

Speech by Tay Tze Meng, President of the Oral Health Week committee
5 June 2014

Planning this event with my committee has been a long journey—from the random brainstorming sessions at the cafeteria to the official meetings in the PBL rooms—but I have enjoyed every minute of it!

Our plans and goals of Oral Health Week (OHW) is to bring oral health awareness to the whole of IMU. From students to staff even to lecturers, we feel a need to bring about this awareness because oral cavity can sometimes be neglected. So, when we first thought of the theme for Oral Health Week, we thought of relevance. We thought of what is best to engage our fellow colleagues whom are engrossed with their own field of expertise. This is primarily because as dental students, we believe that we have been given the responsibility to improve your oral health and that, in turn, will improve your general well-being, and thus the theme DENTAVENGERS came into the picture.

Of course, having this difficult task, we were stuck every once in a while, but we knew we had people to turn to whenever our minds went blank, like Dr Muneer and Prof Allan as advisors of Oral Health Week, Prof Toh who graciously meets us and gives us intelligible feedback and suggestions despite her busy schedule, and Ms Denize for her outstanding efficiency in administrative work and other IMU staff who have helped with everything around us.

Lastly, I would like to thank the seniors and lecturers very much for starting this event. Oral Health Week serves as a great platform for inter and intra batch relationship to be formed. We (DT1/13) dental batch of 2013 have had the opportunity to have conversations and to work with our seniors and also our juniors. One thing that definitely came out of this is friendships and these friendships that are built now, can go a long way.

All in all, as you can see, the journey has been hard, but it has its rewards. As overwhelming as this process has been, I will always be thankful to my own committee members for that, as they are the reason and backbone for OHW 2014. Each and every one of them has been working hard, from the Vice President, to the secretaries, to the Head of Departments. My sincerest gratitude goes to the committees, as I am very blessed to be granted this opportunity to work with this group of people.

Thank you.