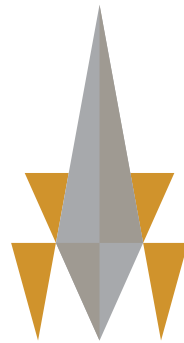




MERDEKA
AWARD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence
2017

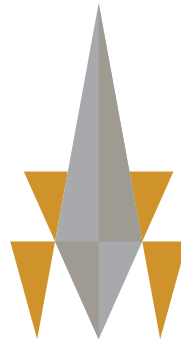


MERDEKA
AWARD

ExxonMobil



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

The Merdeka Award

The Merdeka Award is a prestigious award that aims to recognise and reward individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields to the people of Malaysia. It is benchmarked against international awards of the highest standards and in doing so firmly upholds the credos of excellence and transparency.

It is named the Merdeka Award in celebration of the true spirit of independence which transcends the conventional definition of national sovereignty. It explores the liberation of the mind and spirit-factors which foster the realisation of human potential and the pursuit of excellence. The Merdeka Award aims at the encouragement of going beyond the comfort zone and the creation of a new mindset among Malaysians.

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.



Celebrating the Heroes Among Us

The Merdeka Award represents
the most prestigious platform of honour - one
that celebrates the spirit of Independence and the
continuous pursuit of higher endeavour.

The Award recognises and rewards outstanding
individuals and organisations; whose spark leave
imprints on the lives of Malaysians through
their fields of science, technology,
humanities and the arts

Nomination & Selection

The nomination and selection of Merdeka Award recipients are administered by the Board of Trustees and six committees – five Nomination Committees and one Selection Committee.

The Board of Trustees comprises two representatives from PETRONAS and one representative each from ExxonMobil and Shell, as well as two independent members.

The Board of Trustees and the various committees go through a long and rigorous selection process that reflects the high ideals of the Merdeka Award.

The committee members are made up of eminent Malaysians and non-Malaysians, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise to allow them to nominate and select outstanding individuals and/or organisations that 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 nominee, and in the end, identify those who stand above and beyond the rest, in their embodiment of the *Spirit of Merdeka*.

Award Categories

EDUCATION & 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.

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 & TECHNOLOGY

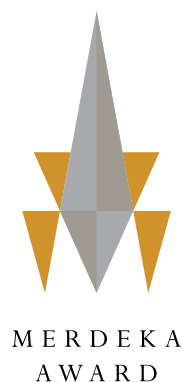
Awarded to individuals and/or organisations to honour the creation, development, support and application of new and innovative technology that improve the lives of people everywhere.

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.



Recipients 2017



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY CATEGORY

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 CATEGORY

YM DATO' SERI TENGKU DR ZAINAL ADLIN 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 CATEGORY

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



**HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
CATEGORY**

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



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT CATEGORY**

**PROFESSOR IR 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



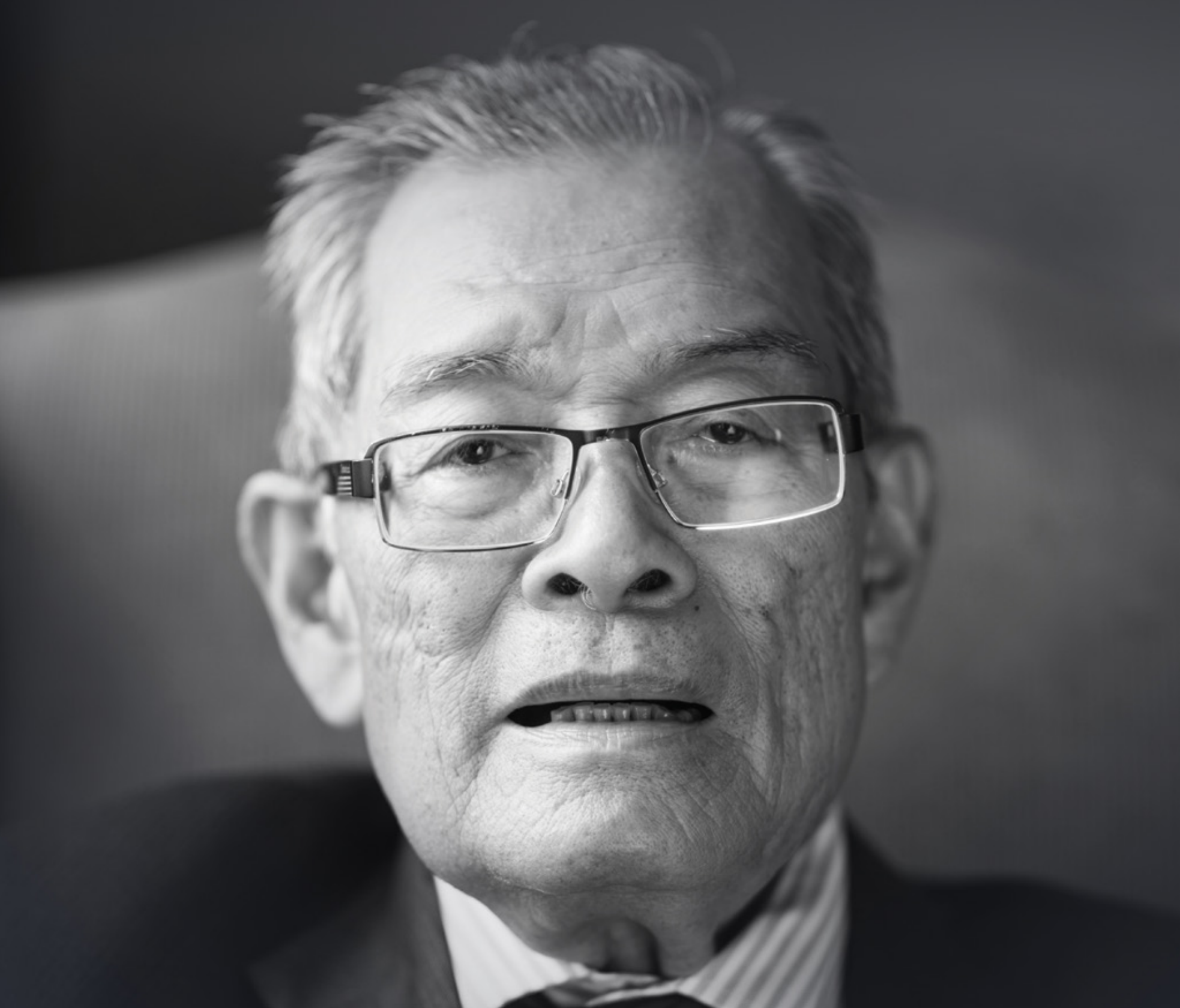
**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE
PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA CATEGORY**

**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

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.



