

# Start the Ball Rolling



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**G**ood day everyone. It is a real pleasure for me to share some good news with SCHOMOS members.

On following-up with the meeting with our Director General of Health (DG), YBhg Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Bin Abdullah in July this year, we managed to get approval principally to have a session during orientation with house officers.

Historically, since 22 July 2011, Dr Harvinder Singh (past Chairman SCHOMOS) successfully arranged a slot for SCHOMOS during *Modul Program Transformasi Minda (Kursus Induksi) Pegawai Perubatan Siswazah*. This basically gave SCHOMOS a chance to introduce MMA and have an interactive session with the house officers.

This good opportunity was taken away from us three years ago. Probably, if these sessions become as fruitful as expected, we'll request for a slot during orientation with medical officers as well during their confirmation in service.

MMA ExCo including SCHOMOS and PPS has been actively working hard to engage many parties to negotiate privileges for MMA members. A number of negotiations have been successful. MMA has struck a deal to get discounts for members when they are buying certain cars. The discounts vary according to the car models and companies. The companies that agreed to give discounts at the moment are Peugeot, Mercedes and Volvo.

SCHOMOS is still in negotiation with Nissan and Honda. For discounts from Peugeot, kindly contact MMA Secretariat/SCHOMOS before going to their showrooms in order for us to get you the contact of their headquarters staff who can provide details on the discounts (as many showroom salesperson would not know the details).

Industrial sponsorship for Government Doctors has become an issue for SCHOMOS members. Many have been quite disappointed with the recent instructions and implementations from the Ministry of Health (MoH). Anyway, as Government Officers, we have to abide by the law which is meant to safeguard the integrity of our healthcare personnel. However, industrial sponsorships can be channelled through societies or MoH itself in a transparent manner as mentioned by our DG during a meeting with MMA last month. SCHOMOS brought up this issue with ExCo, and the ExCo has agreed for the sponsorships to go through MMA. The Hon. General Secretary has formally written to the Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia regarding this and hopefully we can finalise the procedure to safeguard the integrity of

in benefit for one year of course. A house officer can become Life Member by paying a year's membership fee plus RM1,500 as well.

In a recent event held by SCHOMOS Sarawak, they had started the ball rolling and recruited 15 Life Members among the house officers. This is remarkable and kudos to the SCHOMOS Sarawak team especially Dr Pravind. Hopefully, other states will follow as well and in doing so, strengthen MMA.

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the SCHOMOS Pahang membership drive as well together with Dr Tee, Dr Thillai and Dr Chan from Pahang, and the President, Dr Ashok. It was a well-organised annual event by MMA Pahang.



our members as well to retain the benefits to the members. Obviously, for the industrial membership to go through MMA, one has to be member in benefit.

On the 12 August 2015, MMA had our first meeting with the new *Ketua Setiausaha (KSU)* of MoH, Dr Chen Chaw Min. We were greeted by the KSU himself on arrival and the MMA ExCo had a fruitful discussion on many issues related to SCHOMOS as well as PPS. We would like to thank him especially for being very friendly and humble and for his willingness to listen to all the issues that were highlighted to him. We hope to maintain good relationship with MoH and KSU was very supportive about it.

The Registry of Societies has approved the resolution that was passed in the recent AGM in Kota Bharu. The resolution was passed to encourage the house officers in their first two years to become a MMA Life Member with the reduced fee of RM1,500. To benefit from this new ruling, one has to be a member

### **Technical Glitch in AirAsia Deal**

Lately, there have been a number of complaints from members regarding the AirAsia deal. It was a good deal to start with; of course the main role is played by the AirAsia Information Technology team. Our Hon. General Secretary Dr Ravi Naidu has communicated with them and it seems to be a genuine technical glitch which is currently being sorted out. We really hope AirAsia solves the problem quickly and honours the deal without delay. For members, please be patient with us as we are already looking into this problem, and it was with some difficulty that the HGS managed to get the AirAsia team's attention on this.

There are still many other issues related to SCHOMOS that are unresolved at the moment. Be assured that MMA as a whole is trying its very best to fight from every angle for the doctors and we definitely need our members support.