



IMU CONVOCATION JUNE 2019

29 June 2019, Saturday

Auditorium, 4th Floor, IMU Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur

Address by Prof Abdul Aziz Baba

Vice-Chancellor, International Medical University

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone gathered here today for this very important milestone – the International Medical University (IMU) JUNE 2019 convocation.
- We are proud to present you our new Doctorate, Masters and Bachelors graduates.
- Graduates – my biggest congratulations on the highlight of your journey as an IMU student. You have worked very hard to arrive here today and I am proud that you have chosen IMU as your education partner to help you achieve your aspirations to become a member of the healthcare industry.
- Look around you and see the proud faces of your friends and family who have gathered to witness this eventful day. Please do not forget the support, encouragement and sacrifices your loved ones have made to see you make it this far.
- To our graduates' families and friends, I would like express my appreciation for being the biggest pillar of support for our IMU Class of 2019.
- I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Mei Ling Young, one of our esteemed co-founders, on being conferred the Honorary Doctor of Medical Education today. Dr Young has been instrumental to IMU's success with her foresight and dedication in spearheading the establishment of IMU as Malaysia's first private medical and health sciences university. Let us give her a round of applause for her unwavering support and contribution.



- I would also like to highlight that our Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, a significant milestone in our history since obtaining the university status in 1999. Congratulations to everyone who has played a role in making this a reality!
- It has always been IMU's ethos to promote healthcare innovations that will make a difference, and our milestones support this. One way of doing it is via knowledge sharing where members of the healthcare community come together to explore ideas together in hope of deriving at solutions and discoveries that will alter the course of humanity for the better.
- Guided by this, IMU has reached out to partners in collaborative works that we feel can and will jumpstart innovations in healthcare. Likewise, because of our contributions in the field as well as the expertise of my fellow colleagues, we are also often approached to participate in several collaborative projects.
- This year has been particularly significant in achieving our goal. One example is our Advanced Microbiology Collaborative Research Laboratory, established in April this year as a collaborative research facility to promote stronger research collaboration and technology transfer between Malaysia and international partners.
- In progress via the lab is our collaboration with our partner university the University of Southampton, United Kingdom, whereby research is ongoing to investigate and understand better the role of the gut bacteria in the development of diabetes mellitus among Malaysians. It is with hope that our learnings will offer solutions in preventing and managing the disease.
- We are also proud to play host to healthcare professionals from around the world by organising two very significant international events this year right here in our campus – the 10th Asian Medical Education Association (AMEA) Symposium last April and the upcoming South East Asian Association of Dental Education 30th Annual Scientific Meeting (SEAADE) in August.



- The symposium was a gathering of health professions delegates from around the world with the purpose of exchanging ideas and experience as well as exploring avenues for collaborating research and establishing links. We were appreciative to be the centre of it where great minds banded together to talk about the future of healthcare, in particular where technology is involved.
- It was a great opportunity for IMU as well as our students and staff to witness this event for themselves, listening to notable speakers and participating in workshops to better understand their role in the industry.
- Needless to say, the meeting that will take place in August will also present the same opportunities for healthcare professionals to converge and collaborate in the hope of deriving new ideas and inspiration on how to be better healthcare providers.
- Our collaborative efforts are not just limited to the medical faculty. As the leading private medical and health sciences university in Malaysia, we are able to lend our expertise in community-based projects.
- IMU is not just here to teach; we are also here to show support wherever our expertise is required as an institution that cares and gives back to the community.
- This year, we are proud to come on board the Ministry of Health's Komuniti Sihat Pembina Negara (KOSPEN) programme where we have pledged to help increase awareness in Non-Communicable Diseases amongst our staff and students in hope of encouraging a healthier lifestyle that will ultimately make Malaysia a healthy nation.
- IMU is the first education partner for the Ministry in this effort whereby we will participate in several activities and events to extend the Ministry's efforts in educating society on the risk of such diseases as well as share knowledge in research and development for the Ministry's ongoing initiatives.
- We were also the programme partner for R.AGE, The Star newspaper's youth news and lifestyle platform, and SP Setia in the #Standtogether Kindness



campaign that started in February. This initiative is led by our Psychology Department whereby we provided workshops for school authorities on how to manage bullying in school through the act of kindness and love. The campaign is ongoing till July where we will continue our workshops to reach out to even more schools and educate them on how an act of kindness can go a long way.

- In IMU itself, we too saw the importance of instilling this act of kindness in our students; therefore, we organised our very own Kindness Week to inspire our students and staff on embracing kindness in everything we do.
- It all goes back to the healthcare philosophy of do no harm, which equates to being kind, compassionate and caring – three very important characteristics of a good healthcare provider and overall, as a human being.
- At IMU, we have always emphasised on not just being the healthcare provider with all the answers but also the healthcare provider with heart because at the end of the day, you are not just providing better care but also the support, encouragement and empathy to your patients to help them get through their darkest moments.
- That is what makes a healthcare provider great – someone who listens and acts with kindness.
- Graduates – I hope you will always remember this: It is one thing to provide medical assistance but it takes a lot more to do this with compassion and mercy. Always treat your patients with kindness and respect; if anything, offer them hope, relief and comfort. In their time of need, you are the person they turn to for support and strength. Don't let them down.
- I hope you will leave today's event feeling jubilant and filled with enthusiasm and optimism that you will make a difference in your very own ways. Good luck to all of you. I know you will make us proud, dear IMU graduates. Congratulations once again.