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Affordable courses at Malacca Manipal Medical College

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MALAYSIANS can now further their studies in medicine at the prestigious Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), India, without having to spend a huge sum of money.

This is because MAHE, through a twinning agreement with JVMC Corporation Sdn Bhd in 1993, had paved the way for the setting up of the Malacca Manipal Medical College (MMMC).

With a history of more than 50 years in offering private medical education for students from India and all over the world, MAHE has also helped to produce more than 2,600 doctors for Malaysia, or about 22 per cent of those registered with the Malaysian Medical Council.

MMMC, which started operation in 1997, was officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 17.

By virtue of the setting up of the MMMC, students will now be able to save substantially as only the first 2 1/2 years of pre-clinical training will be conducted at the International Centre for Health Sciences in Manipal, India.

On completion of the pre-clinical training, they will then spend about three years of clinical teaching and training at the Malacca Hospital, Muar Hospital and Tangkak Hospital.

Built at an estimated cost of about RM50 million, the MMMC campus in Bukit Baru, Malacca, is equipped with modern and state-of-the-art facilities including lecture theatres, a central library, clinical skills laboratories, student centre, cafeteria, 400 hostel rooms and 42 faculty housing units.

MMMC is owned and managed by JVMC Sdn Bhd, which is an entity created following a joint venture with Yayasan Melaka Education, MEMG International and the late Datuk K. Pathmanaban as its partners.

The college presently has a current enrolment of over 700 students in both its Malacca and Manipal campuses, and has two intakes each year - in March and September.

While the majority of its students are Malaysians, there are also students of other nationalities including Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Maldives, United Arab Emirates, West Indies and the United States of America.

MAHE chancellor and president, Dr Ramdas Pai, said the inauguration of MMMC marks a milestone in the history and tradition of MAHE.

Paying tribute to Dr Mahathir, he said the successful Malaysian-Indian joint venture was due to Dr Mahathir's vision for greater South-South co-operation.

"Our commitment is to provide quality education but more importantly to maintain the high standards expected not only from the students but also from the academic teaching staff," he added.

Pai said MMMC also had plans to introduce dentistry, pharmacy and allied health courses like physiotherapy and occupational therapy in the near future.

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