



MERDEKA
AWARD

2022

**Fostering a Culture
of Excellence**

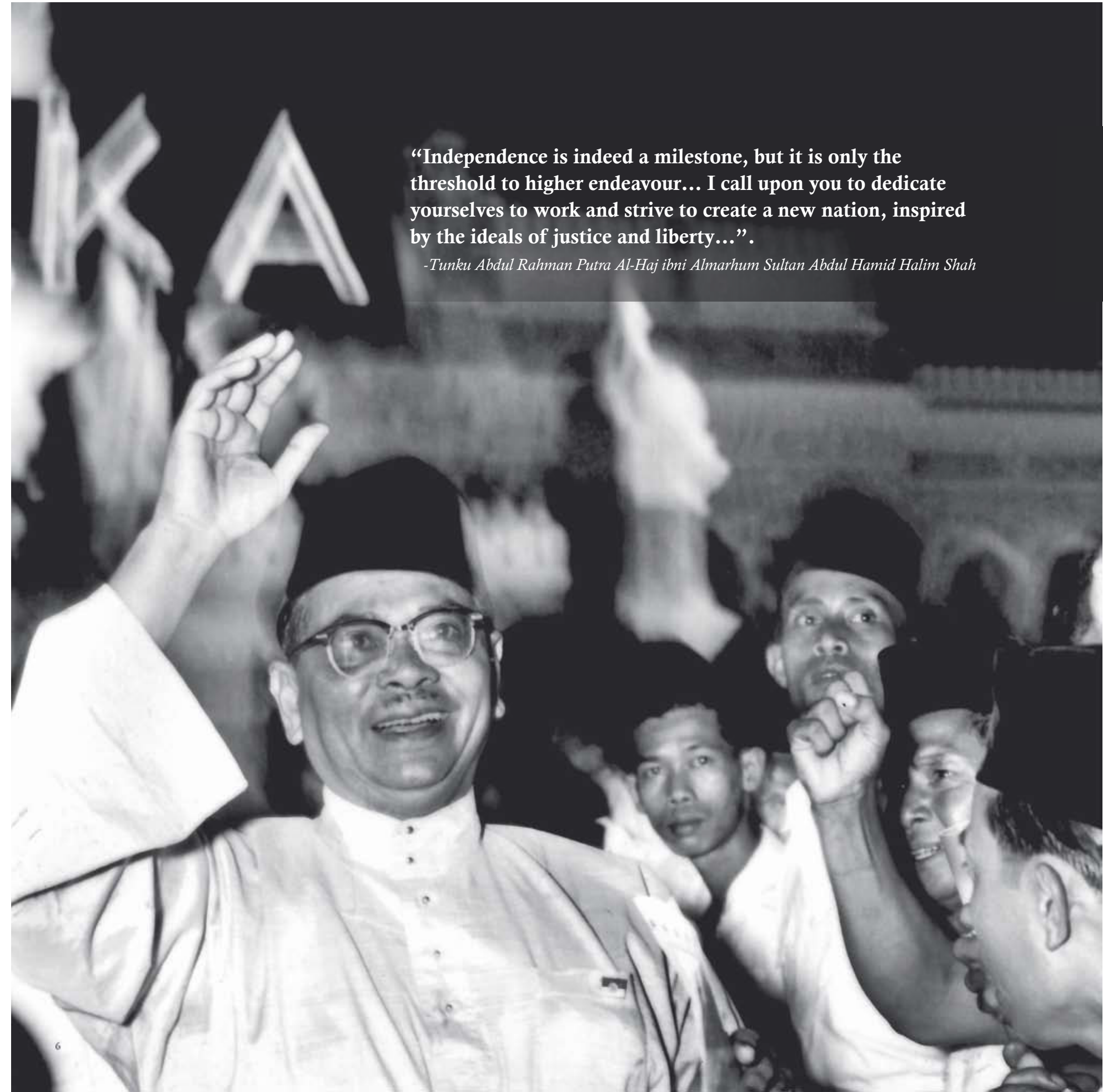
MERDEKA AWARD 2022



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“Independence is indeed a milestone, but it is only the threshold to higher endeavour... I call upon you to dedicate yourselves to work and strive to create a new nation, inspired by the ideals of justice and liberty...”.

-Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah





HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
SULTAN NAZRIN MUIZZUDDIN SHAH
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN AZLAN
MUhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah
D.K., D.K.S.A., D.K.A., D.M.N., D.K.(Kelantan), D.K.(Selangor), D.K.N.S., D.K.(Perlis), D.K.(Kedah), Ph.D (Harvard)

The Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan
Royal Patron And Chairman of The Merdeka Award Trust

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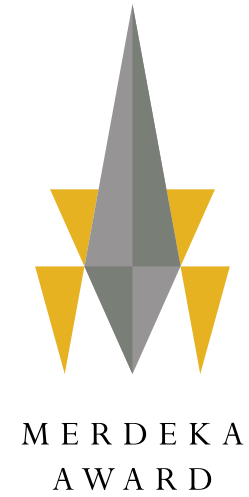
YEARS OF

*Fostering a Culture
of Excellence*

To commemorate the 15th year anniversary of Merdeka Award Trust, a logo, specifically for the commemoration was created to identify it as an important milestone for the Trust.

The logo was created with detail and much meaning to the Trust itself:

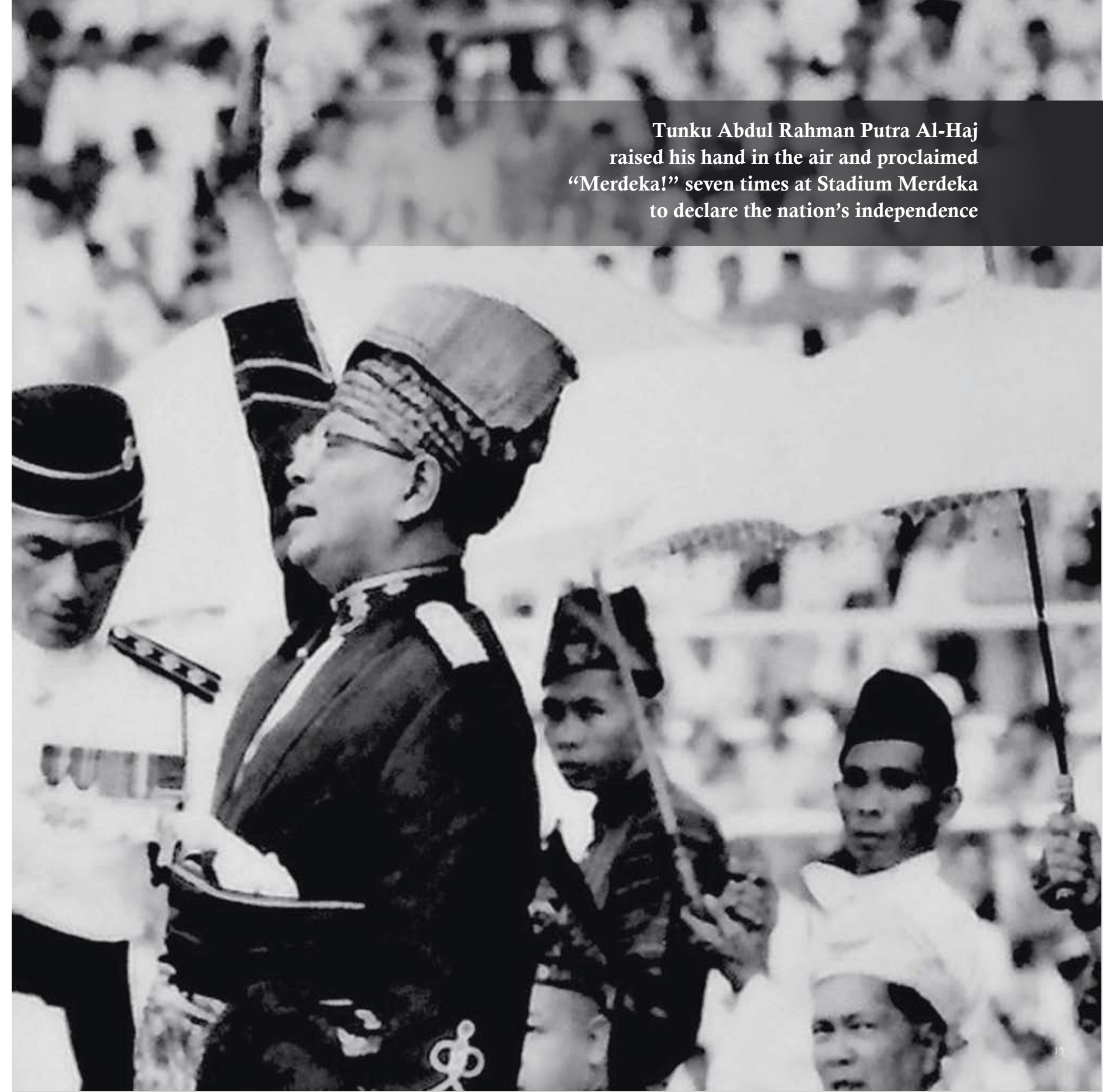
- **Gold colour** symbolises prestige and excellence and is similar to the Merdeka Award's logo colour.
- The **number 15** is enhanced with a reflective diamond effect similar to the Merdeka Award's logo.



Celebrating the Heroes Among Us for the past 15 years.

