

**IMU HOSPITAL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY**  
**SPEECH BY PROF ABDUL AZIZ BABA**  
**VICE-CHANCELLOR, INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY (IMU)**  
**14 December 2017, Thursday**  
**Auditorium, IMU Bukit Jalil Campus, Kuala Lumpur**

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- 1. Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. S. Subramaniam**  
Minister of Health Malaysia
  
- 2. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman**  
President, IMU Group  
Chairman, IHH Healthcare
  
- 3. Dr Mei Ling Young**  
Co-Founder and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, International and Engagement, International Medical University
  
- 4. Dr Chong Su Lin**  
Chief Executive Officer  
IMU Healthcare
  
- 5. Dr Lim Suet Wun**  
Group Chief Operating Officer  
Parkway Pantai Limited
  
6. Tan Sri – Tan Sri, Puan Sri – Puan Sri, Dato' – Dato', Datin – Datin,
  
7. Senior Management, Deans, Professors Staff and Students of IMU
  
8. Distinguished Guests
  
9. Members of the Media
  
10. Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Salam sejahtera and a warm welcome to the International Medical University and IMU Healthcare.

2. A special thank you to Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam for taking the time from his busy schedule to grace today's occasion. Another key milestone earmarking our 25th Anniversary celebration – the groundbreaking ceremony of the IMU Hospital.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

3. IMU's theme for our 25th celebration is 'Better Health, Better Society'. This is not just a theme for this year but reaffirms the University's core ethos – an ethos that underpins all that this organisation has been doing and continues to do – in medical education and research. It is IMU's vision to not only teach the medical sciences, but to also deliver medical services.

4. On behalf of IMU, I take this opportunity to place on record, IMU's thanks to the Ministry of Health, for its ongoing support and partnership since the inception of IMU. This partnership has allowed IMU to provide IMU's medical students access to a hospital and good patient case mix – probably the first public private partnership of its kind – between a private university and a public hospital. Through this partnership IMU clinical campus in Seremban was born – at the site of the Tuanku Jaafar Hospital.

5. This partnership has extended to seven clinical sites with the Ministry of Health teaching hospitals - in Seremban, Port Dickson, Batu Pahat, Kluang and others. These hospitals provide a total of over 2,000 beds for teaching. I am proud to inform you that to date, IMU has graduated close to 10,000 medical and health sciences professionals. Approximately 41% are serving here in Malaysia while 25% are currently residing overseas with various medical specialisations including pharmacy, nursing, health sciences and dentistry.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

6. What is not common knowledge is that this partnership is not just about medical students being able to see patients at Hospital Tuanku Jaafar and our other clinical campuses but also includes a partnership of medical service delivery - where IMU's faculty teachers become and continue to be, part of Hospital's cohort of practicing clinicians. IMU – has thus been delivering both education and healthcare services.

7. In 2010, IMU began its journey of creating the IMU Academic Health Centre – the IMU AHC. AHC is a term used to describe the eco-system that combines health education with health services and medical research, and well-known examples include the Mayo Clinic and the Cleveland Clinic Health care systems in the US, the Melbourne Academic Health Centre in Australia and SingHealth-Duke NUS AHC in Singapore. The intended aim is to improve the health and well-being of patients by ensuring that clinicians and educators are well versed with the latest treatment options, technologies and innovations for treatment of patients as well as the training of future healthcare professionals.

Phase 1 of the IMU's AHC saw the establishment of a network of outpatient services under our IMU Healthcare brand – both here on the Bukit Jalil campus – as well as within the communities of Puchong and Sri Petaling. These clinics provide dental services, primary and specialist medical care, rehabilitation services, Chinese medicine, chiropractic care and haemodialysis. These clinics provide a platform for care to be delivered within the community and for clinical education, practice and research.

8. It is now 2017 and phase 2 of the AHC is now upon us – the implementation of the IMU Hospital. The anticipated IMU Hospital will be the first hospital in the Bukit Jalil area, and will enhance the existing healthcare services we already provide to the community with new patient-centric inpatient and surgical facilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen

9. Our Hospital will be built on the land adjacent to this University and is targeted to be operational in 2021. IMU hospital will be a private hospital providing inpatient and surgical facilities to complement the existing outpatient services we are already providing. Phase 1 sees us opening up 96 inpatient beds with master-planning underway to expand gradually to a 300-bed hospital.

I am sure you ask: 'is this a teaching hospital'? Will there be crowds of medical students? The answer is 'Yes' and 'No'! Yes, students will come for attachments and observations but no, IMU Hospital will not replace the Ministry of Health hospitals that I mentioned earlier.

10. The IMU Hospital will be an important component of the IMU Academic Health Centre – completing the eco-system of medical education, medical research and medical service provision. IMU aims to attract clinician teachers with the same like-minded values and principles that IMU has practiced in the past 25 years – who want to practice, teach and participate in clinical research – particularly in bringing bench top research into clinical practice. We also have the added potential of collaboration with the Specialist doctors of our Partner Medical Schools around the world – where leaders in their fields of practice can come to IMU hospital to share their knowledge and expertise with our IMU clinicians. The Hospital will provide the inpatient and surgical components to complete the IMU spectrum of care – primary, ambulatory and inpatient services.

11. I mentioned ‘research’ just now. IMU established the Institute of Research Development and Innovation 5 years ago, and among the 5 key research thrusts are Cancer and Stem Cell, Environment and Population Health as well as Translational Research. IMU has had good success not just in its research publications but also in attracting industry-sponsored research grants such as the recent one with the School of Nutrition and Dietetics, studying the impact of soluble corn fibre on bone mass density of adolescent children.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

12. IMU and IMU Healthcare sees some exciting times ahead! We hope to see all of you again in 2021 when we open the doors of IMU Hospital!

Thank you once again for being here this morning.