

SPEECH BY
Dato' Seri Dr T Devaraj
Chancellor, International Medical University
Convocation at IMU Bukit Jalil, 8.45 am
Saturday, 7 September 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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you on this special day as the Chancellor of IMU.

First, I would like to warmly welcome everyone present, including those who are watching the live broadcast of this convocation, celebrating the achievements of the new graduates of IMU. The hard work, late night hours and perseverance put in by our young graduates have brought them to this finish line in their studies with our university, and you are now poised for the starting line of your careers in healthcare and other chosen professions. This celebration today not only recognises and applauds the graduates' tenacity towards obtaining their degree, these virtues reflect one of the five core values of IMU.

Congratulations to the 273 graduates on their academic achievements. Among today's graduates is the fifth cohort of nursing students. I am made aware that these nursing students have achieved 100% passes in this examination set by the Malaysian Nursing Board, making this the fifth consecutive year that IMU nursing students have achieved such success. Congratulations to our graduates and their teachers on a great job done well.

Graduates, today is your day and this event is an important occasion for all of you to cherish, enjoy and remember. I also want to congratulate the parents, families and friends of these graduates whose support, love and sacrifice are essential to this achievement. So it is their moment, too, to enjoy and remember.

With us today are some members of the IMU faculty who have guided and mentored these graduates. They have shared their knowledge and expertise so that each student can reach his or her full potential and arrive at this important milestone of their lives. Our faculty's commitment to teaching and to guiding this next generation of healthcare providers is their collective commitment to the health and well-being of countless people in Malaysia and around the world whose lives will intersect with our graduates.

To our graduates here today, I wish to remind them that they have had the honour of studying at a very special and distinctive university, one with an enviable high academic reputation. Our commitment to excellence stems from a belief in providing high quality education. We take pride in being Malaysia's first established private medical and healthcare university with dedicated focus in healthcare education and in our increasing engagement with local communities. This reputation would not have been possible without the foresight and leadership of this university.

One of these leaders is our Provost, Dr Mei Ling Young. Dr Young is our university's co-founder and Provost who received her honorary Doctor of Science degree from one of our Partner Universities, University of Strathclyde, UK at the university's June graduation ceremony in Scotland. The award to Dr Young is in recognition of her enormous contributions to education and, in particular to the excellent partnership with the University of Strathclyde over the last seventeen years. Congratulations to Dr Young. IMU is indeed privileged to have such a dynamic and visionary person as you for our Provost.

Graduands, as you embark on your journey as healthcare professionals, I trust you will feel inspired by what lies ahead for you and the vision of who you want to become. Our hope is for you to be a healthcare professional who can make a difference, especially to those in need of your services. By doing your job in a professional and ethical manner, you are giving to society the skills and knowledge that have been imparted on you by your teachers. We trust that we have prepared you well for your life ahead especially not only for the challenges you will face but also for the opportunities that will come your way. Apply well the valuable lessons that have been given to you in critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving. These are essential skills that will serve you well in this complex society.

I also wish to remind you to always remember to be a good team player who is caring, compassionate and ethical. Don't forget that over the years in IMU, we have taught you how to be an effective lifelong learner. Having sound knowledge is one thing; learning how to apply knowledge effectively is equally, if not more important. As a healthcare professional, you should always keep these values uppermost in your mind. Remember not to compromise these values for personal gains. Over the years in IMU, we have also emphasized on the importance of giving to the community. This critical attitude of serving others in need is the cornerstone for all health professionals. A life dedicated to helping others may not be easy and may demand sacrifices on your part, but it is certainly very rewarding spiritually. Along the way, we hope you would have made a difference to someone else life and of touching them in your own special way.

Like all aspiring professionals, I am sure many of you have started to formulate, in your minds, the future directions you would want your life to lead to. However, I have to caution you that many a times the road to that goal may not be straight but may be filled with potholes and may be winding. Nevertheless if you stay focused and be determined; be prepared to learn and to take the hard knocks as well you will come out to be a better person. Hold tight to your dreams and move forward into the future with excitement sense of purpose. Don't forget to continue learning and improving your skills. Continuing professional education is the key to your personal development throughout your life and this is what will differentiate you from the others.

Striking a balance in life is paramount. While you care for others, remember to care for yourself as well. To be happy and successful, you need to stay healthy and fit. Also spare time for your family. Share your love and derive strength from them. This way you will have a rounded and harmonious professional and personal life.

Now that you will receive your degree, you will be joining the ranks of thousands of alumni and be a vital part of the IMU family. As Chancellor, I welcome you to this ever-growing and diverse community. You will always have a special place at IMU and we hope you will further deepen your links with your alma mater in the years ahead.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, join me in congratulating all our graduates – their achievements are certainly worth celebrating. I hope that for the graduates, whatever directions your life may take, the skills that you have acquired and developed in IMU will stand you in good stead in your working and professional life as well as in life generally. I wish you the very best in your future careers and future endeavours.

Thank you very much