

2014.10.15

## ESSILOR VISION FOUNDATION SINGAPORE EXPANDS ITS REACH IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Following the launch of the Essilor Vision Foundation (EVF) Singapore in May, Essilor has leveraged on its geographical location to expand philanthropic efforts in the neighbouring region.

From 15-27 September, a partnership between Essilor Vision Foundation and the Singapore Polytechnic set out to provide 1,300 pairs of prescription glasses to underprivileged people living in Indonesia. The Singapore Polytechnic-led initiative was conducted in partnership with the YMCA and the Kaliandra Sejati Foundation that works to improve the welfare of local communities around Mt Arjuno in East Java, Indonesia. Students from the Singapore Polytechnic conducted eye screenings and health checkups for the villagers and provided prescription lenses and frames to those in need. Representatives from both the Essilor Vision Foundation and the school were also present to share tips on how to maintain good eye health.



The Essilor Vision Foundation Singapore contributed to a similar initiative in the Philippines in August, working in partnership with GMA Kapuso Foundation, Integrated Philippines Association of Optometrists and Transitions Optical to provide 1,100 pairs of prescription glasses to people in Manila, Cebu and Davao. 3,500 patients were screened as part of the World Health Organisation's Vision 2020 programme to prevent 400,000 Filipinos from becoming blind.

This outreach is part of the Essilor Group's strategy to help address a global issue – the prevalence of uncorrected poor vision around the world and the need for governments and corporations to play a role in providing access to vision correction, particularly in emerging markets. EVF Singapore's projects in Indonesia and the Philippines mark the beginning of Essilor's ambition to drive initiatives for better vision across the ASEAN\* region.

\*The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.