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The important thing is to never stop questioning.

- Albert Einstein



IMR Director's Message

Salam Sejahtera! Salam Negaraku Malaysia!

We had an eventful gathering on 19 September 2017 with the IMR staff taking the 'bebas rasuah' oath led by Datin Sri Faizah, Deputy Director of IMR. This was followed by each of the Heads of Centre ceremoniously signing the pledge in the presence of a senior MACC official and myself that was witnessed by the IMR staff.

The number of visitors, both local and international, bears testimony to the fact that IMR has been benchmarked against biomedical research and knowledge development in the country. We must continue to strive to uphold IMR as a prestigious Institute as mandated by the Prime Minister when I took over the office of the Director. Here, I need to emphasise that the culture of penmanship needs to be instilled for although there are several publications by IMR researchers, it is imperative to increase our number of published articles in order to gain recognition by the international scientific community. As a way forward, we need to conduct research that is noble, able to be patented, marketable and commercialised. My hope and challenge is that the IMR shall aspire for the most prestigious of awards globally in our collective lifetime.



In order to keep pace with the fourth industrial revolution and the current surge in data driven technologies, IMR is paving its way into Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence to form a convergence in the digital and health space. IMR has taken the initiative to collaborate with ASEAN Data Analytics Exchange (ADAX) and the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) to create new pathways for biomedical researchers to embrace data science as well as to establish strategic partnerships to formulate novel approaches in machine learning capabilities in the biomedical sphere.

I am proud of the many achievements by the Institute and I am gratified by the number of accolades that have been won by our researchers. It is fulfilling for me to witness and be a part of each one's achievements. Well done!

Salam Negaraku Malaysia, Sehati Sejiwa.

Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin

Director

Institute for Medical Research (IMR)

Kuala Lumpur

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Advisor & Editor-in-chief
Dato' Dr Fadzilah Kamaludin

Editors
Dr Sumitra Sithamparam
Ms Vinomarlina Gunasagaran

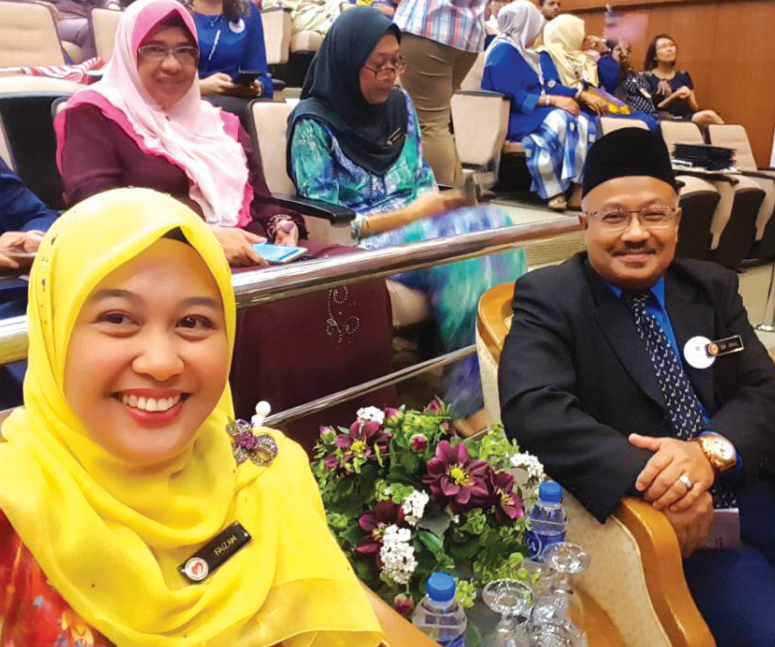
Contributors
Dr Rohani Ahmad
Dr Dhesi Baha Raja
IMR Staff

Editorial Support
Mr Mohd Izral Yahya Umpong
Ms Intan Noor Farhana Masni
Ms Salasiah Abdul Wahab
Ms Noraida Daud

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EDITORIAL TEAM



Dato' Dr Fadzilah, Datin Sri Faizah, Dr Amal and the Heads of Centre.