DATO' DR ABDUL HALIM ISMAIL



Life

Dato' Dr Abdul Halim Ismail was born on 28th January, 1939 in Kedah Darul Aman. He had his early education at the Simpang Empat Malay School and later continued his study at the Al-Maahad Al-Mahmud (Mahmud College). He was then transferred to the Sultan Abdul Hamid College (SAHC) to continue his Form Six education from 1960 till 1961. Dato' Halim continued his studies at the University of Malaya and in 1965 graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. In 1966, he went to England and enrolled himself at the University of Oxford, where he obtained Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics.

Being brought up with mixed education, Dato' Halim was influenced into a wishful thought of having a job where he could contribute for the betterment of religion just as well to fulfil his desire of being in a modern institution and modern industry. Thankfully, his career in Islamic banking and finance is rooted in a religious development sphere along with the fact that at that point of time this line of work



is indeed in a modern institution and industry.

Upon his return from the United Kingdom in early 1970, Dato' Halim joined the academic world at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), which was just established at the time. He taught economics in the Faculty of Arts, and was concurrently asked to organise the Faculty of Economics and Management for the University. The faculty was formally formed in 1974, and Dato' Dr Abdul Halim was made its Dean.





Dato' and Datin with children

Throughout his stay at UKM, Dato' Halim was somewhat restless. The life of an academician revolved mainly around teaching and conducting research, which he felt was not suited for him. What he really wanted to do was to apply his skills and knowledge into a more pragmatic, actionable career.

Thus, Dato' Halim resigned from UKM in 1975 and joined the Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad (BBMB), where he was made Head of the Planning and Development Department. Later, he was appointed to become the Bank's Chief Economist. It was at BBMB that Dato'

Halim learnt about the conventional banking business. His desire for "taking action" had finally landed him on the path towards becoming one of the nation's leading Islamic bankers.

Work

The Government set up a National Steering Committee on Islamic Banking in 1981 to study and make recommendations on the establishment of an Islamic Bank in Malaysia. The Steering Committee submitted its report and recommendations to then Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed in July 1982. The Government accepted the report



Dato' with Datin and Grandson



With parents and brother on graduation from UM

and recommendations, and that got the ball rolling. Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad (BIMB) was formed on 1st March, 1983, and Dato' Halim was appointed to be its first Managing Director. Thus began a new phase in his professional journey, as soon as the Bank was officially launched by the Prime Minister on 1st July, 1983.

During his term at BIMB, Dato' Halim along with his colleagues in management devoted a lot of their efforts to staff building and training, extending the range of facilities and services, growing of assets and liabilities, expanding branch network, and public information and relations. Since the newly established bank was still in its



Presented a top student prize in standard VIII from HRH Sultan



Graduation, Oxford



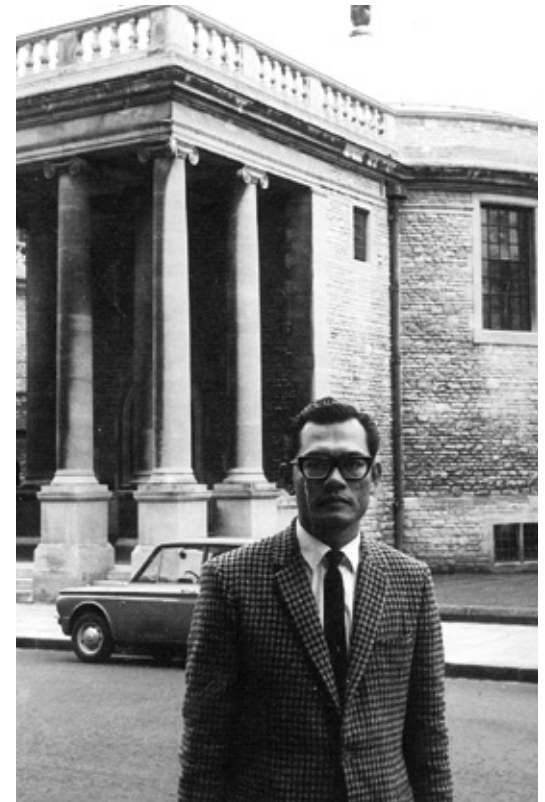
In lower sixth (Arts) S.A.H.C., 1960

pioneering stages, one of the uppermost objectives in their minds was always its profitability and viability.

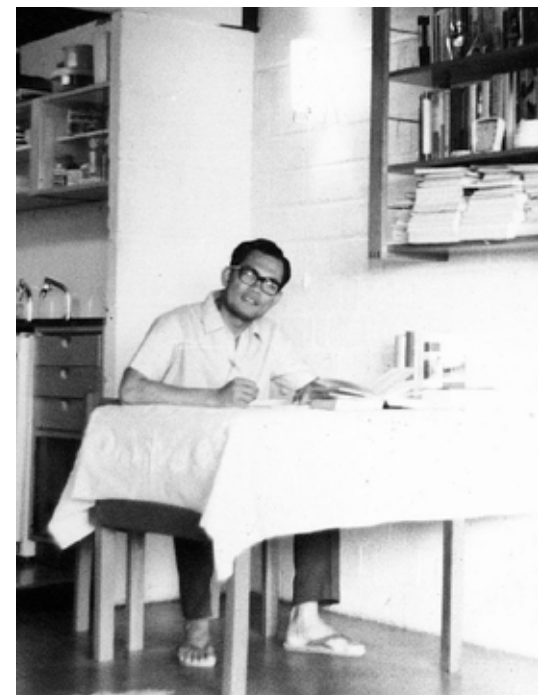
Banking and insurance businesses are closely associated. When BIMB began its Islamic banking business, it was keenly felt that Takaful (Islamic insurance) businesses were needed to complement it. Hence Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Berhad (STMB) was formed in 1984 as a subsidiary of BIMB, and Dato' Halim was made the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company. From the outset, the company was involved in both General Takaful and Family Takaful. Together with the company's management, in terms of its objective and corporate management, what had been done with BIMB was broadly replicated in STMB.

