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**Medical tourism is a catalyst for change in world health care, CEO of Asia's largest hospital group tells MTQUA.**

April 12, 2010 – Scottsdale and Bangkok – Vishal Bali, CEO of India's Fortis Healthcare (fortishospitals.in) credits medical tourism for giving choice to patients and opening doors to the world for Asia's hospitals.

Fortis CEO Vishal Bali says medical travel has been a catalyst for change. "Even five years back, health care consumers never really had choices out of their own countries but medical travel has given them those opportunities to explore, to understand, to connect," he says.

In an interview with MTQUA's (mtqua.org) founder Julie Munro, Bali suggests what plans Fortis may have for the future.

"A huge change has happened. There is a decentralization of providers from just being in certain regions of the world to providers going and creating their footprints around the world," says Bali. It's no longer a branding exercise but about "helping countries in the region to move up their quality parameters... and ensuring that their systems become more efficient."

"Countries need to recognize and we need the world to come together on the fact there is going to be a smaller health care workforce, less and less doctors," he says. For Bali, the growing work force shortage is one of the biggest issues in health care everywhere. He calls on countries to find a way to "recognize each other's degrees so that this particular manpower can flow back and forth between various countries without putting hurdles down."

By purchasing a stake in Singapore's Parkway Holdings (parkwayhealth.com), Fortis becomes home to the two best hospitals for medical tourists, Fortis (formerly Wockhardt) Hospital in Bangalore and Parkway's Gleneagles Hospital. After selling India's largest drug company Ranbaxy in 2008, Fortis has been aggressively expanding its healthcare and financial services businesses.

About Medical Travel and Health Tourism Quality Alliance: MTQUA promotes quality and safety standards and practices, offers certification and training for professionals in medical travel and health tourism, and presents educational seminars for employee groups and insurance planners. MTQUA annually announces a list of Top 10 World's Best Hospitals for Medical Tourists. (<http://www.mtqua.org/files/top-10-worlds-best-hospitals-for-medical-tourists>).

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