

SPEECH BY PROF ONG KOK HAI
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AT THE
LAUNCH OF MGS KL'S COMPUTERISED LIBRARY SYSTEM

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Puan Shi Lee Lee, MGS KL's Former Principal,

Ms. Thamilchelvi A/P Singarathar, Senior Assistant of Administration and Academic Affairs, MGS KL

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

A very good morning and welcome to all of you. It is indeed my great pleasure to be here with all of you, and to have so many of you here to support us.

Today, we are pleased to celebrate this momentous occasion and the fruition of a meaningful partnership with one of the oldest schools in Kuala Lumpur, the Senior Methodist Girls School Kuala Lumpur (MGS KL) – a partnership that will result in elevating the teaching and learning quality in the school, and inculcate lifelong learning among its students.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a leading Malaysian private institution, IMU strives to be an engaged university as well as a learning organisation. To be an engaged university we need to establish excellent working relationships within IMU, with the industry and with the community we serve. As a learning organisation, IMU strives to make meaningful

contributions to the community by producing skilled, knowledgeable, caring and ethical future healthcare professionals, who will serve the community at large.

IMU Cares is an important mechanism that enables our University to share our knowledge and expertise with our industry partners and to serve the community at large. It provides an effective channel for all the University's staff, students and alumni members to contribute towards a larger cause and, hopefully, to make a lasting difference.

Over the years, we have organised various activities that have made a significant impact to the community. This includes healthcare education for refugees as well as for primary and secondary schools, our annual Charity Run and Carnival which was just held over this weekend to raise funds for deserving charitable organisations in need, and our comprehensive healthcare outreach programmes to rural communities; just to name a few.

Our collaboration with MGS KL on the computerised library system began in April 2016. The project team, led by Ms Zuhariah Mohd Nordin, IMU's Chief Librarian, made their first visit to MGS KL and engaged with Puan Hasmah Zamani and her team to understand the needs of the school's library. Using the Open Source software, the IMU team then spent about 4 months to develop, install, configure, test, customise and commission this new computerised library system, which we are here today to launch. We have also provided two computers, one acting as a server and the other for client service as well as a bar code scanner to ensure the system is used effectively. We have also provided training for the teachers in charge as well as the student librarians.

How will this new library system benefit the school and the students, you may ask? In addition to improving the overall efficiency of the library as a whole, the brand new computerised Library system will also enable teachers and staff to monitor and analyse data on the students' library usage. The system can be easily accessed by teachers and contains statistics on the number of students who have borrowed books, number of books borrowed, fines collected, most popular titles, additional titles per year, as well as being able to identify students who most and least frequently borrow books.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This launching is not the end of the work done but just the beginning. Much needs to be done from now on; most of it will be the responsibility of the school – from the students, the teachers and, very importantly, the school management. Technology, no matter how good, will go to waste if it is not used well. We need to assess, through a questionnaire for the whole school on various aspects of this new library system. For this we need the commitment of the school to ensure its completion within the target period. This will allow the IMU team to fine-tune the software further, if needed.

This project is one of the small ways in which IMU Cares has been able to make a meaningful contribution to the MGS community and encourage a culture of lifelong learning, in line with our University's greater mission.

IMU is blessed with a host of experts, very good students and resources. We see it as our responsibility to utilise these resources as much as we can to contribute towards a greater good, in the interest of benefiting the community, in this case the school community. We have successfully implemented a number of projects for kindergarten, primary and secondary schools. These included computer skills, presentation and communication skills, health education including reproductive, nutritional, oral and mental health, to name a few. We are willing to consider working with MGS KL on a few of these projects depending on the outcome of the present project as well as the wishes of the school authorities.

In ending, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Puan Shi Lee Lee, MGSKL's former principal and Ms Thamilchelvi, who is the Senior Assistant of Administration and Academic Affairs for working with our team and providing all the relevant assistance and support in order for us to execute this project to the best of our abilities. And we look forward to working with Ms Rosemand, MGS KL's Principal on ensuring the success of this project and on future projects.

Thank you.

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