After spending almost a decade growing together with BIMB, Dato' Halim retired from all his posts in the Islamic banking and Takaful sector of BIMB Group to join BIMB Securities Sdn. Bhd. (BIMSEC), a newly-formed subsidiary of BIMB Group, where he assumed the post of Executive Chairman. BIMSEC is an Islamic stockbroking company dealing mainly in Islamic equities, and provides shariah-compliant stockbroking services, such as share-trading, margin financing, nominee services, among others.

Finally, after 27 years in Islamic banking and Finance, Dato' Halim retired from all his posts in 2010. To him, Dato' Halim is most satisfied and content with spending the entirety of his professional life in Islamic banking and finance. He takes this as an accomplishment because he



Dato' at Rhode's House, Oxford, 1969



In the flat at summertown, Oxford



Board of Directors, Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Berhad, 1987



Management Committee Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad, 1987

started his career with BIMB, and ending it with Islamic stockholding (BIMSEC). Just four years later, Dato' Halim became the first Malaysian to be awarded the prestigious Royal Award for Islamic Finance for his experience in Islamic finance and banking in Malaysia. Currently, Dato' Halim is enjoying his retirement but remains committed in ensuring the healthy development of Islamic banking in Malaysia.

Personal Philosophy: "When I decide to undertake a task, I ask God for His guidance and blessings. I perform the task to the best of my ability, I look at the bright side of the outcome, and I plough on".

Message to Young Malaysians: "Work hard and smartly with sincerity, dedication and seeking the pleasure of God; identify and anticipate new areas of development in your company suitable for your advancement and perhaps reorganize your specialization; always ask for the guidance and blessings of God".

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.



YM DATO' SERI TENGKU DR ZAINAL ADLIN TENGKU MAHAMOOD

Life

Dato' Seri Tengku Dr Zainal Adlin Bin Tengku Mahamood was born on 18th June, 1940 in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. In the late 50s and early 60s, Tengku Adlin was a pilot performing short flying stints. He held senior posts at district and State levels in the Kelantan Civil Service and the Malaysian Home and Diplomatic Service from 1962 to 1967. He then went to Europe to complete a public administration programme from the University of Birmingham in the UK and the Institute of Local Government Studies, Sigtuna, Sweden in the year 1967. Later in 1981, he received a Top Management Programme Certificate from the Asian Institute of Management. In 1995, he was awarded a PhD (Hon.) from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

Tengku Adlin was the first CEO of the Sabah State Housing Commission and introduced public low-cost housing with land banks in major districts throughout Sabah. He was also the first Deputy Director of the Sabah Foundation (1974-1996) and Corporate Adviser (1997), responsible for institutional and capacity building besides contribution in formulating the philosophy, vision, mission, corporate plan, development programs.





Projects include the Sabah Foundation Tower (Menara Tun Mustapha), Sports Complex Likas, Coastal Road Likas Bay Recreational Leisure Belt (1975), the Flying Doctor Service, Hostels for Rural Students, ITM and UKM Branch Campuses (1974), Temporary Campus UMS /YSCC (1995) and Sabah Nature Clubs.

He played a leading role in staging international adventure sports in Sabah i.e. the Camel Trophy 1993, Eco Challenge 2000, Outdoor Quest (2003 - 2005), Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon 1987-2008, Skydive Borneo Boogie 2001, 2002, TM KL / Tun Mustapha Tower International Base Jump 2006, 2007, 2008, Sabah F2000 World Cup Powerboat

Race 2007, FAI Paragliding Accuracy World Cup 2011/2012, Super Final Paragliding Accuracy World Cup 2013 and the FAI Asian Paragliding Accuracy Championship Cup 2014 among others. He is also active in voluntary organizations and currently is on the WWF Advisory Council after serving as the Chairman and President of WWF Malaysia, Chairman Outward Bound Sabah, Founding President of Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society, Past President Sabah Society, President Borneo Orchid Society, President Kinabalu Paragliding Club, Past President Rotary Club of Kota Kinabalu, Honorary Vice President Raleigh International UK and Honorary Member Scientific Exploration Society UK. As Chairman Sabah Tourism





Royal Visit HRH Prince William and Kate, Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Danum Valley



Close encounter in the wild with dominant male Orang Utan, truly authentic experience

Board he promoted Sabah as A Premier Nature Adventure Ecotourism Destination in the global market and was featured in Forbes Global as Sabah Eco Warrior.

Tengku Adlin is married, has three daughters and a son, and has lived in Sabah for the past 49 years.

Work

Dato Seri' Tengku Adlin is the author of numerous books and publications on conservation, nature and adventure. He has led, pioneered or participated in many expeditions to unexplored natural history sites in remote interiors of Sabah since 1968. A species of Rafflesia discovered on Mount Trusmadi is named after him Rafflesia tengku-adlinii (1988). As a trustee of Sabah Parks he was actively involved



