

03/03/1999

Pahang's golden girl wins 19 medals for medical studies

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KUANTAN, Tues. - Storming the inner citadels of academia, Dr Chan Pek Lui lent Malaysians the honour and dignity we seek internationally.

She won 19 gold medals and became the first foreign student in India to achieve such a feat.

In the process, the 25-year-old Kuantan lass also lifted the M.S. Ramaiah Medical College to top honours at the 34th Annual Convocation of Bangalore University.

Among her numerous honours are the Bangalore gold medal at the 20th Joint Annual Conference of Physicians of India, the Sri S.L. Bhatia award and honours from the Mysore Medical Education Society, the 10th National Congress of India Association of Medical Microbiologists Award and the 20th Annual Conference of Physicians Prize.

Dr Chan, a Public Service Department-sponsored student, and currently a medical officer at the Tengku Ampuan Afzan Hospital, here, is also the first student in the country who has amassed that many accolades abroad.

For this feat, Dr Chan was honoured with a letter of appreciation and a gift from the Pahang State Foundation - a subsidiary of the State Government - which was presented by Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Hasan Arifin at Wisma Sri Pahang this morning.

For Dr Chan, such honours are not new.

She was one of the top students who scored 9As in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examinations in 1990.

But success has not affected her sense of humility in any way.

She said she did not expect to receive so many gold medals at the convocation ceremony which was held in Bangalore on Feb 22.

"All my prayers, hard work and sacrifices had finally paid off with this achievement," she said, adding that her motto was "when you want to do something, give it the best shot".

"Moreover, the responsibility that I had towards the country, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other leaders also motivated me," said Dr Chan, who is thinking of specialising in orthopaedics.

"As I was sponsored by the Malaysian Government, I had a great responsibility and I realised that I had to achieve something.

"It has been my childhood ambition to become a doctor, and now after I have done it I am very happy for myself and also for the country," she said.

Dr Chan, who was among the 150 Malaysian students sent to India by the PSD, is also well-versed in Kannada and French besides her mother tongue, English and Bahasa Malaysia.

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