The Merdeka Award is presented to honour individuals and organisations that have contributed in an exceptional way to the people of Malaysia. This Award celebrates the human potential and its ability to achieve excellence by realising the highest goals with breakthrough ideas, and the perseverance to stay with the task to its fulfilment and achievements. It is this exceptional spirit that inspires people and organisations to produce consistently brilliant work over a period of time. The Merdeka Award Trust, now in its 15th year, will continue to foster a culture of excellence, promote thought leadership and innovation, encourage a world view, thereby enhancing Malaysia's standing as a dynamic, competitive 21st Century Global Player in all key sectors from science and technology to the arts.

Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj
raised his hand in the air and proclaimed
“Merdeka!” seven times at Stadium Merdeka
to declare the nation's independence





Making Our Mark

The Merdeka Award is named in acknowledgement of the liberation of mind and spirit that enabled Malaysia to gain independence. It is this sense of belief that anything is possible coupled by hard work and the perseverance to make a difference, that leads to breakthroughs. The Award recognises and rewards outstanding individuals and organisations; whose work have impacted the lives of Malaysians and non-Malaysians in their fields of science, technology, humanities and the arts.

Nomination and Selection

The nomination and selection of Merdeka Award recipients are administered by five Nomination Committees and one Selection Committee. These committees go through a long and rigorous selection process that reflect the high ideals of the Merdeka Award.

The committee members are made up of eminent individuals from Malaysia and abroad, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise to allow them to nominate and select outstanding individuals and organisations who have laboured tirelessly, with great sincerity and conviction for the good of this country and its people.

Each year, the committee members will deliberate, examine the merits and finer qualities of each individual or organisation's nomination, and in the end, identify those who have stood above and beyond the rest, in their embodiment of the Merdeka spirit.

Selection Committee



YAM Tengku Datin Paduka Setia Zata Shah
Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah



Professor Emerita
Datuk Dr Asma Ismail



Dato' Hamidah Naziadin



Professor Datin Paduka
Dr Khatijah Mohamad Yusoff



Dato' Ng Wan Peng

Nomination Committees

Education and Community



Datuk Rashidi Hasbullah



Dato' Tharuma Rajah



Datin Paduka
Ir Dr Siti Hamisah Bt Tapsir



Dina Zaman



YM Raja Datin Riza Shazmin
Raja Badrul Shah

Environment



Dato' Seri Tengku
Dr Zainal Adlin



Prof Dato' Dr Mazlin
Mokhtar



Dr Yasmin Rasyid

Health, Science and Technology



Dato' Norhalim Yunus



Prof Dr Abhimanyu
Veerakumarasivam



Datuk Dr Beatrice Ming
Baikan @ Berniedetta

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement



Distinguished Prof Dato'
Dr Rajah Rasiah



Prof Ir Dr Abdul Latif
Ahmad



Prof Dr Noorsaadah
Abd Rahman

Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia



Dr Farish (Badrol Hisham)
Ahmad-Noor



Dr Marcella Lucas



Caroline Christine
Russell



The Merdeka Award encompasses excellence in the broadest sense, and the categorisation acknowledges the collective good that stems from the goal of doing one’s best.

Award Categories

Education and Community

Awarded to individuals and/or organisations to honour exceptional thinking and the educational infrastructure of Malaysia in elevating the level of education and in benefiting the marginalised.

Environment

Awarded to individuals and/or organisations to honour the development, research and application of new technology and practices in renewing and protecting the environment.

Health, Science and Technology

Awarded to individuals and/or organisations to honour the creation, development, support and application of new and innovative technology that improves the lives of people everywhere.

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement

Awarded to a scholar conducting or playing a major role in academic research resulting in significant discovery.

Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia

Awarded to a citizen of any nationality and/or foreign organisation to honour substantial contribution to Malaysia or to the lives of Malaysians

Anugerah Harapan Merdeka (New Category)

Anugerah Harapan Merdeka is a new category introduced in 2022 aimed at rewarding aspiring and promising young Malaysian individuals aged 40 years old and below or organisations below 10 years of inception in three selected disciplines – Education and Community, Environment, and Health, Science and Technology. The recipients of this category should make a significant, and meaningful contribution whether in the field of Education and Community, Environment, and Health, Science and Technology that benefits or improves the lives of Malaysians or the Malaysian society.



Recipients 2022



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CATEGORY **Teach For Malaysia**

For its outstanding contribution to ensure high-quality education in government schools for rural and underprivileged communities.



ENVIRONMENT CATEGORY **Global Environment Centre**

For its pioneering work in the conservation and protection of Malaysia's environment and natural resources.



HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY **Dato' Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman**

For her outstanding contribution in leading the mitigation of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS in Malaysia



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORY **Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Siti Zuraina binti Abdul Majid, FASc**

For her pioneering work in the field of Malaysian archaeology and as the first Malaysian archaeologist.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA CATEGORY **Dato' Dr Annabel Teh Gallop**

For her outstanding contribution to the preservation of ancient Malay letters and manuscripts.



ANUGERAH HARAPAN MERDEKA **Samuel Isaiah**

For his outstanding contribution towards improving the standard of education for the Orang Asli children in Malaysia.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

Awarded to individuals and/or organisations to honour exceptional thinking and research in strengthening the educational infrastructure of Malaysia, in elevating the level of education and in benefiting the marginalised.



Teach For Malaysia

“Recognising that socioeconomic background affects the opportunity for a child to access quality education, Teach For Malaysia believes that a child’s education and future should not be determined by his or her circumstances in life.”

Teach For Malaysia (TFM) is a proud member of the Teach For All global education network, which brings together education organisations from over 60 nations. Since 2012, the initiatives they have conducted were for the better good of today – and they do bear fruit. As of July 2022, TFM amazingly has influenced 330,285 students over the past decade through collaborations with 893 schools and 131 student-led initiatives with 34,676 beneficiaries.

Identifying themselves as changemakers of today's society, Teach For Malaysia strives to lead a life of impact by mobilising a movement of leaders committed to ending educational inequity. Established in 2010, Teach For Malaysia is a non-governmental organisation that recruits excellent Malaysians into the Fellowship, a two-year leadership programme to make an immediate difference in high-need public schools around the country.



“We believe that everyone in society contributes to education. So, if we all harness our collective leadership, we can truly see the kind of education system that we want to have for all of our students.”

- CEO of Teach For Malaysia, Chan Soon Seng



TFM Alumni from various cohorts

The very reason behind their inception is thanks to the vision held by their two co-founders Keeran Sivarajah and Dzameer Dzulkifli. Today, CEO, Chan Soon Seng continues to lead the organisation in its mission of building a movement of leaders in the education ecosystem to empower all children in Malaysia to realise their potential. He was deeply impacted by the difficulties experienced by students growing up in low-income communities. Rather than a lack of ability, it was the lack of resources as well as opportunities that kept these students from reaching their potential.

Teach For Malaysia partners with the Ministry of Education, schools and communities to improve immediate student, community, and system outcomes, and these public-private partnerships allowed the organisation to scale their impact. Through its flagship Fellowship Programme, individuals

with the most promising competencies and skill sets are recruited to be placed in some of the most demanding schools that serve low-income areas (<RM3,000 monthly household income).

To date, they have recruited 474 Fellows and Alumni for the Teach For Malaysia Fellowship, with 31 per cent of Fellows graduating from one of the top 100 universities in the world according to the QS World University Rankings (Harvard University, University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, and so on), while 33 per cent came from the private sector (IBM, Shell, KPMG, Maybank, etc.).

Their two-year experiential leadership programme, much like a demanding management trainee programme or a selective MBA programme, aims to prepare a small group of devoted citizens to be long-term catalysts of education reform.



Chan Soon Seng, back in 2012 as a Fellow



Teach For Malaysia’s Student Vision: A Malaysia where all children are empowered to be leaders of their own learning, their future and the future of Malaysia



2018 Fellow, Lalitha Ambighai
AP Ganesan

In 2019, TFM expanded its their work to also coach 572 in-service public school teachers through Program Duta Guru (PDG), a collaboration between Yayasan PETRONAS and the Ministry of Education, through Pusat STEM Negara. PDG is a nationwide two-year industry-linked programme with the objective to empower STEM teachers serving in high-need schools. So far, 88 per cent of principals recognise that Program Duta Guru teachers have brought a positive impact among other teachers.

The organisation realises that it is only through collective efforts that education inequity will end. Hence, TFM collaborates with public and private

“Ensuring resilience in the education system to constantly support the students is more important than ever”

sector partners like YTL Foundation, Yayasan PETRONAS, CIMB Foundation, Yayasan Hartalega etc. to create impactful programmes that can further transform the education system. For instance, the Student Leadership Camp (SLC) in collaboration with Accenture. SLC is an annual social innovation programme co-hosted by Accenture in which students will collaborate in groups with Accenture personnel to design and pitch solutions to address local community issues. Then, selected student teams receive funds to carry out the initiatives they proposed in their respective schools. This is only one of their many initiatives that are focused on student development.

Apart from the 38 per cent academic growth rate for students taught by Fellows (in comparison to the average growth rate in schools), TFM is now seeing students receive university scholarships, win competitions to visit the Silicon Valley, and even inspire and star in an award-winning local film, Adiwiraku (based on the true story of 2013 Fellow, Cheryl Ann Fernando and her students).

