



IMU vice-chancellor Prof Abdul Aziz Baba presenting a token of appreciation to Yap (left) at the conference.

# IMU hosts medical education conference

INTERNATIONAL Medical University (IMU) recently concluded its 12th International Medical Education Conference (IMEC), the annual platform to exchange ideas and experience as well as to showcase innovations in the healthcare education industry. It received an unprecedented response with over 360 delegates from 38 countries.

This year's theme was "Health Professions Education without Borders" and throughout the three-day conference, delegates were served a series of plenary sessions, symposiums and workshops that discussed how borders and being borderless impacts the training of future healthcare professions.

It also explores the liberalisation and democratisation of values, regulations, cultural norms and standardisation of education outcomes that shape the healthcare industry standard.

Higher Education Deputy Minister Datuk Dr Mary Yap Kain Ching opened the conference and highlighted that IMEC's discussion is in line with Malaysia's Higher Education Blueprint (2015-2025), which focuses on globalised online learning.

She also stated that the country aspires to be a premier education hub.

"Online and borderless learning will introduce unbundling of courses and courseware. This can allow institutions to provide the best experience for the

learners. The future of learning will be less dependent on knowledge and more on mentoring, coaching, counselling and advising the learners," she said.

"This together with big data analytics will provide information on how institutions, employers and the ministry can provide the correct manpower requirements at the right time and with the right support," she said.

In his keynote address, University of Dundee's Medical Education Emeritus Professor Ronald Harden who played a pivotal role in the establishment of IMU back in 1999, said: "These are exciting times in medical education but to keep up-to-date, I think schools no longer should be working in isolation. This is an international world we are living in and students should have the chance to benefit from the best of the teaching, not just from one school but several schools."

The three-day conference started with eight pre-conference workshops that covered areas on preceptor training, English proficiency tools for selection and admission, designing for online learning, trends, innovations and practicalities in health professions education postgraduate training, the International Association For Medical Education (AMEE) ASPIRE Standards, research networking sans borders in

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health professions education, mobile learning in health professions education and entrustable professional activities.

There were five plenaries, featuring IMU co-founder Dr Mei Ling Young, who revisited the 25 years of IMU; Universiti of Sains Malaysia (USM) vice-chancellor Datuk Prof Dr Asma Ismail, who addressed the year's theme in detail; Mohamed Amin Embi, who gave keen insights into the benefits of Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to the education landscape; and Jim McKillop from the UK, who spoke about the issues and consequences from the migration of health professionals across the world.

Prof Trudie Roberts delivered the final plenary, featuring a topic on assuring patient safety and professional competence in a workspace where cultural makeups have grown more diverse than before.

The Ron Harden Innovation in Medical Education (IMU-RHIME) award was won by Prashanti Eachempati, Sumanth K. N. and Abdul Rashid Haji Ismail from Melaka Manipal Medical College with a paper titled "Balancing the Balance Sheet – An Innovative Technique to Teach Entrepreneur Skills to Dental Students."

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