



MEDIA STATEMENT

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INAUGURAL DOCTORS' DAY 2014 KICKS OFF WITH BLOOD AND ORGAN DONATION DRIVE

Kuala Lumpur, 30 September 2014 – Malaysia's first ever Doctors' Day will kick off on the 10th of October this year with a blood and organ donation drive at a Community Service Project to be held at AEON Ipoh Garden, Ipoh. Malaysia's inaugural Doctors' Day is organized by Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Associations Malaysia (FPMPAM), the Perak Medical Practitioners' Society (PMPS) and the Malaysian Medical Association (Perak) with the collaboration of the Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Perak.

To celebrate this milestone event for the medical community in Malaysia, the FPMPAM has organised a short weekend retreat in Ipoh for doctors, their families and guest. Further details and updates will be posted on the Federation website and Facebook.

Besides the Community Service Project, a whole host of other activities have been organized including a full-day free medical screening health camp manned by volunteer doctors. Members of the public are also invited to a public forum focussed on "Stress & Drugs" at the Ipoh Specialists Centre conducted by two experts, Mr. Chris Sekar, Certified Addiction Therapist and Consultant Psychiatrist Dr. Esther G. Ebenezer. Admission is free.

The main event is the Doctors' Day Gala Dinner to be held on 10 October at the Ipoh City and Country Club. At this dinner, the Doctors' Day Awards will take place where the FPMPAM will present awards to doctors who have dedicated their life in service of the community and medical education.

Dr Kamalanathan Raju, President of the PMPS and Chairman of the Organizing Committee for Doctors' Day, adds, "Doctors' Day is especially dedicated for the medical community and the public to reflect on their present doctor-patient relationship and to share their views of what the future of Malaysian healthcare would likely to be as the year 2020 approaches".

According to Dr Steven Chow, President of the FPMPAM, "Doctors' Day has been celebrated in many other countries in Europe, the United States and India. The time has now come to celebrate Doctors' Day in Malaysia. The date 10 October was chosen as it represents precision – ten out of ten. Doctors are expected to give their ten out of ten each and every time they see a patient – it is the professional duty that they owe to their patients. This Doctors' Day, those interested to show their gratitude can send a simple card, a kind note of appreciation or simply wish their doctors on the special day. These simple gestures can go a long way to strengthen the doctor patient relationship".

Doctors' Day is also a day for the public to express the importance of a harmonious patient-centred therapeutic relationship which places the patient's interest at the forefront. "We are of the view that public policy on healthcare must be determined by public consensus. Commercial forces should not be allowed to shape this policy. Patients and public are invited

to post their questions and views on the Federation's Facebook. All these will be collated and brought up by the Federation in the next stakeholders' meeting on Malaysian Healthcare" Dr Chow adds.

Commenting on the introduction of Doctors' Day, Dr. Steven Chow shares, "Healthcare in Malaysia has come a long way. We have a good cost-effective system that have won praises from healthcare experts at home and abroad. The doctors, nurses, pharmacists and all the other healthcare professionals are the backbone of this system and due effort must be made to appreciate their contribution and sacrifices. We hope that with the introduction of Doctors' Day, all Malaysians will join with us and voice their views on how to make this system even better and more patient-centred".

For more information on Doctors Day or initiatives introduced by FPMPAM, please visit www.fpmpam.org or <https://www.facebook.com/fpmpam>.

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About The Federation of Private Medical Practitioners' Association Malaysia (FPMPAM)

The FPMPAM is the national body representing doctors in private practice in Malaysia. FPMPAM is committed to improve the quality of private health care through continuing medical education, continuing professional development of its members, ethics advocacy and public outreach programs. Founded in 1989, it consists of seven state-level associations and has over 5,000 members. For more information on the FPMPAM, please visit <http://fpmpam.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/fpmpam>.

For more information, please contact:

Ken Ming
PR@Conventions Master
Email: pr.conventionsmaster@gmail.com
Phone: +6017 6883857