

A tribute to

An extraordinary visionary global leader of our time

YABhg Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad

Fourth Prime Minister of Malaysia

**LIMKOKWING
UNIVERSITY**
OF CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

8 June 2009



Conferment

HONORARY DOCTORATE OF HUMANITY

upon

YABhg Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad

Citation

A man who inspired generations of people in Malaysia and across the developing world

The future of a nation and the progress of its people are hinged on the wisdom of those who have control of its destiny. Malaysia has been fortunate. Wise men have ruled since it gained independence in 1957 weaving policies that united a diverse population and evolved the country into a respected member of the global family of free nations.

But of these men, one stands out for the transformation he mapped through clear vision and pragmatic implementation, that not only inspired a whole generation to surge forward, but also gave direction to other nations struggling in a world dominated by giant economies.

A man of extraordinary personality imbued with a fearless spirit and incisive, analytical mind

Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister – Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad – a most extraordinary personality well-known for his sharp wit, fearless spirit and the uncanny ability to discern the future. He remains the only leader able to reach across borders to inspire other leaders, especially in the developing world, with his analytical mind and incisive solutions to complex issues.

For Malaysia, he charted a safe passage through both calm and turbulent waters for 22 years, a period that covered half of its life as a sovereign nation.

He presided, in much the same way as a father would, as head of a family. Admonishing, safeguarding, protecting and encouraging as he built the nation.

His imprint can be seen on the landscape of the country, and felt through the inner confidence of an energized generation facing the challenges of the 21st century.

Although he retired in 2003, his voice is still heard through cyberspace, and across the world, using the power of words to bring a semblance of sense into a conflict-driven world.

A man who re-designed a nation through meticulous preparation of both people and land

In the 22 years that he governed, he introduced landmark policies that re-designed the infrastructure, and re-engineered the performance of the Malaysian economy. He was impatient for the country to advance. He wanted it to stand shoulder to shoulder with the advanced nations. He plotted and he planned the way forward.

He was disciplined in execution and meticulous in preparation – no task was impossible for him. It was simply a matter of greater effort. With each success he grew confident, and therefore, more ambitious.

He weaned the country from total dependence on raw commodities to venture successfully into value-added exports through technology-based industrialization and manufacturing. It was during his tenure that the fast-evolving and fast-rising Malaysian economy was often referred to as a miracle development.

He left no sector unattended as he strategized to move them all up the value chain. Gradually the country changed like a caterpillar metamorphosing into a butterfly, it spread its wings and revealed its beauty.

He was innovative, he was fearless, but at the same time he was practical. While seeking transfer of knowledge from advanced countries, he also knew Malaysians had to be ready to accept the knowledge and use the technology.

A man who built Malaysian confidence, evoking passion for origination

He nurtured Malaysian capability, building confidence in automotive engineering, robotics, satellite communications, aerospace technology, microelectronics and information technology, among others.

He recognized the pivotal role of education in converting Malaysians from being passive consumers of discoveries and inventions, to becoming active participants of design and origination.

He was particularly keen to see greater bumiputera participation in entrepreneurial activities. Through his active encouragement he increased the number of bumiputera professionals in medicine, law, engineering, architecture and science.

He engineered the establishment of Malaysia's first international university which allowed the use of English as the main medium of instruction. This expedited the export of education in the post 1997 Financial Crisis period when the Private Higher Education Institute Act 1996 was amended to strengthen private sector delivery.

As a result, Malaysia today has become a popular hub for global education with an increasing number of students from all corners of the world.

That Malaysia has made a leap into a new future, its landscape dotted with ground-breaking development is largely due to Tun Dr Mahathir's ability to manage mammoth tasks taking them from conceptualisation to completion.

From building the world's tallest buildings, hosting the first Commonwealth Games by an Asian country, introducing the world's first electronic government to designing a futuristic city, he has proven to Malaysians and the world that we can be as good as the best.

A man who became the inspiration and the voice of the developing world

A fearless, outspoken leader he captured the imagination of the developing world that responded to his innovative ideas with enthusiasm. They found the Vision that he created to migrate Malaysia into the 21st century as an excellent model for their own countries to move their economies to the next level.

Malaysia served as an ideal role model because it provided the bridge to new development in a way that the more advanced countries could not. Malaysia's model included economic

as well as social engineering building blocks for developing countries to overcome inherent weaknesses in their economies and social systems.

From then till now, Tun Dr Mahathir is seen as the voice that speaks for the developing world, a voice that can be unrelenting in its criticism of unfair practices by wealthy nations that impoverish countries struggling to build their economies.

A man intent on criminalizing war and promoting global peace

He has never stopped his endeavours to prevent nuclear proliferation and continues to travel the world to promote peace. His Perdana Global Peace Organisation continues to organize events to create a groundswell of support to make war a criminal act.

He is also greatly concerned about the growing socio-economic and digital divide between the West and the Muslim world and seeks to close the gap through mutual understanding.

A man whose greatest legacy is in building people, creating new generations of thinkers and doers

The name Mahathir for many conjures up images of impossible tasks made possible by the dynamism of his leadership. But far greater than the physical testimony of his guidance is the revolution he has begun in the hearts and the psyche of people, especially the leaders of the developing world to be fearless and confident that they can achieve anything they set their minds to.

For the remarkable legacy he leaves behind, and the inspiration that has motivated us to globalise, the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology Worldwide is both privileged and honoured to bestow upon YABhg Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad this Honorary Doctorate of Humanity.

