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IMU holds health screenings

THE International Medical University (IMU), through its Student Services Department and the Student Representative Council, has always been actively involved in community projects since its inception in 1993. These activities reflect important aspects of the IMU institutional philosophy in producing health professionals who are caring and community oriented, practise professionalism and are ethical.

Under IMU's corporate social responsibility programme, the university has adopted three villages, Kampung Tekir in Labu, Negeri Sembilan, Kampung Simpang Enam in Batu Pahat, Johor and Kampung Ulu Serendah in Kuala Kubu Baru, Selangor.

Recently, on Dec 6, IMU organised a Health Screening and Gift of Sight at Kampung Ulu Serendah in Kuala Kubu Baru, in collaboration with Klinik Kesihatan Serendah and Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital to provide health-related counselling to the villagers. About 70

IMU students and staff participated in this project. A team from Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital was also there to provide eye check-ups.

The day was filled with interesting activities including health talks on HINI, dengue fever and HIV, BMI screening and nutrition counselling as well as paediatric and health screening for all the villagers. Approximately 73 adults and 60 children participated in the health screening project. In addition, a donation booth was set up to distribute donated items such as used clothes and bags to the villagers.

Another health screening project was held on Dec 19 and 20, in Kampung Simpang Enam, Rengit, Batu Pahat. A team from Klinik Pergigian Air Hitam was also there to provide dental screening. The opening ceremony was officiated by Dr Izzah Ahmad, deputy director of Hospital Batu Pahat and was attended by Tan Sri Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman, IMU president and IMU Clinical School dean Prof Datuk Dr S.T. Kew. Social events such as a football

match and cultural show were held in the evening. IMU students then stayed a night with their "keluarga angkat" (host family) in the village.

On the following day, there was a motivational talk for the village children. Telematches between the villagers and students were held after. The telematches proved to be a good way for the students to bond with their "keluarga angkat".

The Community Health Promotion projects in Batu Pahat have been important activities for the IMU Clinical School in Batu Pahat since Dec 2004. The project is organised by the IMU students in Semester 10 (senior clerkship) in collaboration with Hospital Batu Pahat, health clinics of the relevant districts and the local village organising committees. Besides offering a health service to the community, the project aims also to provide an educational experience to the senior students.

Community projects are essential as part of a student's studies in an institution of higher learning. This is

because such projects allow students to apply the lessons learnt to real-life situations and experiences. IMU is committed to play a part in improving the health profile and health awareness of the local population in the long term.

The IMU also offers undergraduate degree programmes in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, pharmaceutical chemistry, nursing, nursing science, nutrition and dietetics, psychology and biomedical science, medical biotechnology, chiropractic as well as postgraduate degrees by research (MSc and PhD) in Medical Sciences or Community Health. Credit transfer options to the University of Strathclyde, University of Newcastle, University of Queensland, and University of Otago are now available for pharmacy studies. Another transfer option with RMIT University is now available for the chiropractic programme.

□ For the latest details, log on to www.imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.



IMU students conducting the health screening in Kuala Kubu Baru.

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IMU students conducting the health checks in Batu Pahat.