

Winding Up 2015



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Another year is bidding us goodbye and it is time to review our actions throughout the year and plan ahead for the year 2016.

I believe that SCHOMOS has been active and vibrant throughout the year under its previous Committee led by Dr Datesh and us, the new Committee since June 2015 had tried our best to address SCHOMOS issues. Needless to say, many issues related to SCHOMOS e.g. promotion issues, houseman issues, inadequate medical officer posts, allowances, large numbers of specialists leaving the service, and many more still need to be tackled continuously. Fresh issues are expected to come up as well e.g. increment of Annual Practising Certificate fee, compulsory indemnity insurance for Government doctors, human resource in healthcare, and the list goes on. Our healthcare system is still evolving and we have to address many issues along the way while maintaining our struggle in championing the welfare of Government doctors. At this point, SCHOMOS would like to thank the Ministry of Health (MoH) for addressing many of the issues and engaging with MMA in facing these issues.

Through *Majlis Bersama Kebangsaan* (MBK), SCHOMOS had succeeded in gaining approval for new allowances or increases in the existing allowances. The flying doctors allowance for Sabah or Sarawak was approved two years ago but it was announced by *Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam* recently that it will be implemented, pending our economy's recovery.

In the recent meeting also, it was announced that the on-call allowance will be extended to hospital directors but depending on their financial status. This was another successful effort by SCHOMOS.

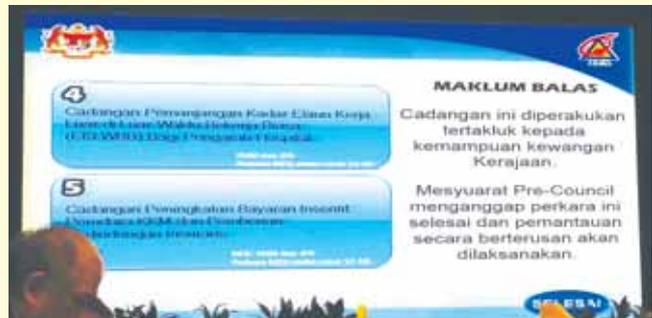
The proposal by SCHOMOS to review the salary scheme of medical lecturers has also been accepted and is already under revision. This was another paper which was pushed by Dr Azhar (SCHOMOS Past Chairman) through MBK.

We planned to propose a few more papers in the coming year and SCHOMOS welcomes any suggestions by members in preparation of the proposals. Few samples of proposals presented in the past are listed on our SCHOMOS webpage under the main MMA website.

Recently, industrial sponsorship for conferences or workshops has become an important issue and SCHOMOS had taken the effort to meet the Integrity Unit. En Nasaruddin, the Head of Integrity Unit in MoH was a nice and humble person who patiently explained all matters in detail and addressed all our questions regarding industrial sponsorship. He emphasised that direct dealing with 'vendors' (drug companies or medical representatives) is definitely against the law (*Pekeliling KPK 3/1998* and Act 694 Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009).

SCHOMOS meeting with Integrity Unit, MoH

The sponsorship can be channelled through societies which have proper accounts, documentations, minutes,



and transparency. Obviously, MMA will be one of the best options to carry this out for our members. MMA has all the requirements which Integrity Unit had advised these sponsorships to be channelled through. We will be engaging with the umbrella body of pharmaceutical companies, the Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia (PhAMA) soon to iron out the details of this collaboration.

SCHOMOS has also secured a deal with Nissan for MMA members (the Business Partner Purchase Scheme – BPPS). It is designed to provide a competitive purchase package for all MMA members and staff who are planning to purchase Nissan vehicles. This deal will entitle us to a discount and three years of free maintenance as stated in the website. Interested members may first call the MMA secretariat to obtain a username and password required for login on the Nissan BPPS website (www.nissan-bpps.com.my). There are contact details of Nissan staff on the website for you to get in touch with and inquire about the deal. The deal is not offered directly by Nissan dealers.

We also have engaged with Perodua, Honda and UEM (Property/Construction) companies and are awaiting their offers.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate SCHOMOS Johor, under the leadership of Dr Tan Zihan, for successfully organising the 'Rights & Responsibilities for Government Doctors' seminar on 5 December 2015.

We will be facing many more challenges in the upcoming years and the amount of support from our doctors will determine our success. Let us unite and fight for our welfare. I hope all Government doctors will join as members to strengthen SCHOMOS, and consider life memberships at the same time. There are many more year 2016 activities lined-up by SCHOMOS, so do support our activities and make us relevant.