

SPEECH BY
YBhg Dato' Dr Amir Abbas
Chancellor, International Medical University
Convocation at IMU Bukit Jalil, 8.45 am
Saturday, 6 September 2014

YBhg Tan Sri Abu Bakar Suleiman, President

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,

On behalf of the University, I would like to welcome everyone present, including those who are watching the live broadcast, to our campus in Bukit Jalil on this special occasion for our graduates. Today, there will be more than 200 students graduating, from four of the University's Schools: School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Health Sciences and School of Postgraduate Studies.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere congratulations to our graduates who will become our latest alumni. Your accomplishments are a significant achievement which would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of your parents and friends, and for a few of you, spouses. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the staff of IMU, academic and non-academic, who have contributed to your success in one way or another. I thank them for their dedication and enduring commitment. A special congratulations goes to the graduates of our first cohort of Master of Science in Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Those who are graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) Pharmaceutical Chemistry (IMU) would be pleased to know that their degree has received international accreditation from the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), the world's leading chemistry community and professional body, advancing excellence in the chemical sciences. This accreditation brings a number of benefits to our staff and students and is a testament to the high teaching standards and quality of education that the University has always adhered to.

Quality education has always been important to our University since we opened our doors 22 years ago as a result of the vision and foresight of the University's founders. I am proud to inform you that one of them, Dr Mei Ling Young, our Provost, has received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* from University

of Dundee in June of this year. We are also proud of our University President, YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman, who received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Southampton in the same month. Congratulations to Dr Young and Tan Sri.

Research is always important in any university. Those who are involved in research at IMU would be pleased to know that in May 2014, our Research Laboratory obtained accreditation from the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005. This accreditation demonstrates that the IMU Research Laboratory is technically competent for a defined scope of testing services. Some of these researchers have obtained grants from the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme and this year, they secured more than 1 million in grants. With the award of these grants, the University is confident that its researchers will contribute to fulfilling the nation's aspirations to excel in fundamental research.

Graduates, the quality education that you have received in this University will open more doors and bring you new and exciting challenges. Over the years, our graduates made countless contributions to our state, our nation and to the world by enriching the lives of people around them regardless of what their chosen profession is. They serve the communities and improve the quality of life and health of its members professionally and with compassion, honesty and integrity. As an IMU graduate, you can make a difference in this world, even if it is in one small corner of it. I call upon you to be passionate about your commitments and what you do. Remember, quality, professionalism and ethics are the requirements for success wherever you work in, regardless of your position. I sincerely hope that you will always practice these values in the chosen profession.

The future is challenging, uncertain and much more difficult than the past but the challenges that the future also bring along opportunities for innovation and advancement. I urge you to go forth into the community to share your knowledge, practice your competencies and be committed to serving the common good.

Graduands, today is your day, to remember, to celebrate and cherish. No doubt the parties will extend long into the night and there will be much merriment. You have earned it and we wish you a wonderful and joyful day of celebration. Congratulations once again and we hope that you will keep in touch with your alma mater. My sincere best wishes for a bright and fulfilling future.

Thank you very much