

## OVERVIEW OF THE IMAM 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2018



Assalamualaikum wrt wbt,

Dearest respected friends and members of IMAM,

Alhamdulillah, our 20th Annual Scientific Conference (ASC) ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. We thank Allah that our event went well. It lasted for four days from the 27<sup>th</sup> until 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The theme was “Healthcare for the marginalized and Vulnerable Communities”. This years’ ASC provided 20 CPD points to the participants.

We had three pre-congress events on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September: CPR and dental emergencies training for nursery caregivers, management of vaccination refusal and a forum on whether modern medicine was Islamic. All three were well attended and even though registration was closed a few days beforehand, there were quite a few walk ins on the day of the events.



The first day of the ASC was initiated by Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, our honorable Director General of Health, who delivered this years’ Az-Zahrawi Lecture. The topic was “Healthcare of the marginalized in the Ministry of Health”. He delivered his vision of a more equitable and just distribution of healthcare to all in Malaysia without exceptions including touching on the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). He explained the difficulties in achieving this ideal and the road that had been taken to provide healthcare for all including the less privileged in our society. The efforts presented were impressive.

He then proceeded to officiate the opening of the congress. There were two events that he was kind enough to be witness of-

1) The signing of the memorandum of Understanding between IMAM and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) to promote academic and research activities between the two parties especially in the field of relief and volunteerism. UKM was represented by Deputy Vice Chancellor Industry and Community Partnership, Prof Dato’ Dr Imran Ho Abdullah and Prof Dr Sharifah Ezat Wan Putih, Deputy Dean Industry and Community Partnership.



2) The launch of the Membership card for IMAM members.

We thank Datuk Dr Noor Hisham for his continuous support of IMAM and its activities. We are proud to work together with him and the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the good of the nation's health. The cooperation of IMAM, MoH and the Ministry of Defence in the running of the Malaysian field hospital in COX bazaar was frequently touched upon as an example of how the government and NGOs can and must work together for the greater good.

As a token of gratitude to the Director General of health and to the ministry of health in general, a group of Rohingya children presented a hand painted Malaysian flag to Datuk Dr Noor Hisham.

The next two days were filled with lectures and forums. Many of the lectures touched audiences' hearts, including those presented by the military doctors who had served in the Malaysian Field Hospital in Cox Bazaar. Brigadier General Adnan Abdullah, Malaysian Field Hospital (MFH) Commander was on hand to give out tokens of appreciation to his men. We salute the sacrifices of our army medics who spent six months tour of duty in Cox Bazaar. Truly an example of Malaysia Boleh!



Our dental colleagues shared also their experiences in providing dental care to the marginalized in Chow Kit and to the orang Asal in the deep jungles of Peninsular Malaysia.

The presentations by Coach Sunny in the forum on the disabled, on how he managed to coach the disabled and amputees using football as a medium, to become champions and to believe again in themselves. This brought tears to not a few eyes in the audience.

We would also like to thank Dr Izandis Mohamed Sayed for his wonderful presentation on the care of the orang asal in the deep jungles of Malaysia.

On the last day, the forum on marginalized urban communities, was so heart wrenching, it even brought tears to the moderator, so powerful were the presentations. The experience shared by our 3 panelists; Mr Syed Azmi Alhabsi, Matron Fazilah from Rumah Solehah, Mr Kumaran Nagarajan representing Green Crescent Malaysia and Dr Azura from Dentistry for the Needy proved that there is always a way to reach out to those in need despite many obstacles and challenges. Their words of wisdom left the audience yearning to do more in helping the marginalised community.



We were also informed on the meaning of humanitarianism and how we as Malaysians could do better by Mercy Malaysia President Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus. Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood (First president Mercy Malaysia) shared her thoughts on humanitarian work via a special video telecast from New York.

This year we received a variety of topics for the free paper presentations. 11 scientific oral presentations and 26 scientific poster presentations were accepted, which is the largest number accepted in the history of IMAM conference so far. A significant amount of the research submitted looked into the healthcare of the vulnerable and marginalized communities and we are pleased with the efforts put in by the researchers. We hope this effort will continue as work into helping those in in this often-forgotten community also needs to be in line with evidence based medicine.



There was a charity dinner the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> September. This was graced by the most honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Dr Wan Ismail. In her speech she emphasized the importance of paying attention to the social ills that plague our society just as we pay attention to the natural and man-made disasters that surround us. She stressed the importance of paying attention to both. You can read her comments here <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/445318>



We were privileged to bring the famous Hadith Open Mic (HOM) concept by Kengkawan Project to the charity dinner stage. The night featured our very own IMARET volunteer and IMAM vice President, Dr Jamali Wagiman, the famous Malaysian rock star Mr Faizal Tahir and Dato Afdlin Shauqi to the stage. It was mesmerizing to listen to their stories and first-hand experience on the ground. Mr Faizal Tahir is

known to embark on humanitarian mission through "I am faithmen" founded by him whereas Dato Afdlin Shauqi actively contributes to the community via



Yayasan Afdlin. We were enlightened by their journey in becoming humanitarian organisers themselves and the paths that led them to engage in humanitarian efforts. And MashaAllah their involment is such a great reminder that we should always use our talent Allah has bestowed upon us to benefit humankind.



The night also saw the IMAM Ar Razi lifetime achievement being awarded to Prof Dr Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman for his continuous contributions to Islamic medicine and medicine in general in Malaysia and indeed in the international medical community. His citation was read by Dato Dr Musa Mohd Nordin, FIMA advisory council chairperson.

There was a book launch of Professor Zakuan Zaini Deris book on “The contribution of Islam to vaccination-an answer to the anti vaxers” also during the dinner.



The night ended with the winning bid of the auction of the helmet of Pocket Rocketman Azizulhasni Awang. Azizulhasni is an IMARET ambassador. The winning bid was RM12 000 for the helmet. The bidder graciously insisted on remaining anonymous.

Our Biennial General Meeting (BGM) was held on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. Most of the previous exco members were reelected to the next exco committee. We pray that they will be able to bring IMAM to a higher level and serve the members well.

Finally,

We thank all our volunteers who lost many hours of sleep in preparing for the ASC, the BGM and the fundraising dinner.

We thank all our sponsors who contributed to the success of our event.

Thank you to our collaborators Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor (JKNS) for making this years' ASC possible in Shah Alam.

We thank all the speakers who so kindly afforded their time and efforts to be present at the various forums and symposia.

We thank all the celebrities including Saudara Faizal Tahir and Datuk Afdlin Shauqi for being with us and sharing their journeys. We pray to continue this collaboration in humanity.

Thank you as well to the other IMARET goodwill ambassadors, Taja from Meet Uncle Hussain, Vivvy Yusof, Altimet, Anis Nabilah and Adi from Sixth Sense for coming to the dinner.

We thank Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Dr Wan Ismail for gracing our humble event.

Finally we reserve the biggest appreciation to all who attended and who spent their time and resources to be with us in this years' ASC.

Insyallah we will meet again next year.



Wassalamualaikum

Thank you