Nepenthes rajah, World's largest Nepenthes, Kinabalu Park



With Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia



At Lohan Valley, Ranau

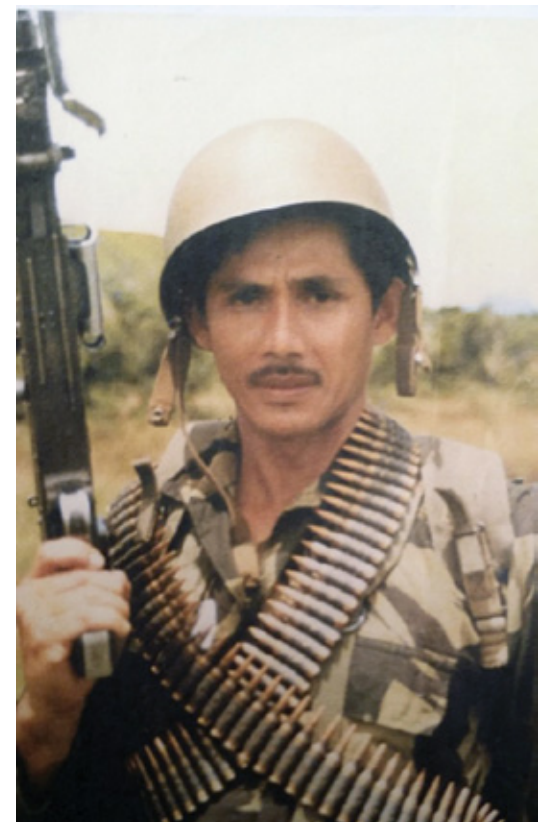


Tengku Adlin with his family

in exploring and creating new trails on Mount Kinabalu, diving surveys and marine conservation initiatives in Sipadan, Tun Sakaran Marine Park Semporna and the Tun Mustapha Marine Park Kudat. Badminton, mountain climbing, jungle trekking, scuba diving, skydiving, paragliding and aerobatics are his passion. He initiated the conservation of Danum Valley and Maliau Basin 'Sabah's Lost World' by the Sabah Foundation. Tengku Adlin established the Danum Valley Field Research Centre in 1984 and the Borneo Rain Forest Lodge in 1994. He played a leading role as Chairman of WWF Malaysia in the establishment of the Kota Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary in 2000 and the formation of the Sabah Wetlands Conservation Society in 2007, Malaysia's first Gift to the Earth



Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon



Tengku Adlin with his granddaughter, Tengku Puteri Intan Kasik

Kinabatangan floodplain in 1999 and the Corridor of Life of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary in 2006 by the Sabah Government. The Heart of Borneo Three Countries One Conservation Vision initiative that was mooted in 2001 of, which he was involved right from conceptual stage, and realised in 2007 by the Declaration of The Heart of Borneo by Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia in Bali under the auspices of ASEAN and the Conference of Parties Convention of Bio-diversity of the United Nations . He was given an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy by the University Kebangsaan Malaysia (1995), the Langkawi Award, and Malaysia's highest recognition for conservation (1999) by the King of Malaysia and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Duke of Edinburgh



Via Ferrata summit plateau Mount Kinabalu the world's highest via Ferrata Guinness world record

Conservation Gold Medal (1999) at Buckingham Palace and in the Rolex Hall of Fame . He was conferred Datukships by the Sabah Head of State in 1975 and in 1985 by the Sultan of Kelantan followed by Seri Paduka Mahkota Perak by the Sultan of Perak in 2006.

Personal Philosophy: Make it happen, just do it.

Message to Young Malaysians: It is your attitude, not your aptitude that sets your altitude.



Sabah Eco Warrior

Health, Science and Technology

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



PROFESSOR DR BALBIR SINGH MOHAN SINGH

Life

Professor Balbir Singh was born in Segamat, Johore on 30th March, 1955 and is the middle child of five children. His father Mohan Singh, who was a headmaster, and his mother, Harjit Kaur, who was a housewife, emphasised the importance of education but gave their children the freedom to choose their career paths. He excelled at his studies and at sport while at school, representing Johore State Schools at both hockey and cricket. He had ambitions of becoming a doctor at a very young age as he wanted to heal the sick and help the less fortunate.

At age 18, Professor Balbir left for England for his A levels but he did not secure the required grades for foreign students to get into Medical Schools in the UK and decided to study Biochemistry at Liverpool University instead. While pursuing his BSc, his honours project was partly conducted at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) where his interactions with PhD students got him interested in research.

After obtaining a BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry, Professor Balbir decided to continue his studies at LSTM by enrolling





in the MSc course in Parasitology and Medical Entomology in 1979. He was further inspired by many world-renowned scientists who conducted research and taught there. One of them was Dr Owen Goldring, an Immunologist, whose unique teaching style inspired Professor Balbir to pursue a PhD project in Immunology. He obtained a University of Liverpool postgraduate scholarship to study the role of certain bacteria in ankylosing spondylitis, at the Department of Medicine. Under the tutorship of Professor John Woodrow and Dr Jerry Milton, Professor Balbir completed his higher studies with a PhD in Immunology/Microbiology. He continued with his sporting activities in





Younger daughter graduation at Southampton University



Celebrating daughter's MBA from University of Exeter

the UK where he was the captain of the Liverpool University first XI hockey team and the LSTM cricket team.

Work

Professor Balbir's research on malaria started at the LSTM where he worked as a Postdoctoral Senior Research Assistant under Professor Marcel Hommel in the Wolfson Immunology Unit. During his postdoctoral stint, he spent 4 weeks in Malawi, Africa, on a Wellcome Trust-funded study on malaria in children. Having previously only worked at the lab bench, he had an eye-opening experience after seeing severely ill malaria patients for the first time.



Family photo, 1970

Professor Balbir was then awarded the prestigious Beit Medical Fellowship in 1988 to work on molecular and biological aspects of malaria under Professor Julian Crampton in the Wolfson Medical Genetics Unit at the LSTM. Molecular Parasitology was still in its infancy at the time. It was a steep learning curve for Professor Balbir, but he enjoyed working in a vibrant lab with four other postdocs and eight PhD students.

While he was abroad for 18 years, Professor Balbir longed to return to Malaysia; so when Professor Dato' Mohd. Roslani Abdul Majid, the Dean of the School of Medical Sciences at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) offered him and

his wife, Janet Cox-Singh, also a malaria researcher, lectureships at USM in 1992, they accepted the opportunity. Their research at USM continued with field trips to Kuala Krai and Gua Musang in Kelantan, and with their two daughters to Tawau in Sabah where they utilized molecular tools to study the epidemiology and drug resistance in malaria. However, the decline of malaria cases in Kelantan and the opportunity to kick-start lab-based research at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) prompted Professor Balbir and his wife to move to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Professor Dato' Ir Zawawi Ismail and Professor Jane Cardosa had recognized the potential of



1 year old

the dynamic husband-and-wife team and were instrumental in helping them move from USM to UNIMAS in 1999.

