

## Welcome Address at the Opening Ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine, 19 July 2007, Raffles City Convention Centre, Singapore

Lai-Yun Ho,<sup>1</sup>*FAMS*

The Guest-of-Honour, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong,  
Mrs Lee,  
Mr Khaw Boon Wan, Minister for Health,  
Mr Heng Chee How, Minister of State for Health,  
Dr Lim Wee Kiak, MP Sembawang GRC,  
Professor K Satku, Director of Medical Services,  
Prof Dato Khalid Kadir, President of the Congress and  
Master, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia,  
Prof Grace Tang, President, Hong Kong Academy of  
Medicine,  
Presidents and Representatives, Overseas Academies and  
Colleges,  
Senior Fellow Academicians,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have great pleasure in welcoming all of you to the 41<sup>st</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine.

The Singapore-Malaysia/Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine is the most important annual event for the Academies of the two countries. It is also an “indexed” fixture on the international calendar of important medical meetings.

Over the years, it has become a symbol signifying the continuing cooperation of the two sister Academies, which share the same origin. It brings together academicians from our two countries to share new experiences and to renew the common historical bond that binds us.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine is particularly meaningful for our Academy as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary or Golden Jubilee of the foundation of the Academy in 1957. In fact, the date today, 19 July, coincides with the date of the first meeting of the 34 founding members of the Academy.

I would like to pay tribute to the leading role of the senior academicians whose passion and pioneering spirits have brought the Academy to what it is today. They have set very high and noble objectives for the Academy. It has to be so, as our profession has to distinguish ourselves eminently from the other professions and set even higher standards of professionalism and ethics in our practice and behaviour.

The challenge is for the current and future generations of academicians to work even harder towards realising the vision of the Academy and to protect its dignity. Our Academy is for us to cherish, to nurture, and to serve with a sense of mission for the profession.

We are also honoured to have the official participation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine in the Congress, as well as the presence of the Presidents and Representatives of many Sister Academies and Colleges from all over the world to join us in our celebration. Some of them come from places with a 12-hour time difference from us. Thank you.

We are most honoured and privileged to have our Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong accepting our conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore at this Ceremony. Someone from the Press asked me just now: Does it mean to say that he can start seeing patients? How to make an appointment and what will be the waiting time?

I remember a Chinese saying: “*A superior doctor is one who cures the nation of its ills and ensures the well-being of its people*”. Mr Lee is such a doctor.

This evening, we are also admitting about 100 new Fellows to the Academy. I would like to extend a very warm welcome and heartfelt congratulations to all of you. On your behalf, I would like to express the most sincere gratitude and appreciation to your families and loved ones for all the support they have given to you during this part of your long journey of medical practice.

The theme of the Congress is “*Redefining Gold Standards in Medicine: The Next Chapter*” I would like to thank Prof Fock Kwong Ming and all members of the Organising Committee for their hard work in putting together a very elaborate and intellectually stimulating programme for the Congress.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the sponsors for their continuing support.

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> Master, Academy of Medicine, Singapore