

**Message from the Director General of Health Malaysia  
for the Inaugural International Integrative Medicine Conference  
11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018**



The Ministry of Health Malaysia has been proactive in supporting Traditional and Complementary Medicine (TCM) as well as Integrative Medicine. The importance of TCM as part of our national health is embodied in the formulation of the National Traditional and Complementary Health Policy, culminating in the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Act 2016, which was gazetted recently. Both the Policy and the Act came about after almost two decades of planning and discussions, involving all stakeholders. With their implementation, it is hoped that TCM therapies will be appropriately regulated, and the public can avail of them safely and confidently. The stage is also set for these therapies to be better researched and promoted.

Several TCM therapies are offered at selected government hospitals to complement the medical services, and these have been well received by the patients. In fact, we are looking to expand the availability of these services to more hospitals due to their popularity.

Some methods have been practised together with the mainstream medical treatments with great success, offering certain advantages over conventional medicine alone. For example, acupuncture-assisted anaesthesia (AAA) has been practised in our hospitals for many years, and all our anaesthetists are encouraged to acquire this skill. Some major surgical procedures have been performed under AAA, and we expect more procedures will be done under this novel method which is an excellent example of Integrative Medicine in action.

In the past, TCM methods were primarily shunned as unscientific and unproven methods. Fortunately, some of these methods have since undergone sufficient research to be recognised as safe and effective, or at least possibly effective (requiring further studies to confirm). These methods can then be offered as adjuvant or additional therapy (to the mainstream medical treatments) to achieve better results altogether.

Integrative Medicine, which is the judicious combination of mainstream medicine and other therapies, should be adequately studied and the proven ones can be promoted for the benefit of all. The Ministry of Health supports every effort to improve the delivery of health to the people, including the promotion of Integrative Medicine.

I, therefore, congratulate the Association of Integrative Medicine Malaysia (AIMM) for taking this giant step of organising the Inaugural International Integrative Medicine Conference and wish them all the success, for this and many more conferences in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jhel'.

**Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah  
Director General of Health Malaysia**