

SPEECH BY
Dato' Seri Dr T Devaraj
Chancellor, International Medical University
Convocation at IMU Bukit Jalil, 8.45 am
Saturday, 8 June 2013

YBhg Tan Sri Abu Bakar Suleiman, President

YBhg Datuk Dr Amir Abbas, Pro-Chancellor

Yang Berusaha Dr Mei Ling Young, Provost

YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang, Pengerusi, Lembaga Gabenor

Ahli-ahli Lembaga Gabenor

Ahli-ahli Senat

Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Puan Sri-Puan Sri

Dato'-Dato', Datin-Datin

Dif-dif Terhormat

Para graduan dan tuan-puan hadirin sekalian

Tan Sri-Tan Sri /Puan Sri-Puan Sri, Datuk-Datuk, Datin-Datin, Tuan-Tuan dan Puan-Puan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am extremely pleased to be here this morning to preside over the IMU Graduation Ceremony for June 2013. I would also like to warmly welcome everyone present at this event and also people who are watching the live broadcast of this celebration.

First and foremost, on behalf of the entire IMU community, I would like to congratulate the 529 graduands on their academic achievements. Among today's graduands are the first graduating class of Master of Science in Public Health and Bachelor of Dental Surgery. This is an important milestone for the University and a major event in the graduands' lives. Today's event is an important occasion for all of you to be cherished. However, bear in mind that the degrees you have been awarded are just foundations for you to build your future upon. You should progress further in your academic pursuits to gain new and advanced skills in order that you can compete more competitively successfully wherever you will be.

I also wish to congratulate members of staff who are graduating at this ceremony. The decision to advance your career with this additional qualification is the right choice. Undoubtedly, knowledge and skills that you have acquired will be beneficial for the betterment and advancement of IMU.

Graduands,

Today, you are journeying from the phase of university education to a new phase in your life. I call upon you to be passionate about your commitments in whatever you do in your chosen career. Remember, quality is one of the requirements for success wherever you work in, regardless of your position. I sincerely hope that you have developed not just the technical skills of your chosen profession, but also the right attitude to your work and the commitment and loyalty to your workplace.

Education is not something that ends on graduation. There is always more. I urge you to maintain and develop your love of knowledge. Inspire others, nurture new thinking, and keep learning from others. Remember always that IMU has trained you to be a life-long learning. Therefore, put into practice what we have taught you to do.

Today I would also like to pay tribute to the millions of dedicated healthcare professionals, men and women who struggle against overwhelming odds to make healthcare accessible to others. Healthcare professionals everywhere are not only confronted with tremendous workloads but sometimes they also risk their own health. Two excellent examples come to mind. The first is the SARS outbreak a few years back in which fatalities include doctor and nurse who were treating patients infected with the deadly virus. The other are the “Doctor Without Frontiers” abroad and healthcare volunteers of our very own “MERCY” who venture abroad to help victims of natural disasters. While I am not asking all of you to follow their footsteps, I am reminding you of the dedication and commitment you must give to your chosen profession.

Also, remember, wherever you work, to be a good healthcare professional, you need to be not only professional but also caring, compassionate, ethical, a team player and able to cope with responsibility. All these values should always be uppermost in your mind. Remember that your patient / client is most important and no compromise should be made for personal gains.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past 21 years, the university has established a strong partnership with many partner universities in Australia, New Zealand, UK, US, Ireland, China and Canada. This is a result of hard work, goodwill and mutual trust. This is the foundations of a successful partnership. A common vision is also part of this success. Following the success of these partnerships, the IMU is now providing more opportunities for its dental, medical, pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry students to transfer to additional overseas universities in Denmark, United Kingdom and Australia. The new Partner Universities are Queen Mary University of London and Curtin University of Technology.

Our University has always placed much emphasis in its commitment on to community service under its programme called “IMU Cares”. This programme provides ample opportunities for staff and students to be involved in community projects. Students have the opportunity to put into practice what has been learnt in the classroom. It is also bringing healthcare services to the underprivileged. One of these IMU Cares projects involves visits by the University’s staff and students to its adopted villages in Negeri Sembilan, Johor and Selangor to provide health screening for its villagers. The community project at the Orang Asli village in Kampung Tekir ,Negeri Sembilan was awarded First Place in the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship by the Talloires Network comprising, 280 universities from all over the world. This is the first time a Malaysian university won such a prestigious award for community service.

Graduates, in the coming years with your career demanding much of your time, you must ensure that you get your priorities right and always have time for your families and friends. I also hope that you will still continue to practice giving back to the community with the skills and experience that you have acquired during your studies here. Most importantly, don’t ever stop learning - your career will take twists and turns that cannot be predicted and you will find fulfillment in other parts of your life that are currently unimaginable. I hope that you have enjoyed your time at IMU, I wish you success in the future and I ask you to find ways of keeping in touch with the University.

Our graduands are a source of great pride. We hope you will think fondly of IMU from time to time, and of our dedicated faculty and staff, who we hope have earned your affection and respect, just as we will remember you and take reflected glory in your achievements. As chancellor, it is my hope that many of you will find ways to contribute to your alma mater’s growth. You must not forget this University. Remember to keep in touch with us through the alumni association.

In closing, let me give you my sincerest congratulations once again to our IMU graduates and wishing you success in your future endeavours. May you enjoy a life rich in the knowledge that your work as a healthcare professional will contribute to the betterment of the Malaysian society. Finally, my special appreciation goes to the Organising Committee for their hard work and dedication in organising this graduation ceremony.

Thank you very much