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## AIA Accelerator Sees Strong Interest from Healthcare Start-Ups

**HONG KONG, 10 March 2015** – AIA Group Limited ("AIA" or the "Company") today announced that AIA Accelerator, a 12-week programme supporting innovative business and entrepreneurs to deliver break-through technologies, has received strong interest from healthcare start-ups around the world.

The accelerator programme, the first of its kind in Asia, is a collaborative effort between AIA and Nest, a leading Hong Kong-based full-service innovation accelerator platform. The programme, launched in Asia in November 2014, aims to create opportunities for innovators to shape the future of insurance and healthcare industries. It brings domain expert providers as co-sponsors, including Amazon, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation ("HKSTP"), InvestHK, KPMG, and Microsoft to create a holistic ecosystem for the start-ups.

The AIA Accelerator programme attracted 76 applications from 16 countries around the world. Following a rigorous application review process, eight start-up applicants have been selected for the programme. The eight selected applicants will be based in the state-of-the-art facilities at Hong Kong Science Park over the next 12 weeks. They will have access to free software, marketing exposure and training from Microsoft and Amazon, together with support and mentorship from a network of world-class specialists and experts across many industries. The eight companies will pitch their business ideas to industry leaders and investors on a Demo Day on 4 June 2015.

Mark Tucker, Group Chief Executive and President of AIA said, "As we strive to achieve our Vision to become the pre-eminent insurance company in Asia, AIA is committed to making the lives of the people we serve better by focusing on innovation across all our markets. I am proud that we have created the AIA Accelerator Programme to support entrepreneurs who have the ideas, the passion and the expertise to help improve peoples' lives, now and into the future."

The eight start-ups came from 13 founders with diverse backgrounds spanning areas including biotech, wearables, genomics and applied wellness regimens. The strong line-up includes university students, silicon valley veteran, award-winning engineer and scientist, to experienced entrepreneurs who have built successful start-ups.

Simon Squibb, CEO of Nest said, "This programme has brought together the best in class global brands to help the very best start-up founders in the world focusing on tomorrow's healthcare needs. It's a one of a kind platform bringing to life the future of healthcare! "

Allen Ma, CEO of HKSTP said, "Our vision is to build a vibrant ecosystem of innovation and technology, and hence we are committed to connecting the eight selected start-ups with biomedical industry partners through networking events for knowledge transfer and the commercialisation of their innovations. We are deeply impressed by the efforts made by AIA and Nest on this programme. We look forward to having the eight companies reside in our Soft

# AIA Accelerator Sees Strong Interest from Healthcare Start-Ups

# Page 2

Landing Center at Science Park and turn their innovative technologies into life changing solutions for the community."

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## About AIA

AlA Group Limited and its subsidiaries (collectively "AlA" or the "Group") comprise the largest independent publicly listed pan-Asian life insurance group. It has operations in 17 markets in Asia-Pacific – wholly-owned branches and subsidiaries in Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Korea, the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam, New Zealand, Macau, Brunei, a 97 per cent subsidiary in Sri Lanka, a 26 per cent joint venture in India and a representative office in Myanmar.

The business that is now AIA was first established in Shanghai over 90 years ago. It is a market leader in the Asia-Pacific region (ex-Japan) based on life insurance premiums and holds leading positions across the majority of its markets. It had total assets of US\$167 billion as of 30 November 2014.

AIA meets the long-term savings and protection needs of individuals by offering a range of products and services including life insurance, accident and health insurance and savings plans. The Group also provides employee benefits, credit life and pension services to corporate clients. Through an extensive network of agents, partners and employees across Asia-Pacific, AIA serves the holders of more than 28 million individual policies and over 16 million participating members of group insurance schemes.

AIA Group Limited is listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited under the stock code "1299" with American Depositary Receipts (Level 1) traded on the over-thecounter market (ticker symbol: "AAGIY").

### About Nest

Nest is Hong Kong's pre-eminent full-service innovation accelerator that helps to build and scale high-growth businesses in Hong Kong and throughout Asia. Nest invests in the people as much as the business concepts and empowers each team with the tools they require to achieve global success with their business. With an eye for the truly disruptive, Nest is actively involved in all of its companies and drives them to reach their full potential, fostering the start-up ecosystem locally and developing Hong Kong as a global entrepreneurial hub.

### About Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation

Comprising of Hong Kong Science Park, InnoCentre and Industrial Estates, Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) is a statutory body dedicated to advancing innovation and technology for Hong Kong. Established in May 2001, HKSTP has been driving the development of Hong Kong into a regional hub for innovation and growth in several focused clusters including Biomedical Technology, Electronics, Green Technology, Information Communications Technology and Precision Engineering.

We enable science and technology companies to nurture ideas, innovate and grow through the support provided by our R&D facilities, infrastructure, services and programmes which consist of full service incubation programmes for technology start-ups, and market focused laboratories to

# AIA Accelerator Sees Strong Interest from Healthcare Start-Ups

## Page 3

leverage on state-of-the-art technologies to undertake transformation and advance to new stage of developments.

Technology businesses benefit from our specialised R&D services in Hong Kong Science Park; design enterprises can find design-related innovation at InnoCentre, and skill-intensive businesses are being served by our three industrial estates at Tai Po, Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Long.

More information about HKSTP is available at www.hkstp.org.

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