



**Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you will get the result. - Oscar Wilde**

- ➔ **3** **IMR Director's Message**
- ➔ **4** **IMR Research Strategic Planning meeting** from 18-19 April 2017
- ➔ **6** **11th Biregional Meeting of National Influenza Centres and Influenza Surveillance in the Western Pacific & SEA regions** from 25-27 April 2017
- ➔ **13** **IIUM students' visit to the IMR** on 26 April 2017
- ➔ **15** **ITEX 2017 at KLCC** from 11-13 May 2017
- ➔ **17** **Visit to the IMR by YBTMK** on 7 March 2017



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**EDITORIAL  
TEAM**

# IMR Director's Message



*Salam Sejahtera!*

**W**ith this third issue of the IMR Newsletter, my staff and I have been sharing newsworthy happenings within our Institute. We hope our readership has been getting a sense of the activities and our commitments.

Research remains at the core of our activities and the leaders within the Institute met up for an intensive brain-storming session. With the guidance of YBhg Datuk Dr Shahnaz Murad, the Deputy Director-General of Health (Research and Technical Support), a strategic plan for research was drafted in line with IMR's transformation.

IMR together with the World Health Organization (WHO) co-organised the 11th Biregional Meeting of National Influenza Centres and Influenza Surveillance in the Western Pacific and South East Asian regions at the Vistana Hotel in Kuala Lumpur from 25-27 April 2017. This event deliberated on the global and regional updates on seasonal and zoonotic influenza viruses and reviewed the progress of the regional influenza surveillance with a purpose to identify future priorities within the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) framework.

I would also like to take this opportunity to proudly congratulate the winners of this

year's 28th International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2017, Ms Husniza Hussain and Mr Mohd Zainuldin Taib, who were awarded two (2) silver medals for their inventions on 'Salt Iodate Micro-Method Reagent (SIMR) Kit' and 'IodateCalc App' respectively. I sincerely hope that this will be an impetus for other researchers to create and innovate.

IMR continues to welcome dignitaries to show-case our research as well as encourage students from local universities to visit our facilities as this will definitely encourage future scientists to be motivated right from the tertiary level.

Thank you!

**Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin**

Director  
Institute for Medical Research (IMR)  
Kuala Lumpur

31 May 2017

# IMR Research Strategic Plan meeting at Cyberjaya from 18-19 April 2017



The participants of the IMR Research Strategic Plan.

The purpose of this meeting was to determine the future direction of research at IMR. YBhg. Datuk Dr. Shahnaz binti Murad, the Deputy Director-General of Health (Research and Technical Support) was present to give her insights and advise to each of the Centres on the direction of the strategic plan. Chaired by Dato' Dr. Fadzilah Kamaludin, the meeting was a success and a draft version of the IMR research strategic plan has been submitted.



Datuk Dr Shahnaz with the AIRC team



The IDRC team deliberated on aspects of their Strategic Plan with inputs from Datuk Dr Shahnaz.



# 11th Biregional Meeting of the National Influenza Centres and Influenza Surveillance in the Western Pacific and South East Asia Regions from 25-27 April 2017 at Vistana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Welcome Address by Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin, Director of the Institute for Medical Research.

The Institute for Medical Research (IMR) and World Health Organization (WHO) co-organised the event with the main objective to provide global and regional updates on seasonal and zoonotic influenza viruses, review progress of regional influenza surveillance and identify future priorities within the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) framework.

The delegates, WHO advisors, experts and observers were from 67 countries of the Western Pacific Region (WPRO) and the South-East Asia Region (SEARO) and they included Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Australia, India, China and Japan.



Opening Address by Dr Graham Harrison, WHO Representative of Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

Dr Kanta Subbarao, Director from the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference on Influenza, Melbourne Australia presented on "Influenza Vaccines: Present and Future".



The Influenza meeting was well represented by many delegates from WPRO and SEARO regions.

Delegates listened attentively to the topics which ranged from influenza activities to vaccine usage.



The delegates were also given opportunities to participate in the Q&A session after each presentation.



Dr Ravindran Thayan summarised the findings from one of the breakout sessions entitled "New Laboratory Technologies".





Delegates from the various countries shared their experiences on outbreak management and other important findings.



Presentations on various pandemic tools available from Tool for Influenza Pandemic Risk Assessment (TIPRA) to Pandemic Influenza Severity Assessment (PISA) and overviews of Pandemic Influenza Preparedness.



Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin chaired the session on "Conclusions and Recommendations" with take home messages.



# Delegates of the 11<sup>th</sup> Biregional Meeting of the National Influenza and South East Asia Regions at the pool side of the Vistana Hotel



Some of the delegates had the opportunity to visit the IMR which included a tour of the laboratory at the Virology Unit.





# Surveillance Centres and Influenza Surveillance in the Western Pacific Region, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



The delegates posed at the Ungku Omar Auditorium on their visit to the IMR.



The IMR Director shared a light moment during the Welcome Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Health Malaysia for the delegates of the meeting.



From Left to Right: Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin, Dr Graham Harrison, Dr Aparna Singh, Dr Norazah Ahmad and Dr Ravindran Thayan



There were some light moments captured during the Welcome Dinner where there were performances by the IMR staff to entertain the delegates.

# IIUM students visit to the IMR on 26 April 2017



Describing the local medical plants at the IMR Herbal Garden.



The IIUM students visit the IMR Herbarium.



The IIUM students visit the IMR Biomedical Museum.



# ITEX 2017 held at KLCC from 11-13 May 2017

IMR researchers were awarded two silver medals at the 28th International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2017. The medals were awarded for two inventions: 'Salt Iodate Micro-Method Reagent (SIMR) Kit' (Ms Husniza Hussain, Research Officer from the Nutrition Unit, CDNRC led a team of 12 researchers) and 'IodateCalc App' (Mr Mohd Zainuldin Taib, Head of the Information Technology Unit, MRRC led a team of three members).

The inventions were developed to measure iodate in edible salt in the field (the study was carried out at specific sites such as a port, a manufacturing site, a storage site, some clinics and certain households). Iodate is used for monitoring in Universal Salt Iodization (USI) countries where it has been enacted that only iodized salt is to be imported. Iodized salt is the cheapest method to provide sufficient iodine nutrition to humans as iodine is vital for foetal brain development. The achievement in getting this award is attributed to the immense cooperation among the team members and strong support from the IMR Director and JPP IMR.



Mr Mohd Zainuldin Taib and Ms Husniza Hussain with their inventions and awards.





Two silvers for IMR at ITEX 2017.





# The Honourable Deputy Minister of Health visits the IMR on 7 March 2017



YB Dato' Seri Dr Hilmi Haji Yahaya meets with some Heads of Centre and Unit at *Bilik Mesyuarat 2*, IMR.



YBTMK and Dr Mohd Khadri Sahar at the Insectarium, Medical Entomology Unit, IDRC.

YBTMK peers into a microscope at the *Wolbachia* Laboratory.



Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad explains an aspect of the *Wolbachia* Project while Dr Lee Han Lim looks on.



Dr Adiratna Mat Ripen describes aspects of her research to YBTMK at the AIRC laboratory.



Dr Too Chun Lai explains her research when YBTMK visits the AIRC while her colleagues and Dr Amal Nasir looks on.



YBTMK visits the IMR Herbal Garden and is briefed by Dr Ami Fazlin Syed Mohamed, Head of HMRC.

