MMA Tri-Event: An Overview

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SCHOMOS and PPS, together with the contribution from SMMAMS successfully organised the "Towards Excellence Series" on 20 of February 2016. This series consisted of the Women Empowerment Seminar, ABC of Housemanship Seminar and GP Seminar and Scientific Meeting, which were held simultaneously across three halls at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

ABC of Housemanship

This seminar was organised by SCHOMOS and SMMAMS, and was inaugurated by Dato' Dr Haji Azman Bin Abu Bakar (Director, Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health). The main objective of this seminar was to expose our future doctors to the working culture in our hospitals.

This event was attended by more than 160 medical graduates and final year medical students. Some came all the way from Sabah and Sarawak. Senior consultants from different departments with vast experience in houseman training were present to guide our future doctors on how to cope with the stress of housemanship. Among the issues that were highlighted were the potential problems that junior doctors could face, as well as what was expected of them when they are posted in each department.

The participants were also exposed to the art of effective communication and were given the opportunity for some hands-on experience with common procedures. There was a session where medical officers and housemen shared their experiences with the participants. A senior officer from the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) was also on hand to give a talk on how to go about applying for housemanship. His topic also included points on what doctors are entitled to.

Seeing that the feedback for the event was very encouraging. SCHOMOS is planning to make this seminar a yearly event.

Women Empowerment Seminar

SCHOMOS successfully organised a seminar for doctors and the public, to empower women to step up as leaders and promote gender equality. About 100 participants attended this seminar, from the northern states to the south.

Among the distinguished speakers who were present to share their experiences were YBhg Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz (Non-Executive Independent Chairperson of AirAsia X Berhad), Prof Dr Kyung Ah Park (President of Medical Women's International Association – MWIA), Dr Mary Suma Cardosa (Past President MMA) and Dr Gayathri K. Kumarasuriar (Clinical Psychiatrist and Hypnotherapist, Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, S.P.). The main aim of the talks was to bring about a positive change in the lives of the participants.

Dato' Dr Haji Azman Bin Abu Bakar (Director, Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health)

The participants were rather 'glued' to their seats listening to all the talks delivered by the charming speakers. The seminar ended with a forum which gave participants a chance to have a lively discussion with the speakers. Dr Pamela Lee chaired and coordinated the event well.

Conference of Minds

On the same day, a conference of minds was organised by SCHOMOS. Many Past Chairman and Chairperson of SCHOMOS who had contributed many working papers in *Majlis Bersama Kebangsaan* (MBK) were invited.

Dr Krishna Kumar (Immediate Past President MMA), Dr Harwinder Singh and Dr Rosalind met with the SCHOMOS ExCo and shared their experience in successfully presenting MBK papers. They also contributed ideas for future papers.

This meeting was chaired by the current SCHOMOS Chairman, Mr Vasu Pillai. SCHOMOS would like to record our gratitude to them for their valuable time and input.

From left to right: Mr Vasu Pillai (SCHOMOS Chairman) presenting a token of appreciation to Dato' Dr Haji Azman Bin Abu Bakar (Director, Medical Development Division, Ministry of Health) with Puventhiran Pannirselvam (SMMAMS Chairman) and Dr Arvindran Alaga (SCHOMOS Vice Chairman) looking on.

YBhg Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz (Non-Executive Independent Chairman of AirAsia X Berhad)

Conclusion of The 'Towards Excellence' Series

The 'Towards Excellence' Series feedback was promising, with further calls from participants for future events like this to be organised. Apart from fostering goodwill among doctors, this Tri-Event managed to enlighten the participants to the happenings around doctors and the public.

SCHOMOS would like to thank PPS, SMMAMS, MMA Secretariat, all the speakers, and the participants for taking their time off during the weekend to join the seminars, making it a success. A special thanks to Prof Dr Kyung Ah Park for coming all the way from South Korea.

Meeting with Auditor General YBhg Tan Sri Haji Ambrin Bin Buang and the External Auditors for *Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia*

On another note, SCHOMOS had had a conducive meeting with the Auditor General to clarify certain issues. Auditor's name is being misused by many, in rejecting doctor's claims in hospitals and *Klinik Kesihatan*. The finance staff in charge should notify the doctor if there are any queries or rejection of their claims. However, these are not done most of the time.

We are entitled to our claims as long as it is genuine and all procedures were followed, based on existing circulars and guidelines. Technical mistakes on claims need to be highlighted to the respective doctors. We hope that these issues will be ironed out as we are looking forward to further correspondence with the Auditor General.

We have also requested the Auditor General to look into the variations in handling claims from centre to centre, as we feel that it should be standardised. SCHOMOS would like to thank Tan Sri Haji Ambrin Bin Buang and his team for engaging with MMA and answering all our queries.