

Equipping managers with relevant skills

EIGHT made history on Nov 2 last year as International Medical University's (IMU) first cohort received the Postgraduate Certificate of Business Administration in Healthcare Management at a convocation ceremony. This programme can be studied in three levels and completing the Postgraduate Certificate is the first step before the eight graduands move on to the Postgraduate Diploma and, finally, Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management (MBAHM).

The programme aims to equip managers with relevant skills to run the healthcare industry by gaining a firm understanding on how to critically assess health systems and healthcare structures, apply core principles of management in healthcare settings, and operate within prevailing legal frameworks. The availability of three programme levels (Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and Master) allows multiple entry and multiple exit strategies, in line with the mission and vision of the Education Ministry to improve access to lifelong learning.

"The first cohort of students came from several backgrounds, including nursing, quantitative surveyor, biochemist, doctors and management. Eight of the inaugural cohort have graduated with their postgraduate certificate and will seamlessly progress to the master's programme.

"The programme is working-adult friendly and offers the flexibility for those who want to accelerate their programme and complete the course within 15 months or stretch it out by doing it part-time. What students like is how they can not only attend the classes

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virtually, but also take part in group presentations even if they are out-of-town or overseas," says Tok Puan Prof Safurah Ja'afar, Healthcare Management programme director at IMU.

During this 15-month programme, students will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from eminent guest lecturers with vast experience from various industries ranging from private hospitals, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas and more. Several industrial visits within and outside Malaysia were also organised to enhance knowledge and provide exposure to real business environment.



Managers in the healthcare industry are essential personnel who, in this day and age, should be equipped with the necessary front-end and back-end skills.

"The journey so far is full of mixed feelings. Various visits and guest lectures from industry leaders have given us a practical learning perspective. Therefore, this is a highly commendable effort from the MBAHM team for the organisation of all these activities," says Tan Su Ching, an MBAHM student.

"As a medical doctor, the intense feeling of wanting to explore the administrative side of healthcare began when I started clinical work. I wanted to make a change, create a new and encouraging environment in the healthcare industry, and drive healthcare to a better future. The programme definitely pushes you to become better, with good coaching from the lecturers and multiple external lecturers sharing their industry experiences," says Kumudhini, another student.

"It was good to learn to associate industry experience with theory in this programme. The basic modules of the Postgraduate Certificate level have prepared me to continue with the Master programme to gain more depth of knowledge in healthcare governance and systematic research, readying me to be a better manager in my organisation. Self-guided learning in this programme is a good approach for the

working adult's busy schedule while continuing his studies," says Chung Shin Fung, a student of the programme.

Upon receiving the MBAHM, these graduands would have not only gained an advantage of getting into the business and management job market, but also be equipped with a speciality highly sought-after by the healthcare industry. If you are interested in this programme, apply online via www.imu.edu.my today.

IMU offers postgraduate programmes, including Master in Science (MSc) programmes in public health, analytical and pharmaceutical chemistry, molecular medicine and acupuncture, the Master in Pharmacy Practice, postgraduate diplomas in diabetes management and education, implant dentistry, endodontics and prosthodontics, postgraduate programmes in health professions education and business administration in healthcare management, as well as MSc and PhD programmes in medical and health sciences.

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