

MALAYSIAN OPHTHALMOLOGY SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

Dr Wan Azizah receives lifetime achievement award

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail has been awarded the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award in Ophthalmology.

The award was presented at the Malaysian Ophthalmology Scientific Congress here yesterday.

Dr Wan Azizah, who was the country's first female deputy prime minister, studied medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She graduated as a qualified ophthalmologist.

In her speech at the event, which was themed "United We Stand: One Vision for Malaysia", she said ophthalmologists were privileged to restore one of life's most precious gifts.

"We are able to see the faces of our loved ones, the beauty of our country and the hope of the future," said the Bandar Tun Razak

member of parliament and wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

She said the congress reflected the strength of collaboration and the significant impact that could be achieved when expertise and resources were brought together.

She said findings from the 2023 National Eye Survey indicated a significant reduction in cases of preventable blindness.

"The rate of blindness fell from 1.6 per cent to 0.8 per cent in the east coast states, and from 2.1 per cent to 0.6 per cent in Sarawak, reflecting a very encouraging achievement."

She said maintaining eye health in the country was a shared responsibility.

"Both public and private hospitals play an important role in



ensuring that quality eye care is accessible to all."

Dr Wan Azizah said she hoped the award would inspire everyone, particularly young doctors, to continue striving for personal

and professional growth.

"Let us seize the opportunity to learn from one another, build strong networks and inspire the next generation of ophthalmologists to achieve excellence."

Present were Health deputy director-general (research and technical support) Datuk Dr Nor Fariza Ngah and Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology president Dr Miswan Muiz Mahyudin.

Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail (second from right) accepting the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award in Ophthalmology presented by Malaysian Society of Ophthalmology president Dr Miswan Muiz Mahyudin (second from left) at the Malaysian Ophthalmology Scientific Congress in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them are ophthalmologists Dr Liza Sharmini Ahmad Tajudin (left) and Dr Jamalia Rahmat. NSTP PIC BY RAIHANA MANSOR