At the time, UNIMAS had no departments, and Professor Balbir was made an Associate Professor and the Head of the Biomedical and Laboratory Sciences Core Group, which in effect comprised all the pre-Clinical Departments. The following year, he was promoted to Professor and in 2016, Professor Balbir was made the founding director of the Malaria Research Centre (MRC); one of the first two Centres of Research Excellence established by UNIMAS in recognition of the work that had been undertaken on *knowlesi* malaria.



University hockey team, 1980



In the lab for final year project at University of Liverpool in 1979



Secondary English school team with coach, C Williams

The Professor's stint at UNIMAS was the most productive with his discovery that the monkey malaria parasite, *Plasmodium knowlesi*, was causing malaria in humans. They showed that *Plasmodium knowlesi* was a potentially fatal malaria that was being misdiagnosed as the benign *Plasmodium malariae*. This was followed by other pioneering work on the molecular epidemiology, population genetics and clinical aspects of *knowlesi* malaria, thereby placing the MRC on the world map for malaria research. The research was funded by competitive grants totaling MYR 6.8 million from local and international funding agencies such as the Wellcome Trust. It was conducted by an enthusiastic group of lab-based scientists, field workers and clinicians in collaboration with colleagues from UK, Australia and USA. It led to publications in leading journals including The Lancet,



Visit by HRH Duke of York, Prince Andrew

Clinical Infectious Diseases, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and PLoS Pathogens.

Professor Balbir's work has been cited 3,347 times and he has an h-index of 28. The *knowlesi* malaria research at UNIMAS received extensive international press attention from BBC, Bloomberg and Reuters. It was even featured in a television documentary entitled "Monkey Malaria" and aired by Australian Broadcasting Corp in 2009 as well as on Al-Jazeera television in conjunction with World Malaria Day in 2014.

Due to his research, Professor Balbir has been invited to give keynote addresses and talks at numerous conferences in Europe, USA, and Australasia, has been an advisor on two occasions to the World Health Organization (WHO), was one of the

recipients of the Top Research Scientists Malaysia Award from the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2012, and was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2015.

Personal Philosophy: "Nothing will ever be achieved if you wait to overcome every obstacle before you start. At times it is best to bite the bullet and start".

Message to Young Malaysians: "Be focused, set high standards and go for quality rather than quantity. Have a good work ethic and don't be discouraged by setbacks."



Betong Mozzies



Golfing buddies at Kuching

Health, Science and Technology

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



DR TIMOTHY WILLIAM

Life

Dr Timothy William was born on 25th August, 1970 in Klang, and was raised in Banting, Selangor. When he was asked to name an accomplishment that he is most proud of, Dr William reminisced his five distinctions for his STPM in 1989 when he was still a teenager. Three out of the 38 students in the whole country with 5 distinctions came from the small secondary school in Banting he studied in. The school had only 23 Science Stream students. Having the results announced in the National news the day before the official release as an example of how a “Sekolah Luar Bandar” could still be successful was Dr William’s proudest moment. It gives hope that kids who live in rural areas can still accomplish much with hardwork.

After graduating from the University of Malaya in 1995 as a young doctor, he started working in Hospital Sultanah Aminah Johore Bahru as a House Officer for a year. This period of Housemanship was the toughest posting he had ever endured, as he was grilled and taught by both kind and tough consultants on what it takes to be a good doctor. After finally completing his Housemanship, Dr William was posted to Tambunan, a small town in the interior of Sabah, which he remembers as “heaven on earth”. It was





also here that he met Aida, the love of his life whom he later married.

During his time at Tambunan, Dr William realised that infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, cholera, typhoid, melioidosis and others were a major problem faced by people in rural areas and those in the lower socioeconomic group. Thus, he became passionate about the treatment of infectious diseases and pursued a career that would allow him to make a difference in the way that these diseases are managed.

After spending two years in Tambunan, Dr William headed over to Kota Kinabalu to work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under the guidance of his mentor Datuk Dr Jayaram Menon, where he obtained





Dr Timothy with his young family

his specialist qualifications. Later in 2003, he worked and underwent training in infectious Diseases at Hospital Kuala Lumpur under Datuk Dr Christopher Lee and Dr Suresh Kumar for three years, then the Royal Darwin Hospital in Australia for about a year, before returning to Malaysia to work as the Sabah State Infectious Disease Physician for Adults for a term of eight years. The most memorable moments he had was being in the team managing patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and the H1N1 Pandemic in 2009. Dr William started doing research seriously in 2009 on Infectious Diseases despite his already busy schedule in clinical medicine and managing the Sabah State Clinical Infectious Disease Services. He worked closely with his friends and colleagues, Dr

Yeo Tsin Wen and Professor Nick Anstey. He currently works at the Jesselton Medical Centre, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah as an Infectious Diseases Physician and also serves as the President of the Infectious Diseases Society of Kota Kinabalu. He remains highly active in both clinical and research efforts.

When it is time to unwind and relax, Dr William keeps himself grounded by reading the Bible, novels, spending time with his children and having a cup of coffee with his wife. He prefers the company of friends who have a positive mindset and speak with candour mixed with humour. Dr William strongly believes that the work he is doing is just as important and special as the good work many others do in their own fields and profession.



Adelene Joyce William (1985-2013) will be proudly taking a photo of her brother from Heaven



The William family photo on Dr Timothy William's Graduation as a doctor from the University of Malaya



With his mother. Her guidance has made Dr Timothy who he is today

Work

Infections of *Plasmodium knowlesi* parasite have been occurring in Malaysia for many years. Professor Balbir Singh, an eminent scientist discovered that it has been occurring in large numbers in human populations. When the proliferation of cases and deaths came to an alarming state, a research team was formed in Sabah comprising of clinicians and scientists from the Malaysian Ministry of Health, including the National Clinical Research Centre led by Dr Goh Pik Pin, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Clinical Research Centre, Kudat, Kota Marudu and Pitas hospitals and experts from the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin, Australia. Upon their appointment, Dr Timothy William and his team endeavoured to carefully document the clinical features of *Plasmodium knowlesi*

malaria, the risk factors for severe knowlesi malaria, other complications of the disease and most importantly the best way to treat this dreaded disease.

