



PRESS STATEMENT: ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA (IMAM) ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2017

In the name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia (IMAM) was formed in 1990 and has been active doing humanitarian relief work be it locally or internationally, consolidating Islamic practices and knowledge with current medical practice.

This year, we are again the proud organisers of the 19th Annual Scientific Conference of Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia (IMAM) 2017 that is themed "**Islamic Perspective on Global Health**" which was held on the 29th Sept-1st October 2017 at the Putra Regency Hotel, Kangar Perlis together with our colleagues from Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Perlis and Pejabat Mufti Negeri Perlis. We had 250-300 delegates from all over the country attending this conference.

The opening ceremony was graced by His Highness DYMM Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Almarhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

We have had three very well attended pre-congress events on Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Dental Trauma Care, principles of Islamic Medical Jurisprudence and Immunization Counselling (Training of trainers).

One of the highlights of this event is the kayuhan Asnaf held on the 29th September. This event was graced by His Highness Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Jamalullail, Raja Muda of Perlis. It was a charity bicycle ride to provide donations to the needy during the cycling tour. Also a highlight, our Az-Zahrawi memorial lecture this year was delivered by the Mufti of Perlis.

We have also built international networks in the field of medicine. We are proud that in recognition of this international networking one of our past presidents, Dato' Musa Mohd Nordin, was awarded the lifetime achievement award by His Excellency President Erdogan of Turkey in Istanbul in August this year.

This year our conference also focused on the importance of having evidence in the claims that many people make about medical treatment claiming them to be Islamic and so on. There were also discussions on how to disseminate medical information through the power of social media.

We are also proud to have launched a syariah compliant medical indemnity scheme for medical professionals known as Avicenna Medical Practitioner Indemnity Takaful (AVIT) in partnership with Tradewinds international Insurance Broker and Mediwealth Consultancy.

We had a forum on disabilities with our star guest, the paralympic champion Ridzuan Puzi. His inspiring story as narrated by his dad brought tears to many eyes.

The forum on pedophilia and child abuse also caused much distress to the audience. We coordinated this talk with the group "Mothers Against Pornography", Social Media Activists and also medical specialists in this field.

Still on the topic of social media, we invited three prominent social media activists from the Malaysian Medical Gazette, Medtweetmy and Medical Mythbusters Malaysia, to gain insight into how they set up their websites and how they countered false medical claims in the virtual world.

In terms of relief work, IMAM Response & Relief Team (IMARET) has been continuing and improving missions from previous years. IMARET has been actively involved in Rohingya Clinics in the Klang valley nearly every alternate weekend. With the recent upsurge of more than 400000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh. We are now working with the Ministry of Health and many other partner NGOs to alleviate this massive man-made catastrophe.

We hope this Rohingya initiative and all other IMAM efforts will gain good support nationwide.

From this conference in Kangar, Perlis we summarise and hope that:

- 1) The public is aware and does adequate study before believing claims of cure from medications/medical procedures
- 2) That a shariah compliant medical indemnity is now available for medical personnel.
- 3) Further serious action needs to be taken on the ills of pedophilia and child abuse.
- 4) More networking should be done in the care of persons with disabilities so that they are given chances that has produced our paralympic champions.
- 5) The Rohingya crisis needs urgent attention and urge the government of Malaysia and Bangladesh to cooperate with urgency to allow Malaysia to send as much aid and relief as possible including the deployment of medical personnel. This is of paramount importance and urgency.

Thank you

Dr Jefferey Abu Hassan
IMAM President 2016-2018