IMR Gathering (*Majlis Perhimpunan dan Amanat Pengarah*) on 19 September 2017

The IMR had its gathering on 19 September 2017 to mark the Malaysia Day celebrations. This was also the eve of the Awal Muharam festivities. This event, which was held at the Ungku Omar Auditorium, was organised by the Medical Research Resource Centre (MRRC).

A significant part of the programme was dedicated to the '**Corruption-Free**' (*Bebas Rasuah*) speeches by the IMR Director and the MACC Official, their video presentation, taking the oath led by the IMR Deputy Director and the pledge signing ceremony by all the Heads of Centre. There was a full attendance and the choir sang all the patriotic songs.



The IMR Staff gathered at the Dewan Ungku Omar Auditorium.





IMR Heads of Centre sign the '*Bebas Rasuah*' pledge.



Activities at the IMR SEAMEO-TROPMED Regional Centre for Microbiology, Parasitology and Entomology

Regular training courses are offered annually in: the Diploma in Applied Parasitology and Entomology (DAP&E) and the Diploma in Medical Microbiology (DMM).

The DMM 2017 course was conducted from 6 February to 7 July 2017. There were 12 participants from four countries: Thailand (1), Cambodia (1), Philippines (1) and nine Malaysians.



The DMM 2017 Convocation was held on 6 July 2017.



DMM 2017 students' at a practical class.



The DAP&E course is being conducted from 12 July to 15 December 2017 at the IMR. There were participants from four countries: Solomon Island (1), Myanmar (1), Philippines (1), Laos PDR (1) and Malaysia (4).



Classroom and practical activities are combined with field visits for the DAP&E students.



SEAMEO Centre Directors' Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, 27-28 July 2017.

SEAMEO Meetings

The role of SEAMEO-TROPMED is to promote health and to prevent or control diseases with a view to improving the living conditions of people in South and Southeast Asia through relevant programmes and services. Together with the two other Regional Centres in the NETWORK hosted by established academic and/or research institutions in the Philippines and Thailand, SEAMEO-TROPMED serves to facilitate the strengthening of national and institutional capabilities in research and human resource development through various training and postgraduate degree programmes, linkages, personnel exchanges, scientific forums, technical consultant services, publication and information dissemination. The SEAMEO-TROPMED Network aims to create healthy and enlightened citizens.



SEAMEO Governing Board Meeting in Manila, the Philippines, 7-8 September 2017.



Smart Partnership meeting between the IMR, Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) and ASEAN Data Analytics Exchange (ADAX) on 10 October 2017

Big Data and Artificial Intelligence is revolutionising the way we think, understand and treat diseases. Therefore, the IMR is moving towards the digital space by working closely with ADAX and MDEC. Two separate agendas were discussed during this meeting. The first was to identify biomedical research with “High Impact Use Cases” that could potentially impact the community while the second agenda was to develop interest among young researchers to embrace data science by creating training modules for young researchers. The ultimate aim is to build a unique relationship between IMR, MDEC and ADAX in converging biomedical and data science in line with the fourth industrial revolution.



Dato' Dr Fadzilah chaired the meeting between IMR, MDEC and ADAX.





BioMed Central (BMC) Ecology Image Competition

STINGLESS BEE. Stingless bees have become a new industry in Malaysia. Because of that, people had over collected the bees from the wild to domesticate it. This has become a major problem as stingless bees are an important pollinator, especially in the forest. To reduce the problem, conservation of the wild stingless bees is being carried out by educating people that only a few species can be domesticated. Study on how to conserve the domesticated stingless bees from pest and diseases was also carried out to sustain the industry for the long term.

Three (3) images were submitted by: **Rozilawati binti Harun**

Section: Conservation ecology and biodiversity research

Image Description for Pictures 1 and 2: Stingless bees *Heterotrigona itama* foraging for pollen.

Image Description for Picture 3: Fruit flies are one of the major pests in the agricultural sector in Malaysia.

Result: Although the judges much admired the pictures (and the story behind them), however none of the entries made it to the list of winners. But the first image of a stingless bee foraging for pollen was included among the Highly Commended images. This picture was included in the editorial that was published announcing the winners of the competition and shared with the world's media on 18 August 2017. <https://bmcecol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12898-017-0138-8>