Through the research done in Sabah, Dr William and the team were able to show that while Chloroquine was effective in treating *Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria, patients that were on Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) showed a better and much faster response. ACT also had the advantage of being the most effective antimalarial to treat all malarial species, which was important considering that it is often difficult to determine which malaria species the patient is infected with as there are three predominant species found in Malaysia.



Dr Timothy William with Datuk Dr Jayaram Menon, his long time mentor and trainer



Dr Timothy William with his fellow 3rd year medical students at their rural health posting in Sg Acheh, 1993. The beginning of his passion for serving those in the rural areas

Dr William's research was also the largest prospective study ever done on this type of infection, and successfully showed that a delay in diagnosing and treating *Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria was related to an increase in the number of deaths. This discovery pushed for a further optimisation in the State-wide management of malaria, whereby patients were immediately treated with more the most effective medicine and transferred to a tertiary hospital for expert management, leading to a drastic decrease in the number of deaths due to *Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria. These results of the clinical studies were also incorporated in the World Health Organization and Malaysian Ministry Of Health Management guidelines for *Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria.



Dr Timothy William leading the team from Menzies School of Health Research and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the Research sites in Kudat

Dr William and the team's research efforts later expanded into a collaboration with scientists from many different fields and from renowned institutions like the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, University Malaya, the Sabah Wildlife Department, University Malaysia Sabah and several others. Among their many important findings was how land change use affected the spread of the *Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria, the risk factors in acquiring the infection by using drones, and to study the movement of monkey populations. The extensive multidisciplinary research done and currently still underway is also made possible by research grants amounting to more than 15 million Ringgit from the Malaysian Ministry of Health and External

grants from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Other ongoing studies include Tuberculosis, Acute febrile illness, rickettsial diseases and dengue. Other than malaria, Dr Timothy William and his team have published papers on Tuberculosis, the first reported case of Avian Influenza (H7N9) in Malaysia and other infectious diseases. Dr Timothy William stressed that many people and organisations made valuable contributions to ensure the success of the research projects and in his own personal life and career. He owes a lot to what has been accomplished to his faith in God, his parents, family, teachers, colleagues and friends. He believes that a lot of work remains to be done in the field of Infectious Diseases. He remains spirited to



Dr Timothy William and Dr Christopher Lee whom he trained under the field Infectious Diseases



The first ever health research project in the world using Drones

continue doing research in *Plasmodium knowlesi* malaria and in the field of Infectious Diseases that is especially affecting the people of Malaysia as well as those in the larger Southeast Asian region.

Personal Philosophy: "Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles and pray at all times."

Message to Young Malaysian Doctors: "The Patient Always Comes First".

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement

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



PROFESSOR IR DR MASJUKI HAJI HASSAN

Life

Professor Dr Masjuki Haji Hassan was born on 2nd February, 1953 in Sabak Bernam, Selangor. He obtained his Mechanical Engineering degree (BSc), at Leeds University, Leeds U.K. in 1977. Professor Masjuki continued to pursue his MSc in Tribology and PhD from the same university and graduated in 1978 and 1982 respectively.

During his time at Leeds, Professor Masjuki met Professor Duncan Dowson, who was one of the lecturers at Leeds University at the time. Professor Duncan was one of the seven founding members of TRIBOLOGY in the UK in 1966, and being more than 90 years old, he is the only surviving founder of Tribology (the science of interacting surfaces in relative motion). In the field of Tribology he is one of the world 'Guru', Professor Duncan's passion for BioTribology research and his Elastohydrodynamic Lubrication Theory formed the foundation of many prosthetic and journal bearing design. His dedication and commitment to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching inspired Professor Masjuki to major into the field of Tribology, which was unknown in Malaysia at the time.

Therefore, upon the completion of his studies, Professor Masjuki accepted his appointment as a lecturer at the University