In addition to their core programmes, they have been focused on the 2023 Education Recovery Strategy in



response to the pandemic, to address the immediate needs and deliver strategic interventions that can support students from high-need schools. The COVID-19 outbreak was a perfect example of why the system needs to be rock solid to ensure education does not get limited or abandoned.

At the start of the pandemic, only 30 per cent of students taught by Fellows were able to participate in online learning. However, TFM was able to double this number by using a broad range of distance learning methodologies. New programmes such as the TFM Tutoring Programme, which hires Volunteer Tutors for high-need schools and Learning Boxes, which are learning tools for limited or no bandwidth environments, were also introduced. At the same time, TFM’s Alumni organisations collaborated and played

Adiwiraku is an independent local film inspired by Teach For Malaysia Alumni, Cheryl Ann Fernando. It tells the joys and struggles of our Fellows who led their students to participate in a district level choral speaking competition. This heartwarming movie stars Sangeeta Krishasamy, Xavier Fong, Wan Azlyn and actual students from SMK Pinang Tunggal, Kedah.

a leading role in ensuring that children and teachers nationwide are supported with online tools and resources. This resulted in the development of curriculum-aligned online courses for Learn From Home, made available on YTL Foundation’s website and the FrogPlay mobile app and the Distance Learning Website which provides resources for school leaders, teachers, parents, and students.

At the same time, TFM’s Alumni organisations collaborated and played a leading role in education recovery initiatives such as the development of curriculum-aligned online courses for YTL Foundation’s Learn From Home and the Distance Learning Website which provides resources for school leaders, teachers, parents, and students.

There are many factors that influence the outcomes of a child’s education, beyond the influence of a teacher and school. After the Fellowship, Teach For Malaysia Alumni progress to positions of leadership across various levels of the education ecosystem in order to effect long-term, systemic change. 72 percent of Alumni are actively involved in the broader education sector and 12 social impact organisations were founded and led by Alumni. Pemimpin



In collaboration with their corporate partners, The Learning Box—a self-directed learning resource box was created, containing engaging activities and materials that helped students to continue learning in limited or zero bandwidth environments.

GSL focuses on developing school leaders; Edvolution Enterprise builds system leadership capacity; Closing The Gap, Project ID, and Impian Kencana empower B40 students to pursue their academic and career aspirations. TFM’s work continues with the hope that one day, all Malaysian children will be able to realise their potential through quality education.

ENVIRONMENT

Awarded to individuals and/or organisations to honour the development, research and application of new technology and practices in renewing and protecting the environment.



**Global
Environment
Centre**

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Global Environment Centre

“Growing stronger and reaching further, working strategically with the governments, NGOs, corporate partners and local communities for the betterment of our environment.”



Since its inception in 1998, the Global Environment Centre (GEC) has been collaborating strategically with like-minded organisations to address environmental problems of international significance. GEC focuses on biodiversity, water resources, agriculture, forestry, and the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Assessments on peatlands and climate change, sustainable agriculture, forestry, plantation and river management, disaster risk management, decreasing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), as well as community-based forest conservation and restoration, are all areas in which they are actively involved.

The River Care Programme is being implemented by GEC as a leader in the field. To help the community, government, and the private sector to properly manage and maintain rivers, six different environmental education programmes have been developed. GEC



GEC's leadership comprises GEC's Advisory Council, Management Board and Management Team

has also undertaken river clean-up and rehabilitation in 27 river basins.

More than 400,000 mangrove trees have already been planted in partnership with local communities (Friends of Mangrove) on more than 130 hectares of degraded mangrove habitats in Malaysia, through GEC's Forest and Coastal Programme.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Selangor State government, GEC has helped safeguard and rehabilitate 95,000 hectares of peat swamp forest.

GEC took the lead in preparing the global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity, and Climate Change. The assessment collated and analysed



The launch of GEC's 20th Anniversary Booklet and RIVER Ranger 2.0 in 2019

data from all over the world, and was recognised by the Conference of Parties to the intergovernmental Convention on Biological Diversity in 2008. GEC was also the founding collaborative partner of the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative in 2003 and has been the technical and operational support Partner of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020.

To further raise public awareness, multiple projects have created 35 materials on peatlands in seven languages and identified 35,000 hectares of previously unrecognised peatlands in northern ASEAN.

Through a variety of strategic alliances throughout the years, GEC has helped more than 277 community organisations and 700 schools and educational institutions increase their capacity to protect and restore water resources and rivers as well as undertake water conservation and sustainable waste management; Friends of River Basin (FoRB), has brought communities together to manage river basins and ecology, GEC's National River Care Fund (NRCF), has provided more than half a million Ringgit of grants to 47 community groups nationwide to run river conservation activities since 2016;

GEC has set up the Community Sustainable Peatland Centre (CoSPeC), which aims to inform local communities and students on the peat swamp forest ecosystem and the significance of peatlands in tackling climate change; the Friends of Peatland Forests (Sahabat Hutan Gambut) programme, which



In 2020, GEC was awarded the Role Model Award for Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) category under the ‘Programme for Planting of Mangrove Trees and Other Suitable Tree Species along the National Coastal Areas’ by Malaysia’s Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA).

helps protect peat swamp forests and which has planted over 400,000 trees and built more than 150 blocks in abandoned drainage canals to raise water tables, prevent fires, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and enhance natural forest regeneration.

In its 23 years of operation, GEC has garnered several awards. The most recent was the Role Model Award in the NGO category in 2020, awarded under the national programme for the replanting of mangroves in recognition of GEC’s innovative work on mangrove rehabilitation. Other recognitions include GEC’s appointment as a member of the National Mangrove Restoration projects in Malaysia in 2005, the National Biodiversity



GEC’s team engaging the Orang Asli Jakun community to build a canal block in the Southeast Pahang Peat Swamp Forest.



GEC’s corporate partners, like other stakeholders, are catalysts in driving the success of GEC’s endeavours

The underlying philosophy driving GEC’s growing success is that we recognise that all stakeholders must be engaged to address problems and that we need to work together in partnership to make a lasting, positive impact.

Roundtable (NBR) in 2020, the National Technical Committee on Peatland Management in 2022, and the Working group for Water Sector Transformation 2040.

The Raja Musa Forest Reserve, located in North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest, was awarded the Queen’s Commonwealth Canopy accreditation (QCC) in 2017, partly supported by the

success of GEC’s partnership with the Selangor State Forestry Department; GEC’s project on integrated management of peatland for biodiversity and climate change was recognised as one of the top 20 projects implemented globally with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for over 20 years (1995-2015).

Having won many awards, it is clear that they have a strong foundation and are committed to the cause of caring for the environment. Founder and Director of Global Environment Centre, Faizal Parish says, the underlying philosophy driving GEC’s growing success is the recognition that all stakeholders must be engaged to address problems and that working together in partnership is critical to make a lasting, positive impact.

GEC has kept its passion alive due to the inspiration from the many success

stories and achievements made, working together with various partners to forge innovative, long-term and sustainable solutions to safeguard the environment.

“This Merdeka Award recognition bears testimony to the valuable contribution of GEC’s multi-stakeholders and partners who have been working with us on this journey. We could not have done this on our own! We have been here for close to 25 years and plan to be here for the long haul!”, Faizal added. One of his favourite quotes is a traditional saying by indigenous communities in North America, “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors but we borrow it from our children”.

GEC works to support those who want to be stewards of the earth and its resources and to persuade others of the need to protect and restore our planet for current and future generations. Together, we achieve more!

HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Awarded to individuals and/or organisations to honour the creation, development, support and application of new and innovative technologies that improve the lives of people everywhere.



Dato' Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman

“I overcame challenges by having a team of like-minded, passionate people who believe in our work and continue to educate detractors. Something that is worth doing is often tough, but the rewards can be big.”

Dato’ Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, presently an Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) fellow who specialises in HIV/AIDS, has made an impact on the prevention, treatment and research of infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS for more than 30 years. Dr Adeeba is a highly respected specialist in her field and a committee member of various prestigious regional and worldwide organisations. They include groups like the UNAIDS Scientific Expert Panel, the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on HIV, the WHO Science Council, the Governing Council of the International AIDS Society, etc. In fact, in 2020, Dr Adeeba was chosen to lead the International AIDS Society as its first Asian president.

In her capacity, she currently serves as a professor of Medicine and Infectious Diseases under the Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya. The University of Malaya Medical Centre’s



“Something that is worth doing is often tough, but the rewards can be big.”
Dato’ Professor Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman



With Tun Dr Siti Hasmah at the Malaysian AIDS Foundation Red Ribbon Gala - December 16 2018

Infectious Disorders Unit was founded by Dr Adeeba in 1996, and under her direction, it has grown to become one of the nation’s top tertiary referral centers for HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. In 2011, she was made Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, the first female dean for this oldest medical school in Malaysia. Her years there made a substantial contribution to the University of Malaya by aiding in the revision of the medical curriculum to produce the best medical professionals for the country.

She was actively involved in starting the Malaysian government’s change in its response in drug use, which resulted in the implementation of harm reduction programmes to prevent HIV

transmission among people who use drugs, in addition to her clinical and academic responsibilities.

She then founded the University of Malaya’s Centre of Excellence for Research in AIDS (CERiA) in 2008. CERiA conducts research activities that include clinical and fundamental science studies, epidemiological research, and socio-behavioural research with a focus on Malaysia’s marginalised communities, including people who use drugs, people in prisons, men-who-have-sex-with-men. In a short amount of time, CERiA has been able to secure numerous local and foreign research funding, including those from the Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), the USA National Institutes



Participating in a Panel Discussion - 22nd AIDS Conference in Amsterdam



With colleagues at NUS at the Conferment of Honorary Doctorate to Tun Mahathir

of Health and the World Bank, the National Institutes of Health, and the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia.

