

President's Message

It's been six months since I took the chain of office of the President of Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) and much has been acquired about the difficulties and challenges faced in the medical profession. From being Chairman of the Private Practitioners Section of the MMA to the Honorary General Treasurer, moving to Honorary General Secretary and finally here I am, serving you as the President which is a position that was not achieved overnight. My passion towards this Association has always been undivided and serving the profession from a better altitude has been my ultimate intention since I stepped into MMA. After all, it is an association by doctors for doctors.

Serving as President of this association, I knew I had to balance my work in the clinic and the association. I have attended innumerable meetings, internal as well as external. For the past six months, I have tried my best to fulfil all the invitations to attend meetings within MMA and externally.

Walking down memory lane, I started my duty as President with an invitation to officiate the Malaysian Society of Infectious Disease & Chemotherapy (MSIDC)'s launch of vaccines (Vaxin Check) for adults on 24 May 2017. This event was a benchmark towards promoting adults' vaccination which I regard as important as childhood vaccination. My forthcoming weeks were occupied with several meetings and I was delighted to attend the British Medical Association Annual Representative Meeting (ARM) 2017 in Bournemouth, United Kingdom from 25-29 June 2017. It was an honour to be invited to this reputable event where I became aware on how the meeting was handled competently and professionally and decided to adapt and transform our annual AGM to the National MMA Convention and Scientific Congress in June 2018. From 13-15 September 2017, a few of the office bearers of MMA and I flew to Odaiba, Tokyo for another important conference – the 32nd Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania 2017 (CMAAO). It is an organisation which comprises of various National Medical Associations within Asia and Oceania that congregate to deliberate important and pertinent issues associated with each country. It is here that I was elected as the President Elect of CMAAO (2017-2018) and our HGS was elected as Vice Chairman. I am delighted to announce that this year in September 2018, CMAAO will be conducted in our very own country where I shall be installed as the President of CMAAO for 2018-2019. I am sure it will be a tremendous success. My attendance at International and National meetings do not end here, as I have and will be attending many more and my diary is packed till my term ends.

Despite my hectic schedule, I have attended and officiated



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several meetings. To name a few – the media launch and press release on “Allied Against Dengue” (AAD), Installation of the Chair Persons of Melaka, Selangor, Johor and Sarawak, forums, seminars and conferences.

My anguish for the new medical graduates is great. The waiting time for employment as House-officers is still at 9-12 months. I hope there is some blessing soon so that the waiting time is reduced. On the other hand my considerable worry is the uncertainty awaiting the first batch of contract officers who finish in December 2021. As communicated by Ministry of Health, only the best of the 40-50% will be employed by the Ministry of Health. What happens to the surplus doctors??? We are still trying to achieve a solution!

In August, we managed to meet Lieutenant General Dato' (Dr) Haji Yaakob bin Koming to discuss on various issues faced by our medical doctors in the Malaysian Armed Forces Health Services (MAFHS).



Meeting with Lieutenant General Dato' (Dr) Haji Yaakob bin Koming

On 24 July 2017 we had a joint meeting of MMA, MPCAM, Federation, PERDIM and various Third-Party Administrators (TPA) with Minister of Health, YB Dato Seri Subramaniam, KSU YBhg Dato Seri Dr Chen Chaw Min, Director General of Health, YBhg Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Bin Abdullah and Deputy Director General, YBhg Datuk Dr Jeyaindran in the Malaysian Medical Council. The Minister treated us to a sumptuous lunch. There was a common decision together after considerable discussion on the following:

1. Revision of the 7th Fee Schedule
2. A circular issued by Ministry of Health advising Registered Medical Practitioners not to engage in any contracts that can be misinterpreted as Fee Splitting, which is in contravention of the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act, Code of Professional Conduct and the Ethical Code of Malaysian Medical Council.
3. Obligation of a minimum consultation fee in the revised 7th fee schedule to be acceded by all registered medical practitioners.