

**CONVOCATION SPEECH**  
**BY YBHG DATO' DR AMIR ABBAS**  
**CHANCELLOR, INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**  
**29 April 2017 | IMU Bukit Jalil Campus**

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1. Yang Berbahagia Dato' Gan Ee Kiang  
*Pro-Chancellor, International Medical University*
  2. Yang Berusaha Prof Abdul Aziz Baba  
*Vice-Chancellor, International Medical University*
  3. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman  
*President, IMU Group*
  4. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang  
*Chairman of the Board of Governors, International Medical University*
  5. Yang Berbahagia Dato' Seri Dr T Devaraj  
*Recipient of the Honorary Doctor of Medicine*
  6. Members of the Board of Governors
  7. Members of the Senate
  8. Members of the Faculty
  9. Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Puan Sri-Puan Sri
  10. Dato'-Dato', Datin-Datin
  11. Distinguished guests, Parents
  12. Graduands, Ladies and Gentlemen
- On behalf of the University, I bid a warm welcome to all of you on this momentous occasion. The International Medical University (IMU) is proud to present to you our new cohort of MBBS graduates, dentists, pharmacists, psychologists and Health Sciences professionals. To our graduates, it goes without saying that we are extremely proud of your achievements and we are pleased to have shared this memorable journey with you. I would also like to acknowledge the full support that your parents, siblings, family and friends have played in bringing you here to this moment. My congratulations to all of you!

- I would like to specially congratulate Yang Berbahagia Dato' Seri Dr T. Devaraj, on the conferment of Honorary Doctor of Medicine. This honorary degree, IMU's highest academic honour bestowed on individuals with notable achievements, is given in recognition of Dato' Seri Devaraj's extensive contributions towards the development and growth of medical practice in Malaysia and his tireless efforts in championing the betterment of palliative care and cancer awareness.
- Today, we celebrate a milestone in your life as you stand here proud and on the threshold of a new life as Malaysia's new generation of healthcare professionals. Today, you are on your journey to serve your nation as an ethical medical and healthcare professional, to provide the best in service without biases or judgment of your patient's race, creed, social standing or language. Today, you join the nation's caregivers to lead communities to better health and life.
- Our early founders established the University in line with the government's objective of making the country a leading centre of educational excellence in the region as well as providing Malaysian students with the opportunity to achieve their aspirations of becoming doctors and healthcare professionals.
- Our first intake was 75 students in medicine; today there are nearly 4,000 students in our institution in health-related courses. Not to forget too our international alumni of more than 10,000 members who've all gone out to achieve great things, from being the CEO of a company to the youngest Director in a local hospital as well as award winners in their own fields in the United States of America, United Kingdom, Europe, Australasia and Asia.
- This is the community that IMU has built over the past 25 years – individuals who have made a huge impact in the medical community as well as society as a whole with their contribution and dedication for healthcare and in general, for their community.
- This is the community that today's graduates can proudly say they belong to. As you leave our campus today, know that you will always be connected to IMU and all that we stand for. Be proud of your journey here and use it to your fullest advantage. Continue to live the IMU ways and go out there to achieve great things. Your "lesson" as a medical and healthcare practitioner does not end today; in fact, it has only begun and it will become more challenging but nevertheless rewarding for you.

- It has always been our vision to make medical education more accessible. But it isn't just about making these learning opportunities available; we want to train and develop doctors and healthcare professionals who are ethical, caring, and professional and uphold their principles as caregivers to the highest levels.
- It is important that our values – ethics and altruisms – are so deeply ingrained in our graduates. I hope that you will continue to uphold this code of conduct in all that you do as a medical practitioner. Think for a minute why you decided to embark on this path in the first place with IMU. Ask yourself what is it about being a health practitioner that you want to exemplify. Let the answers to these questions be a constant reminder for you to do better and serve well.
- We celebrate the University's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, which is an achievement indeed. But in my opinion, IMU is just getting started. There are new areas to fill the gap, new niches and areas of distinction to be identified and explored. We are all living in a very different world now compared to when we first started, what with technology playing a huge impact now just in our personal lives but also in the world of healthcare.
- To give our students an advantage, I believe it is very important for IMU to be ahead of the curve – or at the very least, right at the cusp of technology's impact in healthcare. This will certainly be our focus now, to make the most of this dynamic change in healthcare in our endeavours to bring a relevant learning experience to our students.
- The University is proud to introduce graduates who have been through our learning programme into the world to be doctors, dentists, pharmacists, chiropractors, psychologists, nurses, researchers and scientists. We hope that your years with IMU have given you the confidence, knowledge and skill you need to uphold your role as a caregiver. It is an honour for us to have supported you throughout your IMU journey. Today is the start of the rest of your life, and we are certain that you will continue to make us – as well as your loved ones – proud.
- May your years ahead be rewarding, fulfilling and with much happiness. Congratulations once again, and all the best.
- Thank you.