

WRITTEN CASE GREMASOK HEALTH



GREMASOK HEALTH: OVERVIEW

Market entry Healthcare Medium difficulty Long written case

Case overview

This case focuses on a Gremasok Health, a Singaporean healthcare company. Gremasok have had significant success in their home market and a handful of other countries, and are considering further international expansion. An upcoming regulatory change in Vietnam provides them with a potential opportunity for such expansion, and Gremasok are seeking help to understand how attractive the market is and whether they should enter it.

This case tests the full case scorecard but focuses more on qualitative insights than numerical analysis. It features a wide array of exhibits, but the key insights are for the most part quite straightforward or can be arrived at from multiple angles. The challenge lies in quickly pulling insights together from a large body of source material.

<u>Instructions</u>

Please read the brief on the next slide, review the exhibits contained within the exercise, and prepare a short set of slides in response to the brief. You should spend <u>no more than 60 minutes</u> on this preparation.

The expected output is 3 – 5 slides that you could present and speak to. While we have provided a 'model' answer here, given the short preparation time your slides may well be simpler and/or make more direct use of the exhibits provided.

GREMASOK HEALTH: THE BRIEF

From: Peijun Lee
To: GH Project Team

Subject: Gremasok Kick-off

I'm really excited to have you all onboard for the Gremasok project. It's the first time we've served GH, and I'm keen to show them the best our firm can offer.

The Vietnamese government has just announced that, starting two years from now, private operators will be able to run hospitals and related services in the country. These new hospitals will primarily cater to private patients, but can also provide some state healthcare (such as specialist procedures). Until now there have only been a very small number of private operators, catering strictly to expats and tourists, so this reflects a big change in the local healthcare system.

Gremasok Health wants to explore the opportunity of the Vietnamese market. GH is a large Singaporean private health provider who run hospitals not only in Singapore, but also Malaysia and Thailand. They typically take on existing sites and revamp them to become Gremasok hospitals, although they have also entered into other arrangements, such as contracts where they administer someone else's site.

The company currently enjoys growing profits and revenues in its core business. It is relatively cash rich, has good access to debt, and has a Board actively looking for new opportunities to grow.

Our task is to help Gremasok determine whether to enter the Vietnamese market. This is quite a wide-ranging project, and will require us to evaluate the attractiveness of the Vietnamese market at a macro level as well as Gremasok's ability to thrive in it. Please review the information provided and prepare an initial presentation for our first problem-solving discussion. I'd like you to specifically think about:

- How attractive is the Vietnamese healthcare market, at a high level?
- What returns could GH expect from the Vietnamese market? For simplicity, I recommend that you focus at this stage on the economics of opening a first facility only, and estimate the rough ROIC GH may be likely to realize on that investment
- What risks should GH be cognizant of when considering this market?

I look forward to hearing your initial insights when we catch up!