She also once held the position of President of the Malaysian AIDS Council, an organisation that acted as a hub for HIV-related organisations in Malaysia. In that role, she promoted and managed the implementation of community-based HIV/AIDS programmes throughout the nation. She continues to serve as Chairman of the Malaysian AIDS Foundation, a Trust whose goal is to raise funds for the HIV prevention, care, and treatment programmes run by the Malaysian AIDS Council.

Her list of achievements goes on and on. One of her most remarkable contributions - not works and services to the country is the dramatic drop in the rate of new HIV/AIDS infections by 50 per cent over the previous 10 years



Presenting Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of World Health Organisation (WHO) with the President's Award at AIDS 2022

One of her most remarkable contributions - not works and services country is the dramatic drop in the rate of new HIV/AIDS infections by 50 per cent over the previous 10 years Needle Syringe Exchange Programme (NSEP) - which is through a combination of opioid substitution therapy and a needle exchange programme.

Needle Syringe Exchange Programme (NSEP) - which is through a combination of opioid substitution therapy and a needle exchange programme.

She also successfully fought for harm reduction programmes that safeguard the lives, health, and dignity of people

who use drugs, and their communities while preventing HIV transmission among people who use drugs. She also successfully reformed existing drug policies and pushed for a public health approach that decriminalises people who use drugs.



At the welcome reception hosted by the city of Montreal - at AIDS 2022

Additionally, with the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Malaysia, Dr Adeeba heads the effort to combat COVID-19 by serving as the chair of the University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC) COVID-19 Task Force COVID-19, National Recovery Council and Johor COVID-19 Health Advisory Committee.

Having contributed so much due to her commitment to mitigating the spread of HIV/AIDS cases, awards and accolades are no stranger to her as she truly deserves them. The numerous honors Dr Adeeba has received, such as the Australian-Asian Fellowship Award in 2001, the Tun Mahathir Award and the Merdeka Award (she was a member of the Nipah Investigative Team) in 2008, and the first Advance Australia Global Award in the Category of Alumni in 2012, are testimonies to the success of her work.

She was also named as one of the Top 20 most influential female scientists in

the Muslim World and is possibly the only Malaysian to have been profiled in both The Lancet together with Nobel Laureate Professor Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, she co-chaired the 7th IAS Conference on Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention which was held in Kuala Lumpur and attracted more than 5,000 scientists, researchers, and healthcare workers from around the world. She also recently chaired the 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal with almost 13,000 participants. Last but not least, she has been cited over 10,000 times for her influential publications and research work in her discipline.

Passion comes and goes, but not for Professor Dr Adeeba, which is especially visible in her work. Her exact words; “I think seeing the changes that have come about despite all the barriers and challenges keeps me motivated and of course seeing the successes in terms of the numbers of infections



At The Release of UNAIDS Global AIDS Report 2022



With husband Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift at the Red Ribbon Gala - 10 December 2021

averted and seeing patients lead healthy and productive lives. And having the advances in medical science and being part of it, whether it is in prevention, treatment or the search for a cure that could make the goal of ending AIDS a reality”.

OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Awarded to a scholar conducting or playing a major role in academic research resulting in significant discovery.



**Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Siti Zuraina
Abdul Majid, FASc**

“To be a Merdeka Award recipient in the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement category marks the peak of any academic career. I am still awestruck, but I do know it also means that archaeology and the people who worked hard with me are recognised.”

To be a pioneer is no easy task and to some, it is merely a dream. Yet, when you give your best effort and passion, success will come to you. Carrying the title of the first archaeologist in Malaysia, Emeritus Professor Dato’ Dr Siti Zuraina binti Abdul Majid FASc, is an anthropologist. She is renowned for developing the Malaysian archaeology and teaching the next generation of archaeologists. Her well-known archaeological discoveries include the Palaeolithic site of Kota Tampan and the Palaeolithic skeleton of the Perak Man, in Lenggong, which may be regarded as Malaysia’s first “capital”. Her research also established that early man’s migratory route from Africa to Australia was through Peninsular Malaysia, thus putting Malaysia on the archaeological map of the world.



The discovery of Kota Tampan, Lenggong, a 74,000-year-old site along early man’s migratory route from Africa to Australia.



Excavation of the Perak Man, Gua Gunung Runtuh, Lenggong, 1990

She brought home 20 Gua Cha skeletons from her *alma mater*, Cambridge University and initiated the successful return of Niah skeletons from Nevada University.

The Perak Man also provided the earliest evidence of a rare birth defect known as *Brachymesophalangia* Type A2, an important contribution to medical history. In addition, the discovery of the Perak Man resulted in the first-ever disclosure of a Palaeolithic burial ceremony in Southeast Asia, enriching the historical records of our country and the region.

Such outstanding excavation and exploration research into the nation’s past which had a global impact also led Lenggong Valley to be recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site. These discoveries allowed her to secure many national and international scholarships, fellowships and grants for the research. Through her influential leadership as well, Dr Professor Zuraina managed to obtain UNESCO inscriptions for the historical Melaka and George Town. She was also instrumental in obtaining the Memory of the World inscription for Batu Bersurat Terengganu. In short, at the International level, her involvement in UNESCO has brought Malaysian heritage to the forefront.



Defending the nomination of Lenggong as a UNESCO World Heritage site in St Petersburg in 2012.

Having successfully developed archaeology as a discipline and established the only centre for archaeology in Malaysia, she was later asked to head the newly formed Department of National Heritage

in 2006, following the new National Heritage Act that the Parliament had passed in 2005. As the Director-General of the Department of National Heritage, she put in place the administrative procedures to



The Perak Man conserved.

protect and preserve all types of heritage, tangible and intangible, while creating public awareness on heritage conservation.

She has received numerous accolades and honors throughout the years for her contribution to Malaysia's historical and cultural heritage. She received the Women at 50 Yale 150 Award from her *alma mater* Yale University in the United States in 2020. In addition, since 2017 she has served as Heritage Advisor to HRH Sultan Selangor. She also received the

Research Excellence Award from USM in 2001, induction into the Academy Science Malaysia (FASc) in 2017, selection as Malaysia's Head of Delegation at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee from 2011 to 2015, and other honours and awards.

Professor Zuraina has been building the groundwork for the advancement of archaeology as a field of study in Malaysia since the 1970s. She has excavated and researched numerous sites in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak. All in all, she left an indelible mark in the archaeological field of Malaysia by successfully advocating for the preservation and conservation of the country's archaeological heritage at the national and international level. At the local level, she established the scientific infrastructure needed, i.e., currently known as USM Centre for Global Archaeological Research to train protégées and scholars for the purpose of further advancing archaeology as a discipline in Malaysia. As one of her mentorship initiatives, Professor Zuraina taught and oversaw Master's and PhD students at USM with the goal of raising the profile of archaeology in Malaysia through training the next generation.

She has enlightened us on our prehistoric past and given Malaysia a key place in the story of Early Man in the world. On a broader scale, she brought Malaysian archaeology and heritage to the world through her research and UNESCO inscriptions.



Neolithic vessels reconstructed from pottery sherds excavated in Gua Harimau burials, Lenggong, Perak.



Teaching USM students in the field.

**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA**

*Awarded to a citizen of any nationality and / or foreign organisation to
honour substantial contribution to Malaysia or to the lives of Malaysians*



Dato' Dr Annabel Teh Gallop

“This amazingly prestigious award will enhance the importance of history, historical awareness of heritage, and of historical sources and writings in the broader domain.”

Historian, Datuk Dr Annabel Teh Gallop, who was born in Britain and raised in Brunei, has spent more than three decades traveling the world to promote historic manuscripts written in the Malay language. Very few people have done this.

Initially majoring in mathematics, Dr Gallop later earned a Master in Malay Studies and a PhD on the Malay Seals. In addition to being a member of the editorial board for the journal “Indonesia and the Malay World,” which is based at SOAS, University of London, Dr Gallop was appointed adjunct professor at the Language and Communications Faculty of Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin in Terengganu for the academic year 2017–2018. In addition to these roles, she co-directed the British Academy-funded research project Islam, Trade and Politics across the Indian Ocean (2009–2013), which looked at Ottoman connections with Southeast Asia. She also served on the committee of the Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the UK (ASEASUK).

She is currently employed as the Head of the Southeast Asia section in the Asian and African Collections of the British Library. About 10,000 printed



*“We will all pass on, but our writings will last,
and that’s what keeps me going”.*
- Dato’ Dr Annabel Teh Gallop



The visit to the British Library (in September 2018) of HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah of Perak accompanied by Dato’ Mohammad Faiz Azmi and Dato’ Rohana of the Malaysian Business Council

books, journals, and newspapers as well as 120 manuscripts written in Malay and Jawi can be found in the library’s Malay division.

Her work on Southeast Asian and Indian Ocean writing traditions, book cultures, the art of the Qur’an, Malay and Indonesian manuscripts, letters, documents, and seals, and comparative Islamic diplomatics earned her the distinction of being recently elected as a Fellow of the British Academy in September 2019.

