

**CONVOCATION SPEECH**  
**BY PROFESSOR ABDUL AZIZ BABA,**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR, INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY**  
**29 APRIL 2017 | IMU BUKIT JALIL CAMPUS**

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1. Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr Amir Abbas  
*Chancellor, International Medical University*
  2. Yang Berbahagia Dato' Gan Ee Kiang  
*Pro-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
- Welcome to the International Medical University's Class of 2017. I am delighted to welcome you to this degree congregation in our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.
  - Convocation marks a big day in our University calendar and an important milestone for our graduands and their families. I am sure after many years of hard work, we all look forward to this day with anticipation of joy and

excitement and perhaps some anxiety for what lies ahead. But nonetheless, a feeling of internal happiness on achieving something significant in your lifetime – a personal accomplishment shared by parents, siblings and friends who contributed to your success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support to our graduates, giving them the motivation to fulfil their dreams of being a healthcare professional.

- To our new cohort of graduates, a huge congratulations from my side and on behalf of the University. We are very proud of your achievement and as you leave the IMU as one of our valued ambassadors, I want to remind you of your journey with IMU. You all started here full of aspirations. Throughout your journey, I hope that you've received not just the education and skills that you need to take you forward as an ethical healthcare professional but also the compassion and empathy that will take you far in your career.
- 2017 is a very significant year as we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the theme "Better Health, Better Society". Since early this year, we have been receiving many awards and achievements –
  - our self-accreditation status by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency,
  - the Grade 'A' status for our Pandan Serai Café by the Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL),
  - a Special Judges Award in the inaugural International Youth Volunteer Award 2017 by the Asia-Pacific University – Community Engagement Network (APUCEN),
  - as well as various students' achievements nationally and internationally in both the academic and extracurricular activities.
- I am very proud of these achievements as they reflect IMU's emphasis on developing young minds with a global focus. It is important that our students are open minded, taking into consideration of both diversity and inclusion in their thoughts and actions and that we, as mentors help impart values in them to stand up for what's right, what's ethical and what's deserving of those who cannot speak for themselves.
- I truly believe that we all have a role to play in making the world a better place. And what better way to start inculcating this sense of responsibility and duty than with our students, the next-generation custodians of the world. Seeing

our graduands today and how far they've come confirms that IMU is on the right path of developing global citizens.

- Our focus at IMU has always been to nurture the best medical and healthcare graduates who are research-driven, patient-focused and a community of scholars who are strongly grounded in ethical practice, wisdom and humility. A person who is a life-long learner, who look to the now, with a firm eye on the future. And who recognise that it is not the system that serves them, but they who serve the system.
- It is important to remember that basic humanity and values are the core foundations of a good healthcare professional that you should be so ingrained with. As a provider of care, you are not only responsible to treat your patients medically; you are also responsible to show them trust and kindness. Remember the core values of IMU – ethics and altruism. Let these core values be your guide when making decisions for your patients. Let them show you the way to become a better healthcare professional.
- Remember to treat them with kindness. Treat them as you would your own family members. Your patients will look up to you to guide them, especially to give them hope when there's darkness. But always be honest – that's the very least that your patients will expect of you.
- Bear in mind the call of your profession, which is to heal where it is needed most and to offer comfort when it is time. Reach out to those who seek your help with integrity and honour. Let truthfulness and conscientious be your mantra every day to help transform the lives of others for better.
- There will be an increasing burden of diseases related to lifestyle and there will be changing emphasis to extending wellness and improving health rather than the treatment of disease. Better quality doctors and healthcare professionals are needed to provide the care and support. We hope that our learning philosophies have set you on the right path for healthcare in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Take heed that you are now part of the IMU family where we have an international alumni with more 10,000 members – people whom you can share your experiences and from whom you can also draw inspiration from. I urge you to stay connected with our Alumni Office to always be a part of IMU.

It is also my pleasure to invite all of you back as alumni for the special Homecoming event on 18 November 2017 right here at IMU as we continue our year-long silver jubilee celebrations.

- Before I close I would like you to join me in a round of applause for your parents, relatives, sponsors and friends, all of whom have made your achievements possible.
- Once again, congratulations on the degrees you have been awarded. All the best to our graduates today as you become catalysts of change. And remember, you will always have a place here in IMU.
- Thank you.