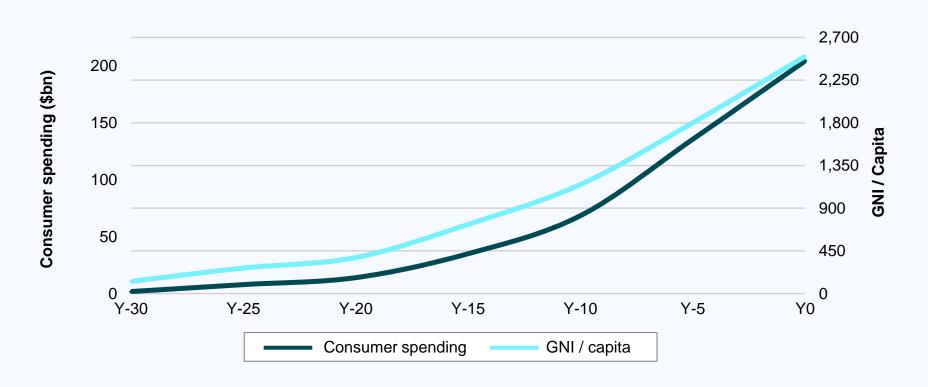
Peijun Lee | Partner



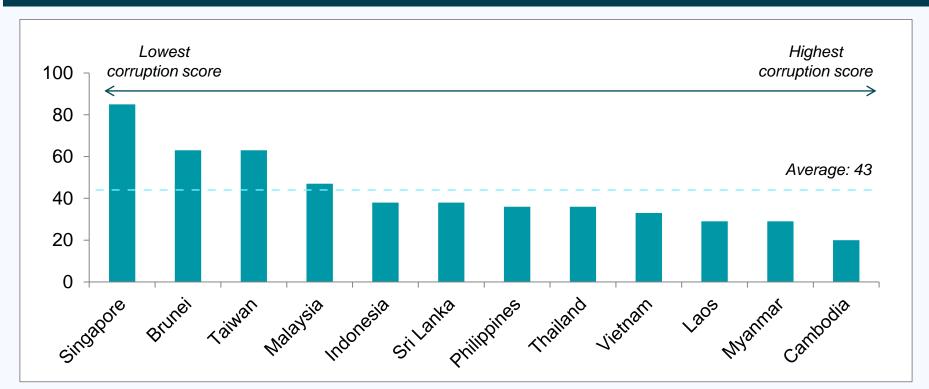
I. CASE EXHIBITS



Wealth and consumer spending in Vietnam



South East Asia: Corruption index scores (last year)

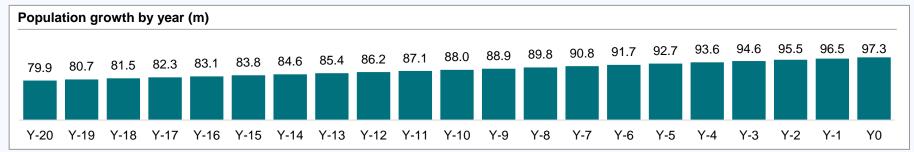


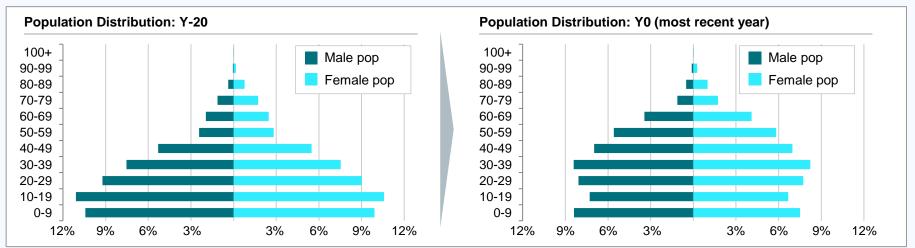
Source: Transparency International

Historical exchange rate data: Singaporean Dollar (SGD) to Vietnamese Dong (VND)



Vietnam population growth and distribution over two decades





Government decree on healthcare privatisation (key excerpts)

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam hereby declares that the monopoly of provision currently enjoyed and fulfilled by the Vietnamese government with regard to healthcare provision in the country will be partially lifted. This is a decision taken with the aim of improving the health of the whole nation...The Ministry of Health will therefore be taking applications for those wishing to be granted a 5 year licence to operate hospital services in the Republic of Vietnam. We are only interested in applications of the utmost quality and integrity, and will both solicit and review applications with the sole aim of improving the health of the people of Vietnam.

We will actively oppose, whether in application, or operation, any firm who seeks to profiteer or extract solely financial benefit from conducting healthcare services in Vietnam. There will be a robust process for new hospital sites that will require at least 2 years to pass from contracts completing to opening the hospital...We will be looking for partners who bring international expertise and can upgrade the quality of the professional healthcare workforce of Vietnam.

The people of Vietnam are living longer than ever, and our birth rate is nearing record levels. With such population strength we need to make sure there is adequate supply of the best healthcare. We will be prioritising the procedures where we believe the people of Vietnam can be helped by international innovation.

The main focus sectors of the new provision will be the running of pharmaceutical services and the running of hospitals. With regard to hospitals, we intend to give new providers control of the hospital service. They will be responsible for delivering all care within that hospital, and expected to treat both private patients and those arriving with government cover. They will be regulated by the Ministry of Health to ensure quality...We will give providers significant freedoms to bring in innovation, but they must maintain quality in the eyes of the regulator and ensure the upskilling of the Vietnamese healthcare profession.

Key facts on Vietnam in Singapore's 'Pacific Health Investor'

Summary

This is an exciting country, with a population verging on 100m and GDP growth of nearly 7%. The upcoming decree 83 is going to substantially modernize Vietnam's healthcare market.

There is a clear opportunity to operate profitably in this market. Though regulation and corruption concern us, in terms of the raw economics of running a site there are clear gains. The cost of building or re-purposing sites is particularly low, given low labour costs and very light regulation.

