

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

## **MERCY MALAYSIA TO HOST FOURTH SULTAN NAZRIN SHAH LECTURE SERIES 2016**

### **Discussion to raise public awareness on global migration and displacement crisis**

**Kuala Lumpur, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016** – MERCY Malaysia will be holding its fourth Sultan Nazrin Shah Lecture Series on “*Migration, Displacement and the Age of Humanitarian Crisis*” on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 at Sunway University. The lecture series, which was started in 2012 and named after the organisation’s Patron, aims to raise awareness among the general public on humanitarian issues as well as initiatives undertaken by various bodies for the common goal of alleviating human suffering.

This year’s lecture series will address one of the world’s current, biggest humanitarian crises – forced displacement, refugees, and migration. Protracted and recurrent conflicts, such as those occurring in Syria and Yemen in recent years have resulted in an increase in vulnerable communities made up of affected people who have fled in search of safety within their own countries, or to cross international borders as refugees.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Global Trends report, 65.3 million people, or one in every 113 people across the world were forcibly displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution in 2015. The rate at which people are fleeing war and persecution has also soared from six per minute in 2005 to 24 per minute in 2015.

“Of late, the number of global forced displacement has escalated and hit a record high. This phenomenon is a tragic representation of immense human suffering, as affected communities spanning both the young and old, are forced to flee from their homes to escape the horrors of war, violence, and persecution,” said MERCY Malaysia President, Dato’ Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus.

“At MERCY Malaysia, we have continuously provided humanitarian aid to these vulnerable communities over the years. Through the Sultan Nazrin Shah Lecture Series, we hope to go beyond knowledge sharing and shedding light on this issue, but also strengthen our humanitarian efforts by engaging and networking with existing and potential partners for future collaborations which will further expand our presence and operations,” he added.

The lecture series will be graced by the Sultan of Perak, His Royal Highness Sultan Dr Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah. The keynote speaker for this year’s lecture series is Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration, who will be speaking on the topic of “*Migration, Displacement and the Age of Humanitarian Crisis*”.

“It is our hope that the lecture series will be able to serve as a platform to spark debate as well as the exchange of ideas and solutions regarding global migration and displacement. With that, greater awareness and understanding on this issue



can be created among local and international NGOs and institutions, government bodies, embassy officials, corporate partners as well as individuals,” said Dato’ Dr Ahmad Faizal.

“We are pleased to partner with MERCY Malaysia in hosting this year’s edition of the Sultan Nazrin Shah Lecture Series. This is in line with Sunway Education Group’s efforts in empowering youths through education that includes and extends beyond academics. We believe that this event will not only help to broaden the horizons of our younger generation, but also help them to better understand the global issues we face, and be inspired to take action and make the world a better place,” shared Sunway Education Group and Sunway University Senior Executive Director, Dr Elizabeth Lee, who also serves on the Board of Trustees of MERCY Malaysia.

Participation fees for the lecture series is priced as follows:

Category	Fee
Students/Local NGO	RM 50
Government	RM 150
Corporate	RM 250
International NGO	RM 300
Individual	RM 100
MERCY Malaysia volunteers	RM 50

The registration deadline for the lecture series is on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016. To register, please log on to [www.mercy.org.my](http://www.mercy.org.my) or contact Communications Officer, Jillian Louis at [jillian@mercy.org.my](mailto:jillian@mercy.org.my)

**Issued by Weber Shandwick\* on behalf of MERCY Malaysia.**

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\*MERCY Malaysia is grateful for the pro-bono public relations services provided by Weber Shandwick Malaysia.

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#### **About MERCY Malaysia**

MERCY Malaysia is a non-profit organisation focusing on providing medical relief, sustainable health-related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations. MERCY Malaysia recognises the value of working with partners and volunteers as well as providing opportunities for individuals to serve with professionalism. We uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and hold ourselves accountable to our donors and beneficiaries. As a non-profit organisation, MERCY Malaysia relies solely on funding and donations from organisations and generous individuals to continue our services to provide humanitarian assistance to our beneficiaries. For more information, please visit [www.mercy.org.my](http://www.mercy.org.my).



#### **How is MERCY Malaysia funded?**

To ensure independence and impartiality, MERCY Malaysia relies on donations from the general public for financial support. A portion of our income is obtained from institutional donors, individual government grants and other international organizations, which are given on project basis. MERCY Malaysia spends 80% of its income in carrying out its relief operations and support.

#### **Important Note to Media: Usage of Wordmark MERCY Malaysia**

In order to avoid confusion with other organisation(s) that uses "Mercy" as the organisation's name or part of the organisation's name, please take note that in addressing the name of our organisation, the wordmark for MERCY Malaysia is with capitalised "MERCY", followed by the word "Malaysia". When describing the organisation, the term "MERCY Malaysia" must always be used in full, and should not be partially referred to as "MERCY", or "Mercy". Thank you for your cooperation.

