

SPEECH BY DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
HILTON HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR
THE OPENING 7TH ASEAN CONGRESS OF ANAESTHESIOLOGISTS
06 NOVEMBER 1991

Dr. Quintin J. Gomez, Patron, Confederation of Asean Societies of Anesthesiologists;
Dr. John S.M. Zorab, President, World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists;
Dr. A. S. Manavalan, President, Malaysia 7th Asean Congress of Anesthesiologists;
Dr. S. Jenagratnam, President, Malaysia Society of Anesthesiologists; Distinguished guest; Ladies and Gentlemen.

As this 7th ASEAN Congress brings together the anesthesiologists in the ASEAN region, I am happy to extend a warm welcome to all the delegates at this Congress. I also take this opportunity to welcome two very special persons - firstly, Prof Quentin Gomez the Patron of the Confederation of ASEAN Societies of Anesthesiologists or CASA who is also a past President of the World body or WFSA and secondly, Dr John Zorab the incumbent President of the WFSA i.e. The World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists. Their presence at this regional meeting elevates it considerably and I wish them and all the visitors a happy and enjoyable sojourn in Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. Malaysia has embarked on its drive towards industrialization. The target is to become a developed nation by the year 2020. To realize this target the delivery of health and medical care to the citizens of Malaysia must keep pace. I am confident that this Congress will contribute towards improving standards of practice in Anesthesiology Intensive care and allied disciplines in this part of the world and enable our practitioners to stand on par with colleagues in the developed countries of the world.

3. The anesthesiologists in ASEAN have set a fine example in being the first group among the medical specialists to be banded together as an ASEAN entity. This ASEAN Congress which is held once in every two years and rotated through the capitals of the ASEAN countries is an excellent way of promoting the ASEAN spirit of cooperation. I take this opportunity to commend the leaders of the profession for their initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. I am aware that the ASEAN Congress of Anesthesiologists has grown a lot since its beginning in 1979. It now attracts renowned speakers from all over the world. This development bodes well as I am sure our younger doctors who are aspiring to become specialists can now take advantage of these world leaders' visit to learn from them without having to leave the shores of Malaysia.

5. It is my earnest hope that the anesthesiologists practicing in the ASEAN region will continue in their commitment to serve the peoples of ASEAN well by maintaining the highest standards of practice through exchanges of know-ledge and experiences amongst themselves and with their colleagues worldwide.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. I wish to take this opportunity to wish all participants of this congress success in their deliberation. I now have much pleasure in declaring open this 7th Asean Congress of Anesthesiologists.

Thank you.