Her current research focuses on Qur’anic art in Southeast Asia. An understanding of the material and cultural features of manuscripts as a critical complement to their textual significance is a recurring theme in her study. Dr Gallop has been digitising precious old Malay papers



Showing His Majesty the Yang Dipertuan Agong some of the Malay manuscripts in the British Library, December 2019



Grandparents, sisters and cousin in Changlun, Kedah, in 1970

so that anyone interested in learning more can easily access them. Her work has rekindled interest in old Malay manuscripts, which are rich in language as well as in drawings and unspoken meanings. Since she earned her doctorate at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London in 2002 with the thesis “Malay Seal Inscriptions: A Study in Islamic Epigraphy from Southeast Asia”, she has been recognised as the world’s foremost authority on the study and history of ancient Malay letters, manuscripts, seals, and documents. Dr Gallop has been sharing her knowledge and research on ancient Malay letters, manuscripts and seals

as a rich heritage of the Malay world with many local and international heritage organisations. Among the many organisations that she has worked with was the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society on Seals as Sources for the History of Negeri Sembilan in 2013, Institut Alam dan Tamadun Melayu, University Kebangsaan Malaysia in 2006.

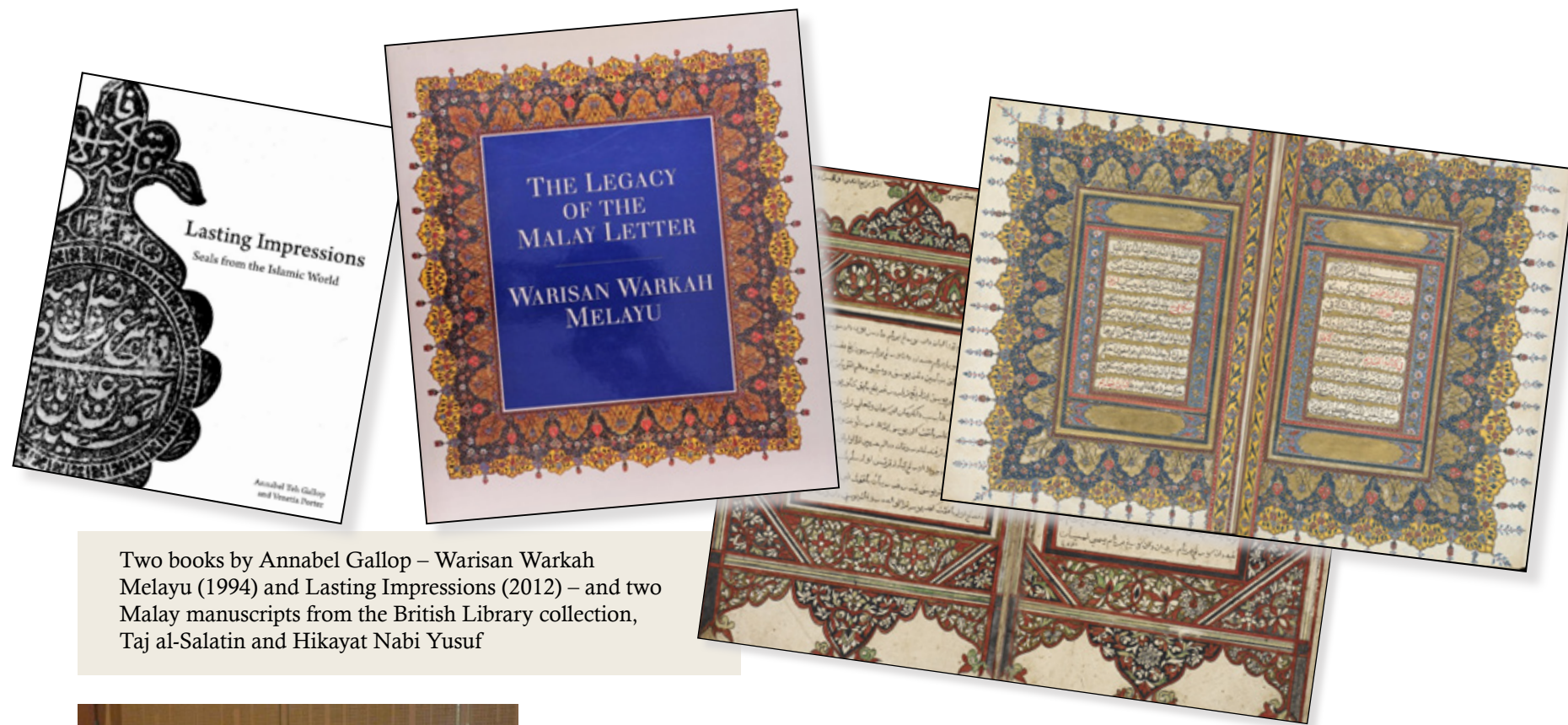
She also worked with reputable Malaysian scholar Farish A Noor and art activist Eddin Khoo in the publication of Spirit of Wood, the art of Malay woodcarving: works by master carvers from Kelantan,



Receiving the Darjah Setia Diraja Kedah (Honorary) from His Royal Highness the Regent of Kedah at Istana Anak Bukit, Alor Setar, in 2014

She has been recognised as the world’s foremost authority on the study and history of ancient Malay letters, manuscripts, seals, and documents.

Terengganu and Pattani in 2003 and with Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka on the publication of Dunia Percetakan Melayu hingga tahun 1900: Suatu Tinjauan Awal in 1995, in the cataloguing and historical documentation of Ensiklopedia Sejarah dan Kebudayaan Melayu in 1994, Pendokumentasian Koleksi



Two books by Annabel Gallop – Warisan Warkah Melayu (1994) and Lasting Impressions (2012) – and two Malay manuscripts from the British Library collection, Taj al-Salatin and Hikayat Nabi Yusuf



With Khoo Salma Nasution of Areca Books, Penang, in Kuala Lumpur in 2014

Melayu di UK: Pendokumentasian Bahasa dan Kesusasteraan in 1991. The National University of Singapore (NUS) Press, in collaboration with the British Library and the Lontar Foundation in Indonesia has just published her remarkable catalogue of more than 2,168 Malay seals that

date from the second half of the 16th century to the early 20th century and sourced from more than 70 public institutions and 60 private collections worldwide. Chicago University sells and distributes her work throughout North and South America, and Bernard Quaritch Ltd., a rare book and manuscript distributor, does the same in the United Kingdom. From London to Singapore, Dr Gallop lectures about these exquisite masterpieces with such eloquence and authority that any conference on Malay manuscripts, letters, documents and seals and the art of the Islamic book in Southeast Asia would be incomplete without her presence.

Dr Gallop’s research on the curated collection of some of the oldest writings from the days of the Malay

sultanate was on display in Singapore in 2017 under an exhibition entitled ‘Tales from the Malay World: Manuscripts and Early Malay Books.’ More of such manuscripts are now in the safekeeping of libraries and museums around the world, such as the British Library, the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of Leiden in Holland, the Museum fur Volkerkunde in Berlin and the Library of Congress in Washington, to name a few.

Her most recent award was in 2021, whereby she was awarded the Anugerah Budaya Gubernur Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. Her other awards are the Fellow of the British Academy in 2019, Anugerah Kebudayaan (Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, Indonesia) in 2017 as well as Darjah Setia DiRaja Kedah (Honorary) in 2014.

ANUGERAH HARAPAN MERDEKA

Awarded to aspiring young Malaysians aged 40 and below or organisations below 10 years of inception that provide significant contributions in the fields of Education and Community, Environment and Health, Science and Technology.



Samuel Isaiah

“What remains my biggest accomplishment beyond any award, is that I can help my students believe in themselves and have the ability to achieve any success they put their minds to.”

Samuel Isaiah is best known for empowering the Orang Asli community through education, and his commitment to improving teacher quality. He was nominated as one of the top 10 finalists for the 2020 Global Teacher Prize - referred to as the Nobel Prize for teaching.

He has 12 years of experience in education, teaching students from the Orang Asli community, a teacher trainer, keynote speaker, and researcher. He has also conducted various grassroots and impactful national initiatives to help teachers transform their practice and cater to the needs of their students, school and community.

While serving in the Orang Asli school, Samuel explored various innovative methods of teaching and learning to bridge the substantial education gap that plagues the community. This includes using nature and indigenous pedagogy, technology, music and arts, as well as experiential and meaningful learning approach. Samuel made sure to retain and preserve the identity and voices of the Orang Asli students when educating them. He also led localised community initiatives and qualitative research to help the indigenous students develop confidence, self-belief in their abilities or a positive mindset shift. The combination of innovative classroom practices, school infrastructure development,



I've realised just how important it was for me to inspire kids; to make meaning of what they're doing, to understand that whatever they're doing has a purpose, and to bring out the best of their own capabilities, whatever that may be.
- Samuel Isaiah



Samuel and his Orang Asli students reaping the benefits of the classroom transformation that happened

community empowerment initiatives, and active collaboration, resulted in significantly improved test scores and academic achievement among his Orang Asli students.

Currently, as the Programme Director of PEMIMPIN GSL, he is leveraging the experience he gained from his teaching years to improve school leadership in Malaysia. He is leading a team to work with 30 Orang Asli schools in Perak where for the next two years, they will train their school leaders and equip them with the capability to improve their schools. Samuel plans to expand this programme to reach out to all 98

Orang Asli schools in Malaysia and provide support and coaching to the school leaders and teachers, so that they can ensure every child in their school has access to quality education and reaches their full potential.

