



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dato' Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira

MMA President 2024/25
president@mma.org.my

Key Discussions and Plans for the Year Ahead

My dear friends and colleagues, I hope it is not too late to wish everyone a Happy 2025.

2024 was an eventful year but as things stand now, January 2025 has started with a bang also with so many issues and events coming up.

What's New

One of the new developments coming this year which affects GPs and private specialists is the introduction of E-Invoicing for all transactions. MMA had a meeting with the Director and staff of the E-Invoice Division of the Tax Operations Department of LHDN at Cyberjaya on the 3 January 2025.

It was a very fruitful meeting and helped us understand E-Invoicing better. We were given an overview of the system and the its implementation timelines. Questions from the medical profession point of view were raised and discussed.

The Director has kindly agreed to have an online engagement session with MMA members to further explain and answer queries that may arise. This will be done in the near future.

Branch Annual Dinner

On the evening of 18 January, I had the privilege to be invited to attend the MMA Negeri Sembilan Annual Dinner and Installation, which saw a large gathering of doctors, their families and friends. Everyone present had a wonderful time and I congratulate Dr Ravindran Ramasamy on his installation as the Branch Chairman. I also congratulate the new Exco on their election as well as the organising committee led by Dr Andrew Solamadan for a wonderful function.



Meeting with LHDN Director and staff



MMA Negeri Sembilan Annual Dinner and Installation Night

MMA Committees

MMA not only has 14 branch committees which are the backbone of the organisation, but there are also 26 committees under the umbrella of MMA. These committees undertake activities all year around and are an integral part of the activities and services rendered by MMA to its members and also society at large.

On 18 January, I chaired a meeting of the MMA Exco with the chairpersons and representatives of 22 of these committees. It was enlightening to know the contributions of these committees and their plans for the year.

The MMA leadership will always support these committees, and the chairpersons were also told to highlight their activities in Berita so all MMA members can know of these committees. All these committees are constituted by our members on a voluntary basis and we hope that more will step up to join and serve in them. Their services are always very much in need and appreciated by MMA.

A Need for Balanced Implementation

There is a pressing need to address escalating healthcare costs and MMA supports efforts to establish effective cost-containment systems. One



EXCO Meeting at MMA House, Jalan Pahang

of the suggestions that has been put forward by the Government recently has been the Diagnosis-Related Group (DRG) system for charging. This has aroused much discussion amongst specialist in the private sector.

For MMA, this has to be approached with a thorough understanding of Malaysia's healthcare ecosystem and careful stakeholder engagement to ensure uncompromised patient care and a system that is equitable and sustainable.

Unintended consequences that may arise must be carefully considered in developing a Malaysian-specific DRG to avoid similar pitfalls as in countries where it is practised. Private healthcare facilities also vary widely in their resources and capabilities and hence a one-size-fits-all DRG system may not be the best solution.

MMA had asked that comprehensive engagements with all stakeholders, including healthcare providers, regulators, and representatives from the public and private sectors be held before implementing the DRG system. An interactive session has been held by KKM and we await further details on the resulting decisions.

A collaborative approach is essential to developing a context-specific framework that is fair, incentivizes quality care, and addresses the realities of modern medical practice. It is MMA's view that ultimately, all cost-containment measures being considered must align with the overarching goals of quality and accessibility in healthcare.

There are many other issues ongoing to write on but due to constraint of space, I will do so next month. As the month comes to an end, all are gearing up for the Chinese New Year holidays. On behalf of MMA, I wish all those celebrating a Happy Chinese New Year and Kung Hei Fatt Choy!