

**Opening Remarks by
Deputy Minister of Health Malaysia
YB Dr Lee Boon Chye**

**In conjunction with the
MoU Signing Ceremony between the Government of
Malaysia and
IMU Education Sdn Bhd**

Date : 19th December 2018 (Wednesday)

Time : 12pm

Venue : Bilik Gerakan, Level 4, Block E7

YBhg Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah
Director General of Health Malaysia

YBhg Dato Dr Chong Chee Kheong
Deputy Director General of Health (Public Health)

YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman
Chairman of International Medical University Group

YBhg Prof Abdul Aziz Baba,
President, IMU Health and Vice Chancellor and CEO of IMU

YBhg Prof Nafeeza Hj Mohd Ismail
Dean, School of Medicine, IMU

YBrs Dr Ahamad Jusoh
Deputy State Health Director of Negeri Sembilan (Public Health)

YBhg Datuk-datuk, Datin-datin, Professors, Esteemed Guests, Ladies
and Gentlemen

Salam Sejahtera and a very Good Afternoon to all

First and foremost, allow me to extend my thanks and appreciation to the joint organising committee for the hard work that has been put in making this MoU signing ceremony a success. This MoU is another milestone achievement in Public-Private Partnership between the

Ministry of Health Malaysia and academia from the private education sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Malaysian demographic and disease transitions assert significant influence on the overall human capital development for healthcare in terms of both the supply and demand of the workforce. The population was 28.6 million in 2010 and is expected to increase to 33.2 million in 2020. However, with the declining fertility rate impacting on the growth rate has resulted in an increasing adult and elderly population, many with multi-morbidities, besieged with chronic illnesses. This burden needs a collective effort to halt or prevent further deterioration.

Acknowledging and striving to manage these challenges, the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020) foresees Malaysia continuing to push the agenda of producing human capital that is equipped with the right knowledge, skills, and attitudes to thrive in a globalised economy.

In the same Eleventh Malaysia Plan, wellbeing remains a priority thrust for realising Vision 2020. Improvements in healthcare will focus on addressing underserved populations, improving health system delivery to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and intensifying collaboration with the private sector and NGOs.

Putting all this together, the MOH is committed to strengthen the Public-Private Partnership initiative and venture with the private sector, building on the expertise of each partner to improve strategies and services

needed by the public through the appropriate allocation of resources and responsibilities.

With this in mind, it gives me great pleasure to announce the collaboration between the State Health Department of Negeri Sembilan and the International Medical University Sdn Bhd. to enhance healthcare delivery to the people.

I must applaud the State Health Director of Negeri Sembilan who is a leading partner in this initiative. Taking the whole district approach provides a better platform to give the student a better practical feel for both rural and urban community in the geographic area. Students must take the opportunity to learn how to work with diversity and can go beyond the health sector to understand the interactive roles that economics, education, sanitation and housing have in people's health.

Like health care in general, clinical education of most health care professionals in Malaysia has, until recently, taken place in acute care settings. Clinical education in the community and long-term care sectors has taken place but on a small scale and perhaps neither structured nor evaluated. The government is now seeking and working out to contain increasing costs of health care as patient demographics have changed given the increasing number of elderly patients and patients with complex medical conditions. More health professionals with specific competencies are required, hence the need for the traditional model of clinical education to be more innovative and agile to meet these challenges.

We trust that this collaboration between the best academic expertise of IMU with the experienced service experts in healthcare delivery of the State Health Department of Negeri Sembilan will accelerate the development of new approaches with supporting evidences to better population and person-centred healthcare and ultimately improve the population health and well-being in Negeri Sembilan.

The state health department shall benefit from the training and research through participation in evidence-based interventions, while IMU will be provided with training grounds not only to perform research and training but experiential learning towards real-world service integration.

I look forward to see the progress as this partnership matures between school, health department and communities, resulting in all parties benefiting immensely through reciprocal knowledge transfer. Ideally, as academic faculty and medical students bring technical and scientific expertise to the community, they should gain in return even more knowledge from the community members on culture, public health priorities, and the influence of social determinants on health.

Thank you