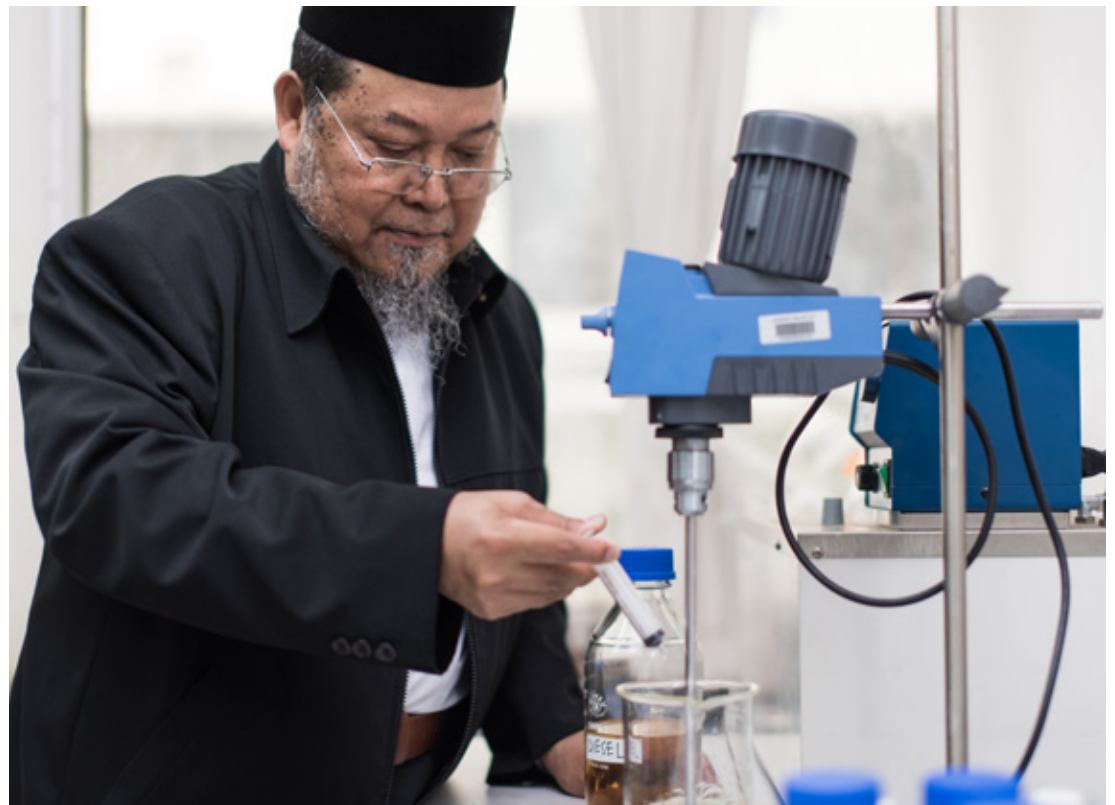


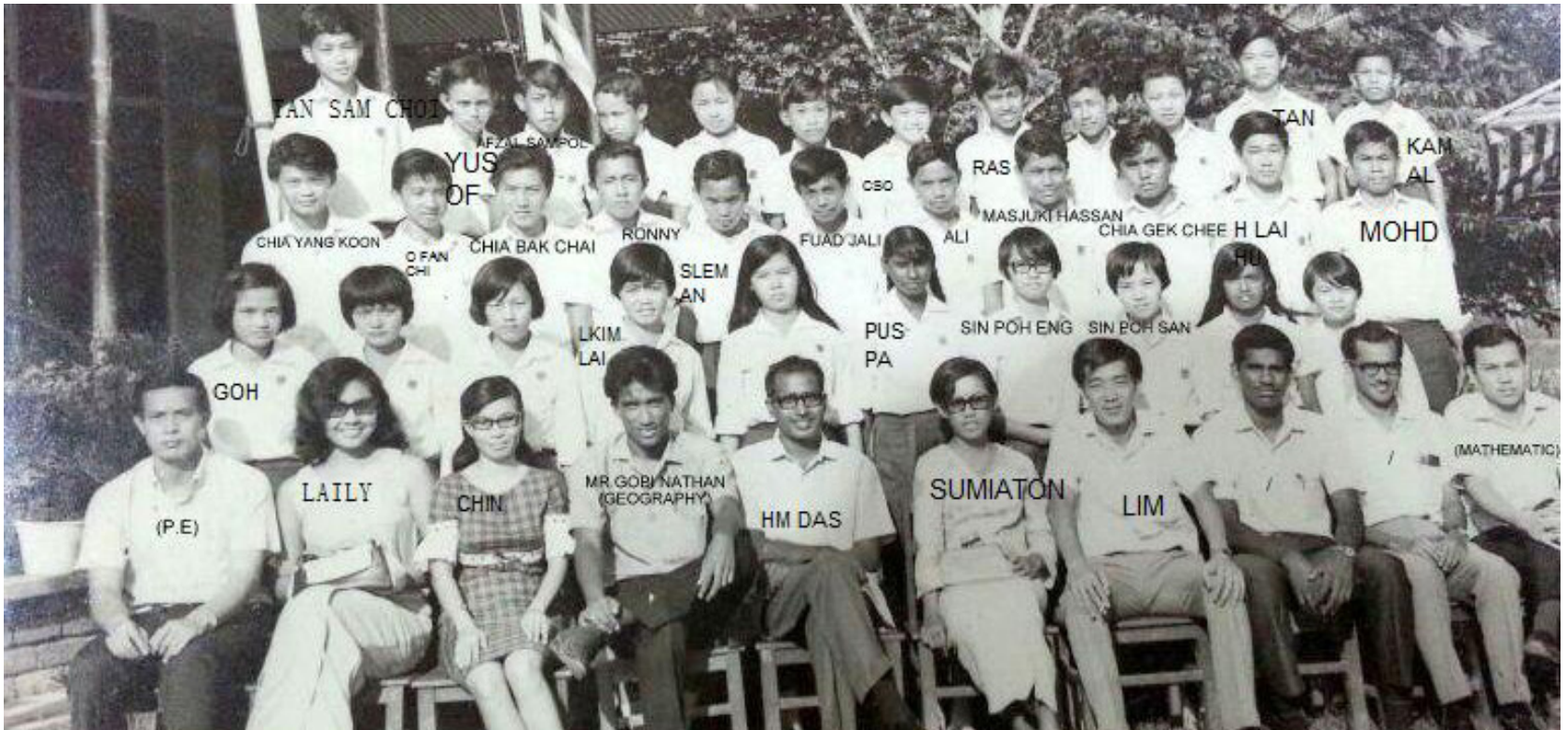


of Malaya (UM) in 1983. He has spent the entirety of his working life at UM until the present day, teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses, supervising MSc and PhD students, conducting research, and doing other administrative work.

Being a fervent academician and engineer himself, Professor Masjuki sees that new generation of engineers will have to be fully equipped with multi skills or multi disciplines such as taking double major. An example, if one major in mechanical engineering, he or she must also major in economy, finance or law. This will enhance graduates employability, as well they must also possess good soft skills and good command of English and willing to work abroad.

Professor Masjuki's best memories throughout his career is fulfilling the





Form 2 class photo at lower secondary school (English), Sungai Besar, Sabak Bernam, Selangor, 1968



Getting ready to deliver mandatory Professorial Inaugural Lecture before One is promoted to the post of Special Grade A Professor or VK5 Grade in, 2010

purpose of his original recruitment to UM wherein being able to execute responsibilities, and being able to help UM maintain its global visibility and its world ranking.

Work

Professor Masjuki has successfully completed more than 20 research projects at both the national and international level, and is currently handling 12 research projects. Due to his prolific research and widespread experience, he was promoted as a Special Grade A Professor (VK5), which is the highest salary scale a professor can achieve in the current salary scheme for lecturers. He deems this a truly satisfying accomplishment as it is the dream of every lecturer but only a few have achieved it.

