

COMMUNITY service is an integral part of personal growth and an educational principle to embrace. Through community service, a person would be exposed to different lifestyles and environments, which would raise awareness of the less fortunate be it financially, emotionally or regarding dissemination of knowledge. In return, the individual is well aware and grateful for the information gained and disseminated.

Such an essential component is embedded in the Applied Biotechniques in Biotechnology and Community Health module of Semester Six of the IMU Medical Biotechnology programme, where students are required to carry out a community service project in raising awareness on the microbial community on various surfaces in a school.

Two visits were carried out to SMK Sains Alam Shah, Cheras, in January. On the sample collection day, environmental samples were collected, such as soil or liquid samples from various sources.

The samples were stored for further testing and analysis, which were carried out in the IMU labora-

An impactful endeavour

tory by the students for two weeks.

A myriad of microorganisms was identified, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Enterococcus*, to name a few. The results were tabulated and presented in the form of a poster and oral presentation.

On Jan 30, 200 science students of the targeted school attended the presentation, which highlighted the impact of the microorganisms and testing and analysis done.

All in all, the community service project was a success in providing the target group of Forms Four and Five science students with an understanding of the need and purpose of exposing the presence and necessary information of the microorganisms living in and around us. This further peaked their interest in appreciating the contributions of research and science.

The project also benefited the medical biotechnology students in



IMU's medical biotechnology students' community service project raised awareness on the impact of the microorganisms.

enforcing various techniques learnt from previous semesters in the application on microbial identification as well as a sense of pride in being able to impart knowledge for the betterment of the community. This further strengthens the need for medical biotechnology to be introduced to communities of

various levels, as this field never ceases to contribute to growth of science and community health.

At IMU, the curriculum of its medical biotechnology degree is developed to meet international standards and accepted by renowned international partner university, University of Newcastle,

Australia for credit transfer into relevant programmes.

Students can also complete the entire degree at IMU. Graduates can undertake postgraduate degrees in any related discipline.

Commencement of this programme is in July and September. If you have pre-university qualifications and an interest in medical biotechnology, apply online now and join the university in your pursuit of a promising and rewarding career.

If you have just completed your SPM and do not have pre-university qualification, consider enrolling in the one-year IMU Foundation in Science (FiS), the preferred foundation and direct route for entry into any of the university's degree programmes.

■ For more details, refer to www.imu.edu.my or email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.