

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamualaikum w.b.t, Good Morning and Salam Sejahtera.

Prof Dr Mohamed Hatta Shaharom ,Dean, Faculty Of Medicine
Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Asmadi Yusof, Dean, Faculty Of Traditional And Complementary Medicine
Assoc Prof. Dr Basir Abidin, Director, Centre For Foundation In Science Studies
Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Ikram Mohd Salleh, coordinator for Disaster Relief Medicine (DRM),
distinguished guests, and CUCMS Students, class 2008.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to be here this morning to officiate today's event, Disaster Relief Medicine (DRM) Camp. I would also like to thank the organizer for inviting me to this wonderful occasion. I am happy to note that this is the 4th year of DRM camp been organized.

CUCMS was established in 2005 as a private university with a vision "to be a distinctive medical sciences institution of higher learning of international repute producing competent health care professionals". In conjunction with that, CUCMS injected DRM course into the curriculum syllabus for both Faculty, Medicine and Pharmacy. DRM course is a pre-clinical compulsory discipline that exposes and prepares the student to emergency and relief medical responses particular in disaster. The climax of the course is the 3 days 2 night outdoor retreat program. Objectives of DRM camp are:

- a) To design and setup a field hospital camp
- b) To perform disaster assessment, triage and mullage exercises
- c) To plan and undertake a community disaster preparedness and response exercises

The very first DRM camp was conducted in 2006 at Kem Alim, Banting for 71 MBBS students and 14 Pharmacy students with collaboration of HUKM team which lead by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ismail Saiboon. Thank you to HUKM team who are sharing the same passion with CUCMS and this collaboration continuously till today, the 4th DRM camp for class 2008, conducted here at Ulu Bendul Recreational Park.

Dear valued students,

This outdoor field exercise that we have now is to put knowledge into practice. A disaster scenario with mass casualties will be simulated followed by the responses that you will undertake to ensure delivery of emergency and humanitarian aid the professional way.

Managing disaster the 'right way' is something that we all want. However prevention is always better than cure, Even though we can't prevent disasters but identifying, reducing the risk and preparation is something that we can do.

- o According to the World Bank, 1 dollar spent on disaster risk reduction will save 7 dollars from disaster response and recovery.
- o It is estimated USD3.1b is spent in DRR in China in 1960 – 2000 but managed to prevent loss of USD12b from disasters.
- o In 1999, a cyclone (Fujita-Pearson scale of 5) in Bangladesh killed 139,000 people. Disaster preparedness and risk reduction (DRR) program implementation was done actively after that and in 2007 the Sidr cyclone (similar scale) hit Bangladesh but only killed 3,500 people.

Those are some of the studies done to show how important preparation is and this exercise that we did in CUCMS is geared towards it insyaallah.

Lastly, developing the 'soft skills' and psychomotor skills are also part of the training and undeniably important. There are other things that you will learn throughout this camp. You will learn about respect for the individual and to care for the well-being of others, the value of tolerance, but to celebrate diversity, you have to learn to listen to others, to value their opinions, and to work together in cooperation towards a common goal. In short, I think I can say that you have to learn to be a better person.

Above all, we have to learn that every person, regardless of their situation or circumstances, has something to offer to humanity. Every individual has the capacity for caring and the capacity for working in solidarity to alleviate human suffering and contribute to human dignity.

Before I conclude, I once again would like to congratulate and thank the organizers for inviting me as in ensuring this event is a success. It is indeed heart-warming to see that we as Malaysians, can come together and unite to work as teams and be a well balanced future doctors and pharmacist. InsyaAllah. I believe that this reflects well on the young adults of today, where the unity and the spirit of togetherness still live on for us as Malaysians. On this final note, I wish all the students the best in 3 days camp and hope that with the spirit of togetherness shown, we shall move forward in strengthening the unity and ties between our fellow CUCMS.

Sekian

Wabillahi taufiq Wal hidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.