SPEECH

YANG BERHORMAT

PEHIN ORANG KAYA SERI KERNA

DATO SERI SETIA (DR) HAJI AWANG ABU BAKAR BIN HAJI APONG

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

**9th MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND BRUNEI DARUSSALAM MEDICAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2015**

*CONFERENCE THEME:*

*TRANSDICIPLINARY APPROACH IN HEALTH CARE RESEARCH*

11 JUNE 2015, 8.30 a.m

PENGIRAN ANAK PUTERI RASHIDAH SA’ADATUL BOLKIAH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**

And a very good morning



***Alhamdulillahi Rabbil ‘Alameen, Wassalatu Wassalamu ‘Alaa Sayyidina Muhammadin, Wa’alaa Alihie Wasahbihie Ajmaeen.***

Yang Mulia, Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Yusoff Bin Haji Awang Ismail, Deputy Minister Of Education

**Yang Mulia, Dr Hjh Maslina Hj Mohsin, Dean of Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa’adatul Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam**

Yang Mulia, Professor Dato Dr Raymond Azman Ali, **Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Director of UKM Medical Centre, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia**

Yang Mulia, Professor Dr Saleha Sungkar, **Faculty Secretary of the Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia as** co-chairpersons of the organising committee.

Your Excellencies, High Commissioners and Ambassadors, Permanent Secretaries, Ministry Of Education; Vice Chancellors, Rector And Rais; Deputy Permanent Secretaries; Senior Government Officials; Our Distinguished Speakers, Participants, Ladies And Gentlemen

1. Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah Subhanahu Wata’ala, we are here this morning to attend the 9th Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam Medical Science Conference 2015.
2. I wish to congratulate the organizers of the Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam Medical Science Conference in bringing together academics and health professionals from various institutions locally and internationally today.
3. I am delighted to note that this forum serve as a significant avenue for collaboration, exchange advances and develop networking in medical sciences between the National Universities of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Indonesia. I would like to welcome all the participants particularly our overseas participants from both Malaysia and Indonesia.
4. I sincerely hope that this bi-annual conference will bring the spirit of togetherness amongst our health professionals, researchers and educators for the benefit of all our future generations of researchers and medical educators. I am pleased to note the participation of our students at this prestigious conference offering them a valuable experience and the prospect of establishing new networks as well as the opportunity to further develop professionally and to learn from best practices.
5. Before I proceed with my speech, may I take this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Chancellor of UBD and all members of staff and students for the remarkable achievements in being ranked 118th position in the QS Asia University Ranking, and attained the top position on outbound exchange, 2nd on inbound exchange and 6th on international faculty. This significant accomplishment is yet another international recognition of UBD’s unwavering and relentless efforts in providing quality education in realising the aspiration of Brunei vision 2035.
6. The conference theme on “***Transdisciplinary Approach in Healthcare Research”***  is both relevant and timely. Reflecting on this, I hope the participants will build collaborations whilst exchanging information and sharing resources, that they will look with fresh eyes at their discipline-specific approaches in order to achieve their scientific goals in Healthcare research.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

1. The World Health Organization’s principle under the constitution calls for the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as one of the fundamental rights of every human being. A good quality of life requires a high standard of healthcare. Health education in a wide range of medical fields is therefore very important and essential for sustainable health delivery in all developed nations.
2. Allow me to reiterate, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam’s titah during the Opening Ceremony of the Majlis Ilmu 2012 where His Majesty has stressed upon the importance of a holistic approach in ensuring the implementation of best health care through cost-effective methods and the principle of ‘prevention is better than cure”. Hence, it is important to ensure the quality of Brunei Darussalam’s healthcare system.
3. In realizing this vision to meet international benchmarks in healthcare delivery and produce competitive medical and health research that improves healthcare globally, Brunei Darussalam is progressing rapidly along this journey to build its human capacity and infrastructure in health care education. We cannot be forever reliant to overseas institutions for providing education to our healthcare professionals as any change in health education policy could have a significant impact on our future healthcare workforce, healthcare delivery to the community and its sustainability.
4. It is therefore important for our local institution to explore innovative ways to realise this dream of providing world class health education in all major health fields. Let us think out of the box and be pro-active for change. It is time to accept change and demonstrate an ability to build a responsive and flexible nation.
5. I am also happy to learn that Universiti Brunei Darussalam has developed health education programmes from the Certificate to the Doctorate levels, and at the same time conducting a robust continuing professional development program. Importantly, this has been done in conjunction with relevant stakeholders so that local, regional and international needs, as well as professional benchmarks are met. Nevertheless, the institute should not be complacent with these achievements and should look further in developing other potential health education programmes which is crucial to the Nation’s healthcare delivery.
6. I am pleased to note that this institute is engaged in teaching and learning approaches that are constantly reviewed and updated, and emphasizes authentic and experiential learning. Some of the programmes in the institute includes evidence-based practice, health promotion, leadership, clinical governance and research in its curriculum.
7. Innovative teaching methods such as problem-based learning, team and case-based learning and the use of clinical simulation enhance curiosity and promote continuous life-long learning. Inter-professional education with biomedical and medical students instils the culture of teamwork amongst the different health professionals trained in the institute. I also urge a holistic approach in nurturing students with the necessary skill sets demanded in this profession such as communication skills. This is crucial to prepare students for the real life environment in health care delivery.
8. The completion of the extension building of this institute last year further enhances the conducive teaching and learning environment for our students. This building holds state of the art learning spaces that include cutting edge simulation areas will provide more ‘hands on’ learning in a protected and safe environment before embarking to the real life situation in clinical settings.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

1. Universiti Brunei Darussalam’s vision to be a top 50 in Asia means sharpening its research focus. Today’s health research findings will serve as the evidence-base to guide tomorrow’s policies, practice and research in the education and healthcare fields. For example, evidence from relevant research can help improve health care systems, advance our understanding of the causal and risk factors of diseases, and importantly upgrade medical and allied health professional education.
2. Health research is an area of new territory for Universiti Brunei Darussalam which only took off in recent years. Healthcare research does not mean just working in silo within the health sector only but should also involve collaboration with other scientists, social scientists and researchers in other areas such as engineering. This opportunity of transdisciplinary research should be fully utilized and one should take advantage of the country’s niche areas and unique richness in biodiversity, envied natural resources; and increasingly high technology sectors.

***Ladies and Gentlemen,***

1. With the advancement of technologies and ease of travel, the world has become a global nation. Health challenges these days encompass more complex transactions affecting societies throughout the world. This conference addresses current and important issues including infectious diseases for example Ebola and dengue outbreaks, non-communicable diseases including obesity, diabetes, stroke and cancer, plus important research in the areas of ageing, mental health, mother and child health plus complementary alternative medicine.
2. In addition, the conference will also address the important issue of *Islamic perspectives* in healthcare, global healthcare research and medical education. I hope this conference will provide a platform to bring together prominent professionals from different disciplines in healthcare to share knowledge, learn and create research possibilities in Brunei Darussalam as now we are part of a world that develops knowledge society. Collaborations between health, education and other disciplines can strengthen our relationship in these areas.

1. Lastly, I wish all presenters and participants a fruitful conference.

With the kalimah, *Bismillaahirrahmaanirrahiim*, I hereby declare the 9th Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam Medical Science Conference 2015 open.

***Wabillahittawfik walhidayah wassalamu’alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh. Thank you.***