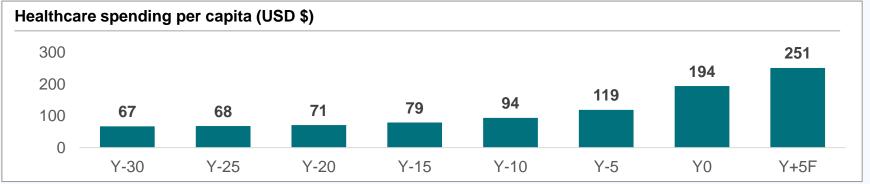
We believe that demand could be very strong. Currently, there is a near universal trend among the upper and upper-middle classes to go outside the country for important healthcare. Pricing may be an issue: although these people are used to paying international prices, the opening of the market will bring competition from regional players used to lower pricing than the US market. Certainly we expect the market will command much lower prices than more developed parts of SE Asia.

Key investor facts

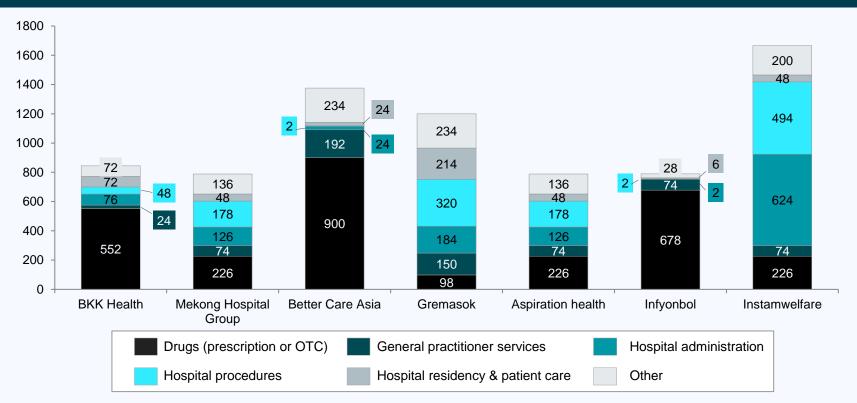
- Labour costs estimated at 30% below Singaporean average
- Hospital equipment is also 20 25% below Singapore average
- Total capital cost of building or revamping sites estimated at 35% below Singapore average
- Typical timing to convert existing sites into hospitals: 18 24 months
- Drug & materials purchasing costs estimated at 12% lower than the Singaporean average, given lower salaries of intermediaries and in processing costs. Equipment costs lower by a similar amount
- Estimated pricing for drugs & procedures 20% lower than average in Singapore (though varies considerably by procedure)
- 15% tax rate, compared to 5% locally

Spending on healthcare in Vietnam over past 30 years





South East Asian healthcare providers: Revenues by practice area (\$m)



Frequency of cases & procedures in Vietnamese hospitals (last year's data, '000s)¹

Procedural area	Presented case (no procedure)	Minor treatment	Mainstream surgery	Expert or unusual care	Total cases
General	5,046	1,888	1,272	22	8,228
Neuro	207	171	241	167	786
Cardiothoracic	321	307	326	61	1,015
Otolaryngology	504	412	490	79	1,485
Trauma and orthopaedic	899	872	1,210	206	3,187
Paediatric	2,441	1,045	770	102	4,358
Oral & Maxillofacial	600	705	610	86	2,001
Urology & vascular	661	812	956	219	2,648
Total	10,679	6,212	5,875	942	23,708

¹ Glossary of terminology overleaf

Glossary of hospital procedures

Presented case: A patient arriving at the hospital, whether of their own accord or from another health provider

Minor treatment: When the case is dealt with without involving surgical procedure or extended stay

Mainstream surgery: Involvement of a standard surgical procedure

Expert or unusual care: Where a case requires unusually high volume of staff, cost, or intricacy of procedure/care

Neuro: Covers all aspects of brain surgery and anything involving the brain, central nervous system, and spinal cord

Cardiothoracic: Concerns issues of the heart, lungs, oesophagus and chest

Otolaryngology: All aspects of the head and neck region, including all ear, nose and throat & facial plastic surgery

Trauma and orthopaedic: Covers bones, joints, muscles, and associated soft tissues, including ligaments and nerves

Paediatric: Work on the diseases, traumas and malformations specific to childhood years (a minority of all child cases)

Oral & Maxillofacial: Work on facial bones, face and neck excluding facial plastic surgery

Urology & vascular: Urology concerns kidneys, bladder and urinary problems. Vascular concerns work on veins and arteries

World Bank internal memo on health reforms in Vietnam (key excerpts)

The Bank has long supported the end of state monopoly on healthcare in Vietnam, and thus welcomes this action.

