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Irish medical college picks Malaysia as first overseas exam site

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland has selected Malaysia as its sole overseas regional centre to hold the clinical parts of the post-graduate medical examination.

The written and clinical parts of the Member of the Royal College of Physicians or Ireland (MRCPI) Part II written examinations will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital on July 18.

Three Malaysians - the consultant physician in the Pulmonary and Critical Care Department at Kuala Lumpur Hospital (KLH) Datuk Dr Jeyaindran Sinnadurai, former head of the Department of Neurology of KLH Datuk Dr Mohad Rani Jusoh and the head of Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, UKM Professor Dr Raymond Ali together with two representatives from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland will conduct the examinations.

Dr Jeyaindran, who is also the MRCPI examination co-ordinator, said the Part II clinical tests would be held from Nov 5 to 8 and the Part One examinations on Sept 24.

Malaysia has been selected to be the examination centre because of the facilities and the standard of service available at Kuala Lumpur Hospital, Dr Jeyaindran said.

"After assessing the level of post-graduate medical education in local medical schools and the fact that several of the local Fellows or the RCPI are actively involved in post-graduate medical education in Malaysia, RCPI has also agreed to exempt Malaysian doctors who hold the M.Med (Int Med) from part I of the MRCPI examinations.

"This recognition is indeed a reflection of the high standard of post-graduate medical education in the country," Dr Jeyaindran said.

Noting the increasing number of doctors from Asia and the Middle East sitting the examinations on annually, and after careful assessment of the standards or post-graduate medicine in Malaysia, RCPI picked Malaysia to be the first overseas centre to conduct the MRCPI part II exam.

"This is a great honour and recognition of the level of post-graduate medicine in Malaysia," said Dr Jeyaindran, an elected Fellow of the college and appointed regional adviser of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

"We have a wide variety of cases with good clinical service and the candidates will find it easy to communicate with the patients to record the patients' history for their case study," he added.

A total of 40 doctors including four Malaysians will be sitting the examination in the KL centre.

A majority of the candidates are from the Middle East as they found it easier to get Muslim food here and cheaper too in terms of lodging and transport compared to Ireland.

According to Dr Jeyaindran, a majority of the candidates have sought permission to do clinical attachment at the Kuala Lumpur Hospital as part of their preparations for the examination.

The MRCPI is a highly competitive examination with a less than 30 per cent passing rate.

"The part II examination is not only a test of a doctor's knowledge but of his clinical acumen and communication skills."

Dr Jeyaindran said the examination papers would be corrected locally but the results will be sent to Ireland to be assessed against the overall

result from the total pool of candidates who sat the examination in Ireland and here.

The RCPI examinations are conducted by fellows of the college.

Fellowship is conferred on doctors who have obtained the RCPI membership and have made significant contributions in the field of medicine, either locally or internationally.

Among the local Fellows of the RCPI are Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (conferred in 1991) and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Jeyanindran's father, the late Tan Sri Dr Sinnadurai, was the first Malaysian to be conferred a Fellow of the RCPI in 1964.

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