

SPEECH BY PROFESSOR TEO ENG KIONG, MASTER, ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE, AT THE INDUCTION COMITIA AND 25TH GORDON ARTHUR RANSOME ORATION, HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 4TH AMM-AMS-HKAM TRIPARTITE CONGRESS AND 55TH SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA CONGRESS OF MEDICINE, ON 23 JULY 2022, 6:00PM

Mdm Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore and Patron of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore;

Professor Dr Rosmawati Mohamed, Master of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia and President of the 55th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine;

Professor Gilberto Ka-kit Leung, President of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine;

Professor Joseph Sung, Dean of Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and 25th Gordon Arthur Ransome Orator;

Council Members;

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Good evening. On behalf of the Council, it gives me pleasure to welcome you to the Induction Comitia and the 25th Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration of the 4th Tripartite Congress of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong and 55th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine.

2. First, allow me to thank our Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob, for taking time off from her busy schedule to witness this important annual event of the Academy. I am delighted to announce that Mdm President will be conferred Honorary Fellowship this evening, the highest honour the Academy can bestow in recognition of her contribution to the nation and our people.

3. I would also like to thank all guests, participants and fellow academicians, including many who are tuning in via Zoom, for attending what is our first physical Comitia since 18 January 2020. Special appreciation to our overseas guests who travelled the extra mile to join us at short notice after the Comitia was converted into a hybrid event. Your presence is deeply appreciated.

CONGRATULATORY NOTE TO INDUCTEES AND GRADUATES

4. This evening, we will witness the induction of 105 new Fellows into the Academy. I extend a warm welcome to our new Fellow Academicians who are now part of us and will help carry on our mission of advancing the practice of medicine. By wearing the academic gown, you not only signify that you are prepared to be accountable for everything you do, but also demonstrate your dedication to stay true to the highest ideals of the medical profession. Your contributions are crucial in reinforcing high standards and making an impactful difference. In raising our collective voices, we can continue to value-add to academia and the medical community.

5. To our Staff Registrar Scheme and Diploma in Paediatric Nephrology graduates, I offer my heartiest congratulations.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ACADEMY

6. It is my pleasure to note that the Academy of Medicine, Singapore is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. From 34 members in 1957, the Academy has since grown to over 4,200 Fellows distributed across the full spectrum of medical and dental specialties, enabling the Academy to support improvements to the healthcare infrastructure. The Academy would urge Fellow Academicians to remain committed to three strategic priorities: 1) Strengthening advocacy to shape and influence healthcare policies; 2) Advancing professionalism and upholding competency standards; and 3) Enhancing self-governance and self-regulation.

STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY TO SHAPE AND INFLUENCE HEALTHCARE POLICIES

7. The future of health care relies on physicians, healthcare providers, policy makers and stakeholders building a shared understanding and bolstering collaborative efforts to address challenges. Through a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Health, Singapore, the Academy and its Colleges and Chapters provide a platform for the profession to voice views on handling COVID-19 as well as other pressing health concerns. This is further supported by requests for professional opinions from our Fellows on healthcare-related policies and multi-disciplinary topics, which the Academy receives from the Ministry and statutory boards on a regular basis.

ADVANCING PROFESSIONALISM AND UPHOLDING COMPETENCY STANDARDS THROUGH ACADEMIC ENDEAVOURS

8. Another way whereby the Academy advocates clinical standards and excellence is through academic endeavours via its official medical journal, the *Annals*.

Recently, the *Annals* registered an all-time high impact factor of 8.713 in the latest release of Journal Impact Factor 2021. It now ranks in the first quartile of all journals in the competitive Medicine (General and Internal) category, topping all Asian medical journals for the first time. Please continue supporting the *Annals*' good work, which will improve knowledge about disease treatment and management.

ENHANCING SELF-GOVERNANCE AND SELF-REGULATION

9. To effectively self-regulate, the medical profession must appreciate having professional autonomy. Latest amendments to the Medical Registration Act, developed by the Ministry of Health, Singapore Medical Council and stakeholders, ensure patients' interests are protected in the pursuit of best practices. However, there is no substitute for technical expertise in the regulation process. Doctors need to safeguard this privilege of self-governance by providing professional opinions and upholding the obligations of the profession. I urge Fellows to step forward, speak up and serve where needed.

4th TRIPARTITE CONGRESS & 55th SMCM 2022

10. At this juncture, I am delighted to report on the 4th Tripartite Congress and 55th Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine. The congress, which commenced yesterday and will conclude tomorrow, attracted close to 1,000 participants. On behalf of the AMS Council, let me express our thanks to Professor Dr Rosmawati Mohamed and Professor Gilberto Leung, for strengthening the partnership between the three Academies and gracing this occasion virtually. Through the joint organisation of the

Congress of Medicine, we combine our expertise to explore and develop academic and professional healthcare priorities.

11. This year's congress, we are also privileged to have Professor Joseph Sung deliver the Gordon Arthur Ransome Oration on the impact of Artificial Intelligence in medicine. This is timely given the digital healthcare revolution.

12. Also, kudos to the congress' Organising Committee, led by Co-Chairs Associate Professor Terence Kee and Dr Goh Yaw Chong, for putting together such an outstanding programme.

CONCLUSION

13. In closing, I would like to thank all again for gracing this occasion, and I wish everyone a pleasant evening.

[~950 words | Estimate read aloud time: 3.2 mins]