Samuel also co-founded a teacher network called “Edufication” that aimed to expand the boundaries of education and ignite critical discourse in Malaysia. He spearheaded a nationwide programme called the “Cikgu Kickstart Awards” which provided Malaysian public schools teachers grants, professional development, and networking opportunities. The programme



Announced as the Top 10 Finalist of the Global Teacher Prize 2020 by the Varkey Foundation & UNESCO



Samuel and his students with their ukuleles. Using music was one of the ways he engaged his students in inspiring and meaningful learning



PEMIMPIN GSL team at the recent graduation of their first cohort of middle leaders

highlighted 15 teacher finalists with their projects benefiting 5,000 students and 1,000 teachers nationwide. This initiative not only highlighted the importance of contextualised solutions but also emphasised the importance of teacher empowerment and elevating

teacher status nationwide to eventually improve the quality of education.

Additionally, Samuel was inducted into the Majlis Pemulihan Negara council formed by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

“I am proud to represent the education and teaching fraternity and through this award, to elevate the teaching profession. From this, I hope to pave the way for other young teachers and educators to come forward to share their best practices in the classrooms and to continue making a difference in the community”

in 2021. It was a council that aimed to improve economic stability, empower education, and improve the healthcare system which was ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this council, Samuel played the role of providing the Malaysian government with



Launch of the inaugural Malaysia Teacher Prize (MTP)

relevant policy recommendations to enhance recovery initiatives.

In short, being nominated as one of the top 10 finalists for the 2020 Global Teacher Prize, he inspires and motivates other young and aspiring teachers to create more impact in the education field. Charting the path and gaining international recognition for his teaching experience may serve as an impetus for many other teachers to achieve the same recognition or greater ones than this. At the same time, Samuel’s contribution and recognition he garnered as an expert in the teaching field may also interest more younger Malaysians to take up teaching as a profession of choice, which could help the talent pipeline of teachers in Malaysia, attract more bright candidates to educate the future generations, and improve the education field and prospect of the nation.

“I am proud to represent the education and teaching fraternity and through this award, to elevate the teaching profession. From this, I hope to pave the way for other young teachers and educators to come forward to share their best practices in the classrooms and to continue making a difference in the community”, said Samuel Isaiah

Samuel’s work led him to clinch several significant recognitions and awards, both local and international. They are Asia’s Most Influential 2021 by Tatler Asia; Gen.T Leader of Tomorrow 2021 Tatler Asia; Hyacinth Gaudart Outstanding English Teacher Award 2021 by Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA); AugustMan Men of the Year 2020; Top 10 Finalist of the Global Teacher Prize 2020 by Varkey Foundation and UNESCO; Fulbright Scholar: Graduate Study and Research Program 2019 by US Department of



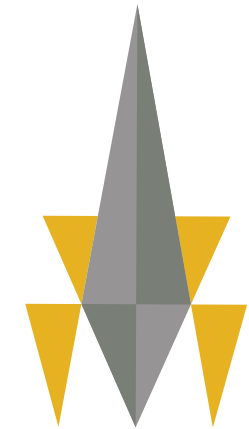
Launch of ASLI (Accelerated School Leaders Initiative) in Perak

State; The Star Golden Heart Awards 2019 by Star Media Group (SMG) in collaboration with Yayasan Gamuda Malaysia; National 21st Century Teacher Award 2019 by Ministry of Education Malaysia; National Hero Teacher Award 2019 by Ministry of Education Malaysia; Best Teacher Award 2018 by ASEAN English Language Teaching, International Conference; Gold Award Winner 2017 Malachi Edwin Award by Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA).

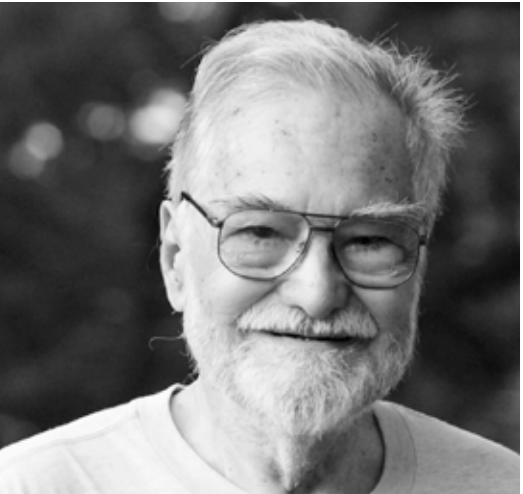
Despite the numerous awards, Samuel strongly stands by his students and stands to the notion that after all these years, it is his students that are his greatest achievements.

“As I dived into the livelihoods of my students, it soon became clear that I was here for a reason. My students saved me and gave me a purpose to work hard with them. I developed a lot of love for them, and they taught me so much more than I would have learned anywhere else”, added Samuel Isaiah

Merdeka Award Past Recipients



MERDEKA
AWARD
2008



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
Allahyarham Royal Professor Ungku Abdul Aziz Bin Ungku Abdul Hamid
For outstanding contribution to the eradication of poverty, rural economics, the development of Tabung Haji and in the field of education



ENVIRONMENT
Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)
For its outstanding contribution to the Belum-Temenggor Forest Complex Conservation Initiative



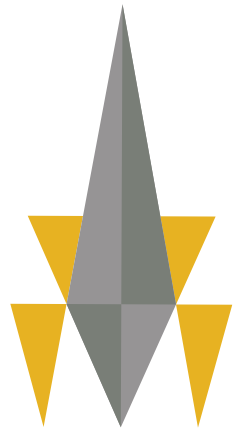
HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Nipah Virus Encephalitis Investigation Team from The Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya (Joint Recipient)
For outstanding contribution to the discovery and understanding of the causes, effects and control of the Nipah encephalitis viral infection



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Khalid Tan Sri Abdul Kadir (Joint Recipient)
For outstanding contribution to the study and understanding of diabetes and the relationship between hormones and stresses in various tissues



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA
The Late Datuk Leslie Davidson
For outstanding contribution in the introduction of the pollinating insects Elaeidobius kamerunicus from Africa to the oil palm plantations in Malaysia, leading to the rapid development of the palm oil industry



MERDEKA
AWARD
2009



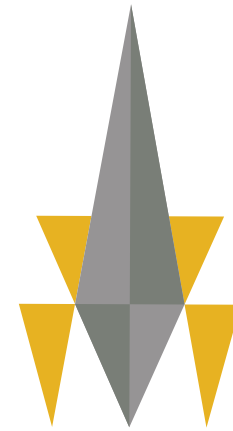
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
Allahyarhamah Tun Fatimah Hashim
(Joint Recipient)

For outstanding contribution to the empowerment of women in Malaysia and for protecting and securing rights and economic opportunities for women through advocacy



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
The Late Tan Sri Dato' Lim Phaik Gan
(Joint Recipient)

For outstanding contribution to the empowerment of women in Malaysia and for protecting and securing rights and economic opportunities for women through advocacy



MERDEKA
AWARD
2010



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
Datin Paduka Mother A Mangalam
A/P S Iyaswamy Iyer

For outstanding contribution in promoting the welfare of the underprivileged and for fostering national unity



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT
Academician Professor Emeritus
Dr Yong Hoi Sen
(Joint Recipient)

For outstanding contribution to the development of basic and applied knowledge of Genetics, Molecular Biology, Biological Systematics, Evolutionary Biology and Biological Diversity of Malaysian Flora and Fauna



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Professor Datuk Dr Halimaton Hamdan

For outstanding contribution in the development and application of Maerogel as a commercially viable multi-purpose material



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT
Professor Dato' Seri Ir Dr Zaini Ujang

For outstanding study and scholarly contributions in the various environmental initiatives concerning water supply, sewage, river rehabilitation and industrial ecology



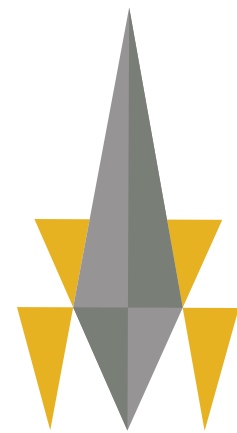
OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT
Distinguished Professor Datuk
Dr Harith Ahmad
(Joint Recipient)

For outstanding contribution in research and promoting the development of photonics in Malaysia



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA
The Late Tan Sri Just Faaland

For outstanding contribution to the advocacy of equitable growth through eradication of poverty and reduction of socio-economic polarisation



MERDEKA
AWARD
2011



ENVIRONMENT

Dato' Dr Kenneth Yeang

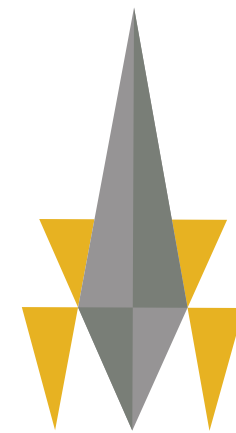
For outstanding contribution to the development of design methods for the ecological design and planning of the built environment



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

**Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Goh Khean Lee
(Joint Recipient)**

For outstanding contribution in elevating the study and practice of gastroenterology and hepatology in Malaysia to global standards