This change opens up a market where innovation is rare, complex procedure standards lag similar neighbours, and general care is decades behind richer adjacent countries like Singapore or Malaysia. The involvement of private organizations offers an opportunity to improve healthcare across social and demographic groups if implemented as broadly as the recent government decree (decree no. 83) suggests it will be.

The Bank team in Vietnam does have some concerns over the speed of change suggested in decree no 83, and there is reason to be skeptical on the feasibility of delivering procurement, contracting, and other aspects of the implementation in a short timeframe...We believe there is a major risk of public policy failure and medium-term harm to health innovation and private sector actor willingness to enter the Vietnamese market if the implementation proceeds ahead of the ability of the infrastructure to cope.

We are also concerned about corruption and a potential failure to distinguish valuable bids from those seeking to profiteer. There is therefore an urgent need for support and capacity for the Vietnamese Ministry of Health regarding procurement to prevent corruption, a lengthening of implementation timeframes, and a robust assessment of potential bids. Without this Vietnam remains exposed to some downside risks.

Article from economics magazine on Vietnamese health reforms (excerpt)

Vietnam: Growing SE Asia giant launches shock sweeping privatization of healthcare

Once a battleground in the Cold War, Vietnam has since 1990 begun an ascent to regional economic powerhouse, in some areas replacing China as the workshop of Asia's booming Tiger economies.

Its people remain poor, and if anything services provided by the state lag those available to neighbours at similar levels of development. This is likely what has prompted the radical plans by the new government, who had only begun discussing the possibility of breaking the state monopoly on healthcare this year.

Several large healthcare providers are likely to be licking their lips at a market with nearly 100M people, and where both outright spending and spending per capita have grown rapidly in recent years. Moreover, an increasingly wealthy elite who currently travel for healthcare may well now spend that money at home, as international providers come in to offer the complex procedures that are currently hard to get done swiftly and reliably within Vietnam.

Initially, this is likely to be a policy that affects the elite and prime urban centres in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. If the government truly wants to spread the benefits of plurality of supply, however, they will have to work out how to reach Vietnam's remote, mountainous rural areas and vast numbers of people hovering around the UN poverty line who have little ability to supplement still meager government healthcare spending.

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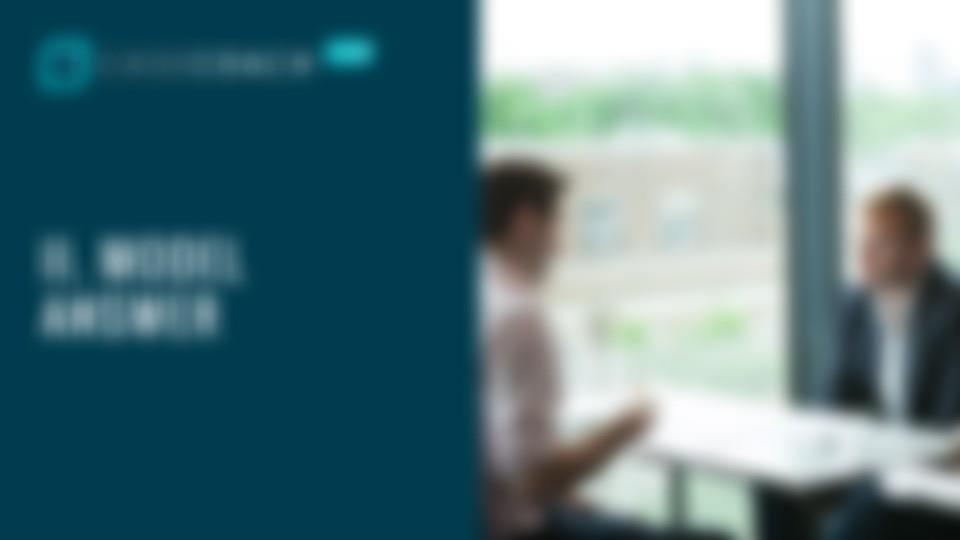
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