

## **IMU CONVOCATION JUNE 2014**

**14 June 2014, Auditorium, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, IMU Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur**

**Address by Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman, President International Medical University (IMU)**

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Welcome to the IMU Convocation.

I wish to congratulate our new Chancellor and Pro Chancellor on their installation. We look forward to their continuing support and advice in running the academic programmes at IMU.

Today, we are very happy that the first batch of graduates from the Chiropractic course will be convocating. This Chiropractic course at IMU is the only one of its kind in this region, and they will be among the pioneers in providing chiropractic services in this country.

This Convocation is a special event to celebrate the successes of new graduates from IMU. My congratulations to all the new graduates, and also to their families and supporters. This success had been the result of hard work and perseverance on the part of the graduates, and a lot of sacrifices and love on the part of parents and families. This is a special day for all of them. This day also marks a new beginning for the graduates. The beginning of developing a career as an adult, with all the challenges that accompanies this.

The future may appear daunting and complex as there are so many conflicts, catastrophes and suffering around the world, made all the more graphic by near instantaneous reporting, no matter where in the world it occurs. This reflects the reality and progress of our times. The reality in the sense of the various occurrences reported instantaneously, and the progress reflected in the power of modern information technology, where events around the world can be reported and viewed simultaneously. This is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of our progress in science and technology, which has been truly amazing.

In a similar way, the advances in medicine have been dramatic and equally amazing. People are living longer, infectious diseases are being controlled, fertility is being managed, organ and tissues regularly transplanted. Yet we have numerous challenges despite the major advances. As people live longer, social problems have become more complex. Outbreaks of major diseases occur periodically, and regularly around the world. Resistance to antibiotics has become widespread and WHO fears it is becoming a global health threat. There are so many wonderful innovations in medicine, however the reality is that these innovations are often so expensive that even though it may be life-saving, few countries can afford to pay for all their citizens who are in need of it.

This is an irony, but it is also reality. This provides the challenge for new ideas, innovations and creativity to overcome numerous problems, as we face it on a daily basis.

Air Asia has the slogan, "now all can fly". Incredibly how true that has become, as Air Asia revolutionized air travel using a low cost model that enabled millions to travel, and created an upheaval in that sector of the economy. It is of course a lot more complex than merely selling cheap air tickets, and the idea is not new. In the past some have succeeded and many have failed, but Air Asia has made it worked brilliantly in our region.

How about healthcare, which is becoming increasingly expensive that it will become unsustainable. Is there any Air Asia equivalent in healthcare? This is interesting to ponder, and there are interesting initiatives on this in different ways, and in the diverse places, like in the USA and India. We hope that some of these initiatives will become successful, for the benefit of mankind. It will not be easy and it will require a different paradigm, and different approaches.

Well, the point of all this is that the future belongs to all of you, the new graduates, who represent our hopes for the future. We hope you have the courage, ambition and insight to look at challenges in life in different ways, so that you will overcome obstacles and succeed for the benefit of the community that you serve.

The world is constantly changing, indeed change is relentless. We individually, also need to change and must not cling on to the old ways needlessly. All of you need not fear change, instead you need to embrace it and come up with new ideas, new innovations to deal with the problems that we are faced with. This is the only way to ensure progress in the future.

All of you have a great deal to be thankful for – living in a country that is full of diversity, in an open market economy that provides opportunities to all, and in an environment that is interesting, challenging and yet stable that allows the economy to grow.

You can all be thankful for the great love, support and wisdom of your parents and family throughout your university course.

All the staff in IMU have always been committed to work to ensure your success in your courses, and to prepare all of you for the future.

It is our hope that you will all prove to realize our vision at IMU for our graduates to become leaders that make a difference to the community. You will do this by serving the community.

So go forth into the world and do well, and more importantly go forth, and do good.

Thank you.