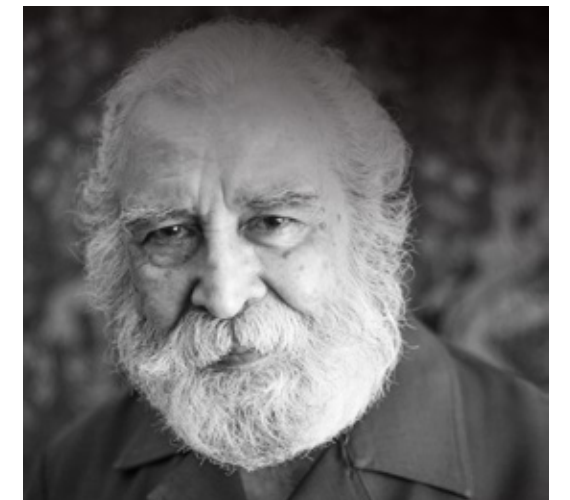


MERDEKA
AWARD
2012



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
**Academician Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Datuk
Dr Augustine Ong Soon Hock**

For outstanding contribution to the research and development of the chemistry and technology of palm oil and for his significant role in advocating and promoting the Malaysian palm oil industry to the world



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

**Tan Sri Professor
Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas**

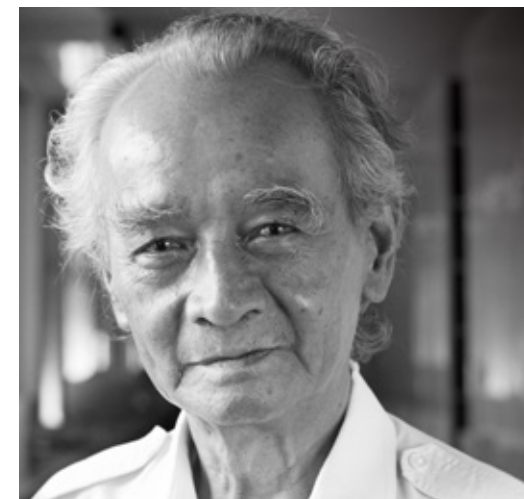
For outstanding contribution to the scholarly research in the area of Islamisation of contemporary knowledge and of Muslim education



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

**Professor Dr Mak Joon Wah
(Joint Recipient)**

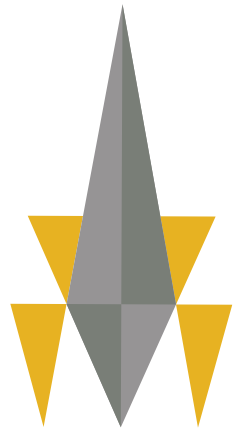
For outstanding fundamental and applied research in parasitology and parasitic diseases, public health and pathology



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA**

The Late Dr Engkik Soepadmo

For outstanding contribution to the research and conservation of Malaysia's forest plant diversity



MERDEKA
AWARD
2013



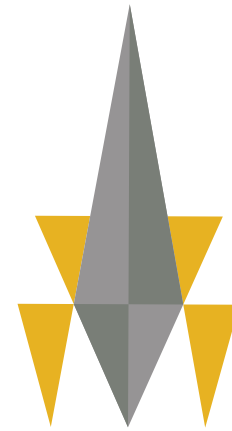
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
Allahyarham Tun Dr Arshad Ayub
(Joint Recipient)

For outstanding contribution in shaping Malaysia's education landscape through the development of professional education, education reforms and innovation that have resulted in education becoming more accessible to Malaysians



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY
Tun Raja Muhammad Alias
Raja Muhammad Ali
(Joint Recipient)

For outstanding contribution to rural development and rural reform through organising successful land settlement projects (FELDA) for the many landless, rural population in Malaysia



MERDEKA
AWARD
2014



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

Datuk Mohd Nor Khalid (Lat)
For outstanding contribution to the promotion and pluralism of Malaysia's cultural identity through the use of cartoons and for the promotion of understanding and respect among Malaysia's diverse ethnic communities



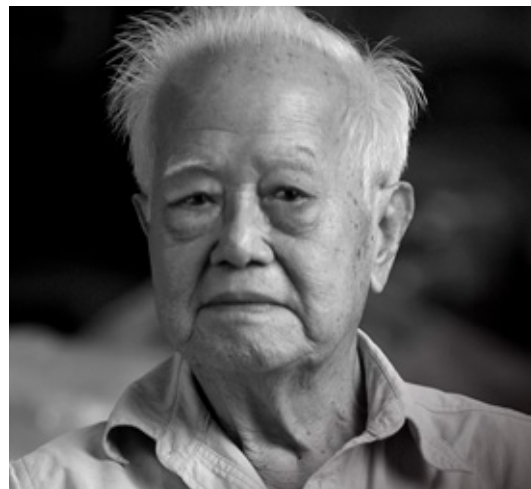
ENVIRONMENT

Mohd Khan Momin Khan
For outstanding contribution to wildlife research and conservation through the setting up of captive breeding centres as well as for pioneering and successfully managing the human-wildlife conflict in affected areas



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Datuk Dr Choo Yuen May
For outstanding contribution to the development of novel, efficient and green processes for the palm-based industry through research and commercialisation of various technologies



ENVIRONMENT

Dr Lim Boo Liat
For outstanding contribution to the conservation of Malaysia's biological diversity through the study, understanding and control of vector-borne diseases and the relationship between diseases and the environment; and for advocating the protection of our natural heritage



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang
For outstanding contribution to pioneering the development of clinical research and cardiac surgery in Malaysia and for his instrumental role in the establishment of the National Heart Institute (IJN)



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Academician Professor Dato' Dr Lam Sai Kit
For outstanding contribution to scholarly research and development in medical virology and emerging infectious diseases including dengue



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Professor Ir. Dr Abdul Latif Ahmad
(Joint Recipient)
For outstanding contribution to the scholarly research and development of technologies in the areas of polymer science, wastewater treatment and membrane separation technology



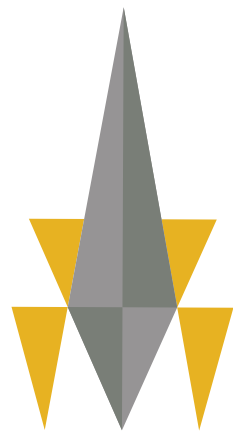
OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Professor Datuk Ts. Dr Ahmad Fauzi Ismail
(Joint Recipient)
For outstanding contribution to the scholarly research and development of technologies for commercialisation in membrane performance for both gas separation, and water and wastewater treatment



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA

Dato Sri Gathorne, Earl of Cranbrook
For outstanding contribution in pioneering research and conservation of Malaysia's forest biodiversity and the ecology and biology of Malaysian mammals and birds, and for advocating environmental conservation



MERDEKA
AWARD
2015



**EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY**

Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood

For outstanding contribution to the development of humanitarian and international emergency relief



ENVIRONMENT

Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Abdul Latiff Mohamad (Joint Recipient)

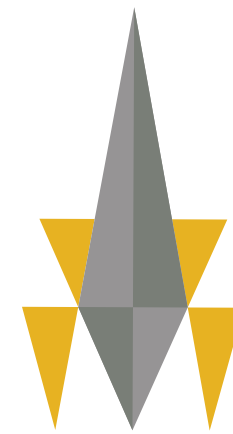
For outstanding contribution to the research and understanding of plant taxonomy and conservation biology in Malaysia



ENVIRONMENT

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid (Joint Recipient)

For outstanding contribution to the observation, analysis and assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services, fostering the remediation and protection of the natural environment and promoting environmental sustainability in Malaysia and globally



MERDEKA
AWARD
2016



EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

Tan Sri Lakshmanan Krishnan

For outstanding contribution to laying the foundation for the modern film industry in the country and for his instrumental role in developing early acting talents including Malaysian film icon the late P Ramlee



ENVIRONMENT

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor

For outstanding contribution to the conservation of the natural environment and forestry in Malaysia through his leadership role at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) and the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)



**HEALTH, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

Professor Datin Paduka Dr Khatijah Mohamad Yusoff

For outstanding contribution in the field of microbiology and virology through a better understanding and diagnosis of the contagious and fatal viruses in poultry and the study of the potential of the virus in combating cancer cells



**OUTSTANDING
SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

Professor Dr Ir Mohd Ali Hashim

For outstanding scholastic contribution in the research of separation processes and water and wastewater treatment and for his instrumental role in the setting-up of the Centre for Ionic Liquids



**OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTION TO THE
PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA**

Dr Elizabeth Lesley Bennett

For outstanding contribution to the conservation and management of wetland habitats and that of endangered wildlife in Malaysia through research, advocacy and policies



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

Professor Dato' Ir Dr Wan Ramli Wan Daud

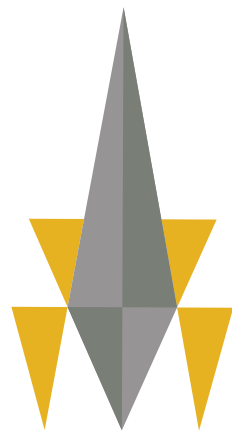
For outstanding scholarly research and development in advancing the technology of fuel cells and hydrogen energy in Malaysia and the region



**HEALTH, SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY**

Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr Looi Lai Meng

For outstanding contribution in pioneering research in amyloidosis, renal pathology and cancer pathology and for her significant contributions and role in promoting the field of pathology in Malaysia and the region



MERDEKA AWARD 2017



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

Dato' Dr Abdul Halim Ismail

For outstanding contribution and his pivotal role in establishing the first Islamic Bank in Malaysia, which led to the development and growth of the Nation and region's Islamic banking, insurance and finance sectors.



