

Opening of 10th Singapore-Malaysia Joint Meeting

Speech by: Mr Tan Geok Tian

Chairman, Singapore Eye Foundation

"The Chairman, Society of Ophthalmology, Malaysian Medical Association, Dr Pall Singh,
The Chairman, Society of Ophthalmology, Singapore Medical Association, Dr Peter Tseng,
Members of the Ophthalmological Societies
Trade Delegates and Friends,

Ophthalmology is a rapidly advancing discipline and I am sure all of you are proud to be associated with it.

There are, however, certain basic fundamentals that must not be overlooked in this rapid pack of advancement, with all the latest and most sophisticated equipment available. One must remember that your first priority is to the patient.

There is often the subconscious desire to utilize all the latest lasers and expensive equipment without first carefully considering if this will entail higher costs to the patient.

One must think carefully if some older but yet still effective form of treatment may be still suitable and cheaper for the patient.

There seems to be a tendency towards higher technology without first considering the cost effectiveness.

You have to continually bear this in mind as the patient believes that whatever treatment you offer is what you consider the best for him.

Although there may be a decline in the respect given to doctors nowadays, it cannot be denied that there are still people who completely put their trust in whatever their doctors tell them.

In your interest, it would be foolish to destroy this sacred trust.

It is not my desire to dampen your enthusiasm but may I just offer some advice that you put the patients' concern above everything else.

If you were to treat every patient as if he or she is your own father and mother, then I think no one can fault you.

As ophthalmologists you belong to a very respectable profession and the fact that you are present here today indicates your earnest desire to keep up to date with the latest information in ophthalmology so that you can give the very best treatment to your patients. May your efforts bring vision 20/20 to your respective communities.

I wish you all the best in this meeting and may this be a fruitful and enjoyable one.

I now have the honour and great pleasure to declare the 10th Singapore Malaysia Joint Meeting in Ophthalmology open"