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## Foundation Stone for R&D Centre in India

22 September 2010



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### Foundation Stone Laying Speech

#### **Klaus Zimmermann**

*Head of Nestlé R&D Centres, worldwide, Nestec S.A.*

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning. First of all I would like to echo Mr Waszyk's warm welcome to everyone at this foundation stone laying ceremony. It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to say a few words about Nestlé's commitment to R&D in India.

Looking around this site today, there is very little to see. We can't show you any new labs, or high tech equipment. We can't show you a state-of the art pilot plant developing new products. And there are no scientists or engineers on hand to tell you what they are working on. All of this will have to wait until 2012, when the Centre is up and running.

Today is the day that we would like to share with you our vision, our expectations, and our reasons for investing in R&D here in Manesar. There are many good reasons why Nestlé has chosen to build a new R&D Centre in India. One of the main reasons is to address the specific needs of Indian consumers. Importantly, we will focus on developing affordable, popularly positioned products tailored to meet Indian consumers' nutritional needs. This centre will benefit consumers by bringing innovation in a wide variety of foods, including culinary, cereals, beverages, and dairy products.

We will also develop our understanding of Indian cuisine, consumer insights and local ingredients such as spices, locally-grown cereals, and milk. We will combine our expertise in the art of Indian cuisine with our know-how in food science and technology.

To achieve these ambitious goals R&D India will be fully integrated in Nestlé's existing global network of 29 R&D Centres. R&D India will work especially closely with the Nestlé Research Centre in Switzerland, with our R&D Centre in Singapore and with our Product Technology Centres in Singen in Germany and in Marysville in the USA. R&D India will also collaborate with Universities and other research institutions in India in order to expand its knowledge-base and fast-track innovation. Therefore, we are here today to mark Nestlé's continuing long term commitment to R&D, as well as to celebrate the building of Nestlé's first R&D Centre in India.

The building project itself is worthy of mention. This project illustrates Nestlé's commitment to environmental sustainability. For example we will take advantage of solar energy, and we will recycle all the waste water that is produced in our operations. We are looking into third-party verification that this building project meets the highest "green building" standards, such as LEED-India certification. And so it gives me great pleasure to thank the architects, and the builders for their work so far.

A purpose-built R&D Centre with state-of-the-art equipment and the right staff helps to provide a good environment for innovation. But we also need to have the right external partners who can complement and augment our internal efforts. We believe that India is one of the world's most innovative melting pots for science and engineering. We also believe that industry has an important role in fostering a country's innovative capability because synergy between the public and private sector is essential to create an enabling environment for innovation. In particular, we are looking forward to developing and strengthening our partnerships with local research and technology centres here in India.

The planning of this project has been very meticulous, a lot of hard work, sometimes frustrating, but above all exciting. And now I am very much looking forward to seeing the final results. However, the real success of this project goes well beyond the construction of a new R&D Centre. Success here will also come as we develop new, nutritious products for India and for the rest of the world.

Thank you

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