and saturates"**

The scientific facts of saturated and trans fatty acids on cardiovascular risk will be reviewed. It will be concluded that a healthy lifestyle based on a balanced diet and enough physical exercise is most crucial for health. With respect to the specific health effects of trans fatty acids and certain saturates, it is concluded that risks are reduced most effectively when these are replaced by cis-unsaturates. However, it should be realized that is not possible to pinpoint a fat or oil as good or bad without considering its entire composition within the application. The expected future trends on the health effects of oils and fats will be discussed from a scientific point of view.

Dr. Jim Busby (VP Technology Unilever SCC division)

The use of fats functionality in pursuit of heart healthy spreads

The effects of dietary fats on blood cholesterol has driven dietary recommendations for a heart healthy diet. The latest trend is based on the demonstrated beneficial health effects of Omega-3 polyunsaturated fats. This has driven a consumer pull for spreads with a better composition but nevertheless excellent spreading and taste quality. In response fat modification technologies were developed and new raw materials were made available to enable the production of those spreads. The most sophisticated results of continuous investment in spreads technology and nutrition science for now over 40 y, are modern heart healthy spreads, that are low in saturated fat, trans-fat free and rich in both Omega-6 and Omega-3 polyunsaturated fat. Those products help consumers to achieve heart healthier diets across the globe.

Dr. ir. Gerhard de Ruiter (R&D Manager Unimills)

Innovative partner. Vital to Food.

Food companies increasingly select their ingredient suppliers on their ability to innovate and to assist them with developing new food concepts, which support a healthier lifestyle. Unimills adopted the open innovation model and formed a strong new product development team with an extensive knowledge of oils and fats physics, chemistry and processing. It will be discussed how the agreement signed today between the Golden Hope Group and the Dutch Food Valley organisations led by NIZO food research, will provide the customers of Unimills unprecedented innovative power with short lead times and high success rates. Some recent oil compositions will be presented in the area of bakery, spray-dried products and desserts.

16.30 – 19h Tours in pilot plant NIZO food research & networking & Drinks & Food

Journalists can attend this event: please contact

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About Golden Hope

www.goldenhope.com

Golden Hope Plantations Berhad is a plantation giant from Malaysia and a global leader in sustainable plantations, commodities, oils and fats. It employs 26,000 people. It is the first Malaysian public-listed plantation group with downstream refineries in oils and fats in seven countries including The Netherlands (Unimills), Malaysia (Jomalina) and South Africa (Hudson & Knight). It is a strong environmental advocate with global awards including the Global 500 Award by the United Nations for its "Zero Burning" policy. It is also a founder member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) which in November 2005 formulated criteria for sustainable palm oil production. Golden Hope now owns 198,000ha of plantation land and deals with oil palm and palm oil products, guava and several related high value ingredients.

About Unimills

www.unimills.nl

Unimills B.V., a member of the Golden Hope group, is a leading edge European supplier of tailor-made vegetable oils producing more than 450,000 tonnes of products per year from its base in Zwijndrecht, Netherlands. The strength of Unimills is its diversity of processes to tailor functionality of oils, ranging from hydrogenated to fractionated, double-fractionated, and interesterified oils. In July 2006 Unimills will further expand its manufacturing capabilities by opening a new pilot plant on enzymatic rearrangement. The strategy of Unimills is based on innovation, responsibility, flexibility and reliability in working with customers. Unimills aims to be the preferred supplier of tailor-made vegetable oil based ingredients and co-develops new food products with the leading food companies.

About NIZO food research

www.nizo.com

NIZO food research (Food Valley, Netherlands) is one of the most advanced, independent research companies in the world. Focus of its 200 employees is on driving innovations and realizing new market introductions for its customers by providing speed, both fundamental and food application knowledge, strict confidentiality and one of the worlds largest food grade pilot facilities." NIZO has always been driven by the food industry and provides therefore the unique capability of translating science to functional benefits by using its world leading expertise in the fields of flavour, texture, processing, health and food safety. In addition, NIZO shortens time to market for ingredient companies by providing unique pilot scale food grade production facilities.

About Food Valley

www.foodvalley.nl

The Netherlands is the home of the Food Valley, a unique international oriented innovative region with a strong profile in agrifood, life sciences, genomics, nutrition and health. It employs about 10,000 scientists active in food and agro sciences employed at more than 50 organisations in technological development and related businesses.