

**A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN LAHAD DATU, SABAH,
EXCELLENT COLLABORATION BETWEEN COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS OF ACADEMY OF
MEDICINE OF MALAYSIA, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND ROTARY CLUB**

Kuala Lumpur, 5th April 2024 - The College of Ophthalmologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (COAMM) in collaboration with the Rotary Club, Sabah, has furthered its partnership with the Ministry of Health of Malaysia, working closely with Hospital Lahad Datu, Sabah, as the coordinating entity for the Community Engagement Cataract Carnival. This initiative aims to offer free intraocular lens implants to less privileged individuals in the community, while also addressing the issue of prolonged waiting time for cataract surgery.

The Community Engagement Project took place with great success from 8th to 10th March 2024 at Hospital Lahad Datu, Sabah. COAMM received a generous contribution of 80 intraocular lenses (IOLs) from leading industries (i.e. 20 IOLs from Carl Zeiss Sdn Bhd, 20 IOLs from Orbit Medica Sdn Bhd, and 40 IOLs from Johnson & Johnson Sdn Bhd). This collective effort enabled 80 patients to undergo successful cataract surgeries. The dedicated team involved in this endeavor was led by Dr Chiang Wai Seng, Head, Department of Ophthalmology, Hospital Sandakan with team of ophthalmologists, medical officers and paramedics from Hospital Lahad Datu, Hospital Sandakan, Hospital Tawau, Hospital Miri, private ophthalmologists and the COAMM.

Additionally, as part of their commitment to supporting community engagement activities, the COAMM graciously presented 2 sets of cataract surgery instruments to Hospital Lahad Datu Director, Dr. Andi Md Shamsureezal bin Dato' Mohd Sainal. This thoughtful gesture, made possible by contributions from COAMM members, serves as a tangible expression of their dedication to enhancing the hospital's capacity for providing essential eye care services.

Building upon the success of the event, the COAMM has made the decision to plan Community Engagement Programme twice annually. This commitment reflects COAMM'S decision to ensure ongoing access to vital eye care services for the community in Lahad Datu.



Group photos involving the patients at post operative Day 1



Dr Fazilawati A. Qamaruddin, representing COAMM presented two sets of cataract surgery instruments as a gift to Hospital Lahad Datu. The instruments were handed to the Hospital Director, Dr Andi Md Shamsureezal bin Dato' bin Dato' Mohd Sainal.



Staffs involved in the program from Hospital Lahad Datu, Hospital Tawau, Hospital Duchess of Kent, Tawau