

## **Keynote Address by President of ISPE Malaysia Affiliate to the Annual General Meeting, 23 March 2012**

Good morning everyone, and welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of ISPE Malaysia Affiliate. This is my first speech as the newly-appointed President of ISPE Malaysia. I am deeply honored and would like to thank everyone, especially the Steering Committee Members, for having the faith to elect me as the first President of ISPE Malaysia.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Members of the Steering Committee for ISPE Malaysia Affiliate. Without the dedication from these exceptional individuals, ISPE Malaysia Affiliate will not be established today.

I would like to start by reminiscing the adventures and the experiences that the Steering Committee Members went through over the past 12 months, in the journey of establishing ISPE Malaysia Affiliate. It all started in Q1 2011, when a few key individuals from the pharmaceutical industry decided to come together to form ISPE Malaysia.

Malaysia has long since been a leading producer of quality small molecule pharmaceuticals. Recent efforts by the government to position Malaysia as a regional center for the manufacturing of large molecule biopharmaceuticals are showing considerable promise. In order to ensure Malaysia's appeal as a center for research, development and manufacturing of therapeutic products continues to intensify, we realize that there is a need to nurture and develop locally based industry professionals in the pharmaceutical engineering field.

In the past, we Malaysians have been forced to travel to Singapore and other parts of the world in order to take part in ISPE organized events. This has proven cost prohibitive for many companies and has, in effect, acted as a limiting factor in the development of Malaysia's human capital in life sciences industry. The establishment of the ISPE Malaysia Affiliate will bring a significant increase in opportunities for the development of locally based industry professionals. It will provide a conduit to ISPE members throughout the world and a local center that is able to address the challenges facing the local needs of our growing industry. The ISPE Malaysia Affiliate is here for small, medium and multinational companies operating in the pharmaceuticals, healthcare, medical devices & related industries.

In line with this objective, a team of 15 individuals from Malaysia; representing the pharmaceuticals and healthcare industry, regulators, government agencies and academics formed a Steering Committee to formulate and implement the necessary steps to form a Malaysia Affiliate of the ISPE International. This eclectic and balanced combination of related

professions represents the full body of knowledge relevant to the industry and necessary for its innovative development.

As part of the Steering Committee, we can be very proud in saying, with just a handful of volunteers, we CAN make things happen! With the Steering Committee meeting up every 2 months, we manage to get things rolling and organize the 1<sup>st</sup> Inauguration Meeting of ISPE Malaysia Affiliate during the BioMalaysia Conference 2011 in KL Convention Centre on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. Besides that, ISPE Malaysia also managed to be part of the Healthcare Track for the last day of BioMalaysia Conference 2011, with 3 speakers presenting on various topics in Pharmaceutical Engineering.

But of course, the wheels do turn downwards at times. We faced some difficulties in obtaining the registration of our Society with the Malaysian RoS last year. Our initial submission was rejected due to some non-conformances to RoS requirements. The subsequent appeal to the Home Minister was finally approved with ISPE Malaysia registered successfully on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Moving forward, we have a full calendar of events and training lined up for our members in 2012. We trust you will find the presence of the ISPE in Malaysia will successfully create a platform whereby local and regional pharmaceutical manufacturers, suppliers, regulators, academics and students can meet to share their insights and learn from each other, with the aim of "Driving Excellence in the Manufacturing of Therapeutic Products in Malaysia". Together we can ensure the ISPE Malaysia Affiliate adopts the same spirited approach to learning and development. We hope you will take advantage of the tremendous knowledge base available to all ISPE members and use it along with the many networking, educational and training events offered by the society to enhance your technical development and expand your industry reach.

Through our ups and downs, we managed to register our society successfully in Malaysia, organize our first inauguration meeting and be part of the BioMalaysia conference, recruit new members from the industry as well as students, and many other feats. I am very proud of our achievements thus far, and we all look forward to more achievements in the future! I would like to call upon our new and existing members of ISPE in Malaysia, to come forward and volunteer to be part of the exciting Subcommittees that we have elected today.

On behalf of the Office Bearers and the Heads of Committees, I would like to thank everyone for coming today for our AGM, and hope that everyone can be a part of the ISPE events for 2012! Thank you.