ENVIRONMENT

Dato' Seri Tengku Dr Zainal Adlin Bin Tengku Mahamood

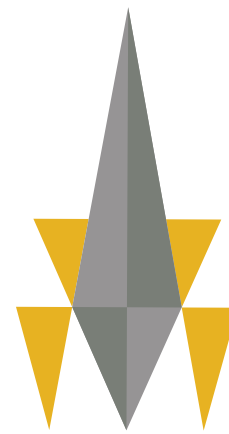
For outstanding contribution to wildlife and forest conservation in Malaysia and the region through fieldwork, education, advocacy, policy and international cooperation.



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Dr Timothy William
(Joint Recipient)**

For outstanding contribution to the effective treatment of a new cause of human malaria, Plasmodium knowlesi. The discovery has changed the way this infection is managed in the country and globally.



MERDEKA AWARD 2018



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

Hassan Abdul Muthalib

For outstanding contribution as the pioneer and earliest influence in the local animation world through his folktale-inspired works and his leadership role in developing educational framework on artistic importance of animation in the country.



ENVIRONMENT

Engr Gurmit Singh K S

For his outstanding For outstanding contribution through his activism, advocacy works and leadership role in the promotion of sustainable environment and combatting climate change in Malaysia.



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Professor Dato' Dr Mohd Hair Bejo

For outstanding contribution and instrumental role in advancing efforts towards sustainable food production through the development and commercialisation of chicken disease vaccines in treating Gumboro disease that benefits poultry industry in Malaysia and internationally.



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Professor Dr Balbir Singh Mohan Singh
(Joint Recipient)**

For outstanding contribution to the discovery and pioneering work on a new cause of human malaria, Plasmodium knowlesi. The discovery of this potentially fatal zoonotic disease has changed the understanding of malaria and the way infections are treated in the country and globally.



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Professor Dr Masjuki Haji Hassan

For outstanding scholarly research in engineering and energy science and for his instrumental role in the research and development of biofuel and other sources of efficient energy and automotive engines.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA

Professor Dr Anthony Crothers Milner

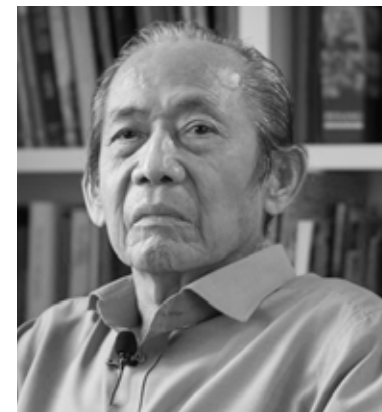
For outstanding contribution to research and education in Malaysian history that has shaped and promoted the understanding of the Nation's identity, heritage and culture, and for his role in fostering international collaborations.



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dato' Professor Dr Gan Ee Kiang

For outstanding contribution in his pioneering work in developing a successful exemplary commercial model for R&D for Malaysia's universities, and through his extensive work and leadership role in the fields of clinical pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences and drug-related research in the country.



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

**The Late Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Datuk Dr Khoo Kay Kim
(Joint Recipient)**

For outstanding contribution to the scholarly research, development of reinterpretation of Malaysian history and lifetime dedication in the history education in the country that has shaped the post-independence study of history in modern Malaysia.



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

**Distinguished Professor Dr Rajah Rasiah
(Joint Recipient)**

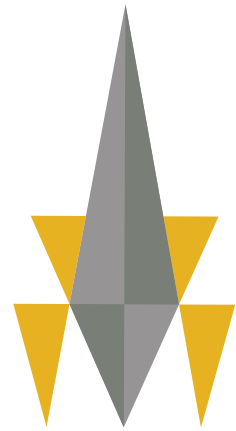
For outstanding contribution in his scholarly research and development of theoretical macroeconomic framework in the promotion of sustainable development, by pioneering the conceptualisation, measurement and application of innovation theory and the framing of innovation policy for developing countries.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA

Andrew James Eavis

For outstanding contribution in his pioneering works in the areas of geomorphology and cave survey through the Mulu Cave Projects with Royal Geographical Society Expedition, and the discovery of the Sarawak Chamber, leading to extended research on rainforest habitats and ecosystem, and establishing international collaborations for scientific and nature expeditions.



M E R D E K A
A W A R D
2020



**EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY**

Majlis Kanser Nasional (MAKNA)

For outstanding contribution in providing financial, medical, emotional and social support to cancer patients while advocating and furthering cancer research for over 26 years.



ENVIRONMENT

Sout East Asia Rainforest Research Partnership (SEARRP)

For outstanding contribution to the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of Malaysia's forest ecosystem as well as the education and training of environmental scientists.



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

Professor Dr Ng Kwan Hoong

For outstanding contribution in the education and pioneering work advancing the fields of medical physics and radiation medicine in Malaysia.



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA**

Suzanne Mooney

For outstanding contribution in reducing Malaysia's food waste by feeding and donating essential items to those in need through The Lost Food Project.

Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment

The Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment was launched in 2011.

The Grant is designed for qualified and deserving young Malaysians, between the ages 22-35, to engage in short-term collaborative projects or programmes at an internationally recognised host institution in select disciplines (education, arts, sports, community/social work, environment, health, science and technology).

Grantees will have the unique opportunity to collaborate with other academics and researchers in their field of interest in order to build on their body of work and achievements. The value of The Merdeka Award Grant goes far beyond numbers in its goal of investing in Malaysians for the benefit of Malaysia. The Grant extends the goal of the Merdeka Award by infusing thought leadership and innovation, fostering a culture of excellence and encouraging a global outlook among young Malaysians for the future.

Merdeka Award Grant Past Recipients

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment
2021



Prof Madya Dr Nur Adlyka Ainul Annuar
Peering into the Dim Heart of Active Galaxies:
Weak or Buried Monster Black Holes



Jessica Ooi Sui Ying
Paper-based device for Colorimetric Detection of
Ovarian Cancer Biomarker miRNA-665

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment
2019



Chrishen R. Gomez
Conservation Genetics Research Fellowship for
Development of Long-term Genetics Study of
Sunda Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis Diardi*) and
Sympatric Carnivores



Juliana Ooi Sue May
Safeguarding our Future Generation through
Empowering Young Parents in Reproductive
and Social Health Education



Ir Dr Freddy Tan Kheng Suan
Design of Next-Generation On-Board Charger
of Electric Vehicle using State-of-the-Art Wide
Bandgap Technology



Dr Aini Hasanah Abd Mutalib
Tracking the symphony: Using the Passive
Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) to determine the
occurrence, distribution and behaviour of small
apes at Kenyir Rainforest, Terengganu



Dr Wan Nor Fitri Wan Jaafar
Cloning and Stem Cell Research in Wildlife
Reproduction



Dr Yanny Marlina Baba Ismail
Smart Material that Speed Up Bone Healing



Feng Ying Xing
Prognosticating Work Productivity, Stress Level
and Workload Capacity through fNIRS Brain
Haemodynamic Signal Measurement



Dr Mohd Azri Ab Rani
Batteries for Future; The Birth of Na⁺ Batteries

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment

2018



Dr Ong Wee Jun
Solar Energy Conversion and Energy Storage to Address the Seriousness of Energy Security and Environmental Issues by Mimicking the Ingenuity if Nature



Aishah Bte Ismail
Stroke Prediction Biomarker through ocular blood flow using Laser Speckle Flowgraphy

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment

2017



Shahar A/L Koyok
Indigenous Arts and National Narratives: A Comparative Study of Indigenous People’s Art and Representation within National Institution



Dr Sophia Rasheeqa Ismail
Lipidomics Profiling and Risk of Early-Onset Myocardial Infarction



Dr Lee Tian Khoon
Converting Rubber Material for Advanced Energy Storage and Conversion



Dr Zetty Norhana Balia Yusof
The Potential of Malaysian Seaweeds as the Source of Antifungal Compounds for Application in the Oil Palm Industry

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment

2016



Dr Khamarrul Azahari Razak

The Power of Knowledge: How Prepared Are We For Disaster – The Malaysia Context



Ms Koh Lily

How Small and Medium Enterprises' (SMEs) can strategically position themselves in the value chain in the midst of Industry 4.0

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment

2014



Dr Kamalan Jeevaratnam

Mechanistic insight for cardiac cellular therapy using stem cells



Dr Lim Hong Ngee

Nanotechnology-based blood testing to identify breast cancer

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment

2015



Ms Chua Ling Ling

Association between gut microbiome dysbiosis (changes in gut microbiome) with systemic immune activation, inflammation and early onset of age-related diseases in HIV infected individuals



Dr Mohd Sukor Su'ait

Advanced Energy Conversion and Storage Material From Malaysian Palm Oil Industries

Merdeka Award Grant
for International Attachment

2013



Associate Professor Dr Abhimanyu A/L Veerakumarasivam

Identification of molecular markers for the diagnosis, prognosis and therapy of bladder cancer through greater molecular understanding of the disease



Dr Natrah Fatin Mohd Ikhsan

Understanding molecular microbial ecology towards sustainable agriculture production

The Logo and Trophy



Designed by Dato’ Johan Ariff, the trophy is a three dimensional version of the Merdeka Award logo. It expresses convergence and ascension, the same qualities celebrated in the achievements of the Merdeka Award winners. The trophy also represents environmental concerns in the form of a plant shoot Rebung, transparency, ethics, and the glorious six decades of Malaysian independence.

