

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Hello doctors. Hope all of you are keeping well. I was invited to an event at Sunway University on 12 December 2023.

It was a collaboration with NCD Malaysia, Sunway University, National Cancer Society Malaysia and MMA Public Health Society to deliver the opening speech. I spoke on the importance and role of Primary Care in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The theme of the gathering was “Health for All: Time for Action”, underscoring the urgency and commitment required to realise this ambitious goal. UHC is the assurance that all individuals have access to comprehensive, quality health services without enduring financial hardship.

It spans the entire spectrum of essential health services, ranging from health promotion and prevention to treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care. To achieve this lofty objective, countries must forge robust, efficient, and equitable health systems deeply embedded in the communities they serve. Primary Health Care emerges as the linchpin in this pursuit. It stands out as the most effective and cost-efficient means to deliver on the promise of UHC.

Every nation's path to achieving UHC is unique, shaped by the needs of its populace and the available resources. Investing in Primary Health Care ensures a systematic and integrated approach to identifying, prioritising, and addressing health needs.

Other opening remarks were given by the WHO regional representative, Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe and also Mr Rajat Khosla, Director of the United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health.

The officiating speech on “Understanding Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in a Post-Pandemic World: Opportunities and Challenges”, was delivered by YBhg DG of Health, Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan, who then launched UHC 2023!



Opening speech by DG of Health



Fascinating dance during MMA Sabah annual dinner

Attending every state annual dinner is an opportunity to mingle with MMA state committee members. I had the pleasure to witness a spectacular variety of traditional dances of Sabah at MMA Sabah Annual Dinner on 15 December, where the Chairman, Dr Brandon Patrick Senagang, was the perfect host to my Kota Kinabalu visit.

On 29 December, I had the opportunity again to meet the DG and six of his officers to bring up issues relevant to SCHOMOS, e.g. issues related to contract doctors, clarification of policies, etc. Regular meetings or engagement with MOH is essential for addressing issues and updating matters. I am grateful to Datuk DG for making time from his busy schedule to meet MMA. Thank you!

On 3 January 2024, MMA Exco members finally met the new Secretary General (Ketua Setiausaha) of Ministry of Health (MOH), YBhg Dato' Seri Ir Dr Zaini Bin Ujang. This meeting was also attended by the Deputy Secretary General, YBhg Dato' Zainal Alhakab Seman.

As Dato' Seri was new to MOH, Datuk Dr Arasu as HGS gave a background of MMA and also the issues faced by SCHOMOS and PPSMMA. At the point of writing, YBhg Dato' Seri Zaini (who joined MOH on 26 September 2023) was transferred out of the ministry on 12 February 2024. Thus, we are without a Secretary General at this point in time.

Till the next issue of Berita MMA, goodbye and take care!