

SPEECH BY
YBhg Dato' Dr Amir Abbas
Chancellor, International Medical University
Convocation at IMU Bukit Jalil, 8.45 am
Saturday, 14 June 2014

- Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr Gan Ee Kiang,
Pro-Chancellor, International Medical University
- Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang
Chairman, Board of Governors
- Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman,
President, International Medical University
- Members of the Board of Governors
- Members of the Senate
- Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Puan Sri-Puan Sri
- Dato'-Dato', Datin-Datin
- Distinguished Guests, Parents
- Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is really a great honour and privilege for me to address you today as Chancellor of this dynamic University. I would like to pay tribute to the outgoing Chancellor – YBhg Dato' Seri Dr T Devaraj, who I had the pleasure to work with these last few years. Dato' Seri will be remembered for a number of achievements as a caring practicing doctor throughout his professional career and also during his tenure as Chancellor of IMU.

Ladies and gentleman, it gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome everyone present in this hall as well as those who are watching the live broadcast of this convocation, to our campus in Bukit Jalil. Heartiest congratulations to all the graduands for their hard work and perseverance; to parents and guardians for the sacrifices made and to IMU lecturers and Professors for nurturing these graduands to complete their studies successfully. This celebration today recognises and applauds the graduates' tenacity towards obtaining their degree; virtues that reflect one of the five core values of IMU.

This convocation recognises graduands from the University's Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Health Sciences and Postgraduate Studies. Of special interest in this Convocation is the presence of three IMU faculty members who are graduating today with the Doctor of Philosophy in Medical and Health Sciences (By Research) and two faculty members who are graduating with a Master of Science in Public Health. The decision to advance their career via additional qualifications is always the mark of professionalism at its best.

Also, among today's graduates is the first cohort of chiropractic students. I am made aware that this chiropractic degree is accorded full accreditation by the Council on Chiropractic Education, Australasia (CCEA) last year. IMU is the first and only University to offer such a programme in Malaysia, if not in all of Southeast Asia. We should all be proud of yet another important milestone in our august history.

As Chancellor of the University, I am proud that IMU has received international recognition for its community programme under the name of "IMU Cares". Besides winning First Place in the MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship for its Kampung Angkat project in Kampung Tekir in Negeri Sembilan. This award is presented by the Talloires Network comprising 167 universities in 64 countries. Last year, our School of Medicine also received international recognition when it was conferred the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) ASPIRE to Excellence Award in the area of "Student Engagement" last year. As it was the inaugural AMEE ASPIRE to Excellence Award, IMU is one of the first Medical Schools in the world to win this award. As you become the Alumni of IMU after today, I hope many of you will continue with this commitment to service to the community as you begin your career as health professionals.

Graduates of IMU, as we gather here today on this auspicious occasion, I am sure you look forward to the years to come. I would like to wish you all success in your respective careers. As health professionals you learn to function efficiently, communicate effectively, be a good team player and provide your services professionally and with civility and humility.

I wish to remind you that the next stages of your lives will be equally challenging and demanding; sometimes even more so. You must be prepared to accept these challenges and remain determined as you pursue your quest to become qualified and highly skilled professionals adept at technological skills, clinical skills as well as people skills. I have no doubt that most of you will rise up as the occasion demands for, for you have been well trained by your IMU teachers. The ability to respond well in rough and tough situations is the hallmark of a good professional.

I would like to take this opportunity to caution you that many a times the road to that goal is never straight but may be filled with potholes and may be winding. Nevertheless stay focused and be determined; be prepared to learn and to take the rough as well as the smooth.

Graduates, you are making the transition from students to alumni. You must be proud to be a graduate of this university, which have acquired a remarkable reputation locally and internationally over the years. You are, as a graduate, part of the evidence of our success. Today you join the generations of IMU's graduates who are working and serving around the world. Be proud - you are now members of a vital and important international organisation with an expanding number of branches worldwide – the IMU Alumni. As chancellor, I invite you to take a continuing interest in your university, keep in touch through this alumni association and find ways and means to contribute to your alma mater as well as to society. We rely on you to be good ambassadors for IMU.

Ladies and gentlemen, join me in congratulating all our graduates - their achievements are certainly worth celebrating. Our University shares with you and your family the sweet joys of success. To the parents, I can understand the elation you have today in your joining your children on this joyous occasion. They have done you proud. 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 professional life as well as in life generally. I wish you the very best in your future careers and future endeavours. Go out to the world, do good and make an impact in the lives of those you touch. You can make a meaningful difference no matter where your path takes you. Above all, you can always enjoy what you are doing if you try hard enough.

Thank you very much.