To date, Professor Masjuki finds the biggest challenge he had to face throughout his working experience was insufficient funding support, especially for Research and Development in Universities for a developing nation. The situation worsen at a point of time when budget for UM was massively cut recently, which resulted a more challenging path ahead for both the university and Professor Masjuki. As uncertain as it is of whether UM can continue its journey to achieve top 100 best universities in the world under QS World University Ranking in 2020, Professor Masjuki believes in dedication and patience. Holding onto his personal philosophy gets him going, no matter the hurdles lies ahead.



Japanese Professors and delegates and Malaysian participants attending the Malaysia Japan Tribology Symposium at MJIT UTM Kuala Lumpur, 2016



With Professor Koji Yamane (middle) of Shiga Prefecture University, Japan, at one of the mini vehicle testing tract (in this case Biodiesel Fuel)



Sample PROTON Experimental Car fitted with Natural Gas Conversion Unit at Faculty of Engineering, University of Malaya



Characterisations of Palm Oil Methyl Ester (Palm Oil Diesel) at Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Malaya



With Professor Dr Duncan Dowson who taught BSc (Mech Eng) and MSc (Tribology) at University of Leeds. Here, he was shown a 1977 class picture. He was one of the seven surviving founding members of Tribology in 1966. Met in 2014 at 41st Leeds-Lyon Symposium on Tribology, Bradford UK (My highly inspirational and role model)

Professor Masjuki has produced more than 30 PhD and close to 60 MSc graduates by research, published more than 579 journal articles, proceedings and also research reports of which 369 are ISI and 185 are Scopus indexed articles. Professor Masjuki also authored and co-authored five books and book chapters, has one registered patents under him. His current publication H-index is 54. He is the founding President of the Malaysian Tribology Society (MYTRIBOS) and the Head of the Centre for Energy Sciences. His memberships in international organizations include Fellow of The Institute of Mechanical Engineer and Chartered Engineer, UK, Vice President of International Tribology Council, UK, and Society of Automotive Engineers, USA.



With Professor Dr Masahiro Shioji (Energy and Combustion Expert, extreme left in picture) of Kyoto University and his team

At national level he was the Secretary of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment Cluster under the National Professors' Council under the Prime Minister's Department. Currently, he is the Chairman of National Professors' Council University of Malaya Chapter. He is a Professional Engineer (Ir) under the Board of Engineer Malaysia. He also sits in many other national and international committees.

Personal Philosophy: "Understanding full and well the purpose of your life as existence and life is short. Take or do what is necessary to live in this world and must prepare for the next life. Whatever you do must gain the pleasure of Allah SWT."

Message to Young Malaysians: "In whatever you do, do it with clear purpose, dedication, passion, patience, and honesty".



At Kyoto Train Station (High Speed Train Station Platform). Background, head of Shinkansen, Japanese High Speed Train

**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.



PROFESSOR DR ANTHONY CROTHERS MILNER

Life

Professor Dr Anthony Milner was born on 10th December, 1945 in Melbourne, Australia. He is a specialist on Southeast Asia, who specializes in Malay and Malaysian history. Professor Milner graduated with a B.A. from Monash University, before taking up a PhD from Cornell University. He studied under Oliver William Wolters, a leading international specialist on pre-modern Southeast Asia, and John Legge, who is widely considered as the founder of modern Asian Studies in Australia. Professor Milner's mentorship under these two inspirational figures led him to chart a course of his own into becoming a historian of Southeast Asia. Helped by these two inspirational figures - as well as by Professors Wang Gungwu and Clifford Geertz - Professor Milner charted his own course as a historian of Southeast Asia.

Professor Milner's work on Malay society has attempted to highlight ideological creativity and the contest of ideas. He started writing on Malay history and



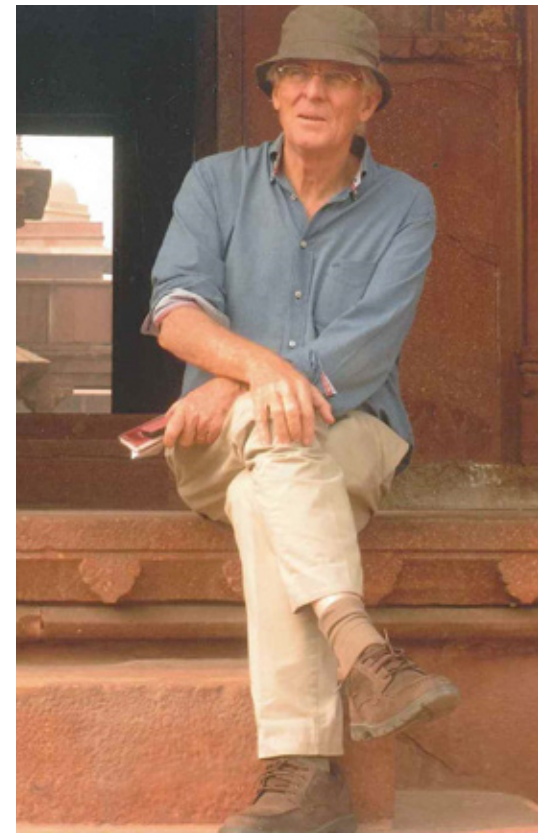


society as well as the history of Islam in Southeast Asia as early as 1982, the year he published “Kerajaan: Malay Political Culture on the Eve of Colonial Rule”. This fundamental work was well-received by many academics at the time, and was selected as one of the 25 “works of major importance to historical studies” in Southeast Asian history by the Association for Asian Studies in the USA. Since 1982, Professor Milner has published a series of books on Malay and Malaysian history for Cambridge University Press, Blackwell Press and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. Professor Milner later served as the Director of the Australia Asia Perceptions Project of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. This was a pioneering project on the role of cultures in international relationships, and produced three volumes of essays for Oxford University Press. The volume, Comparing Cultures, was reprinted numerous times.





Professor Milner with his wife Claire and graduate student Ruhan Shahrir in 2017



Professor Milner at Fatehpur Sikri in 2015



With son, Dr John Milner, on the family's cattle property in Australia

Following his term at the Academy, Professor Milner was appointed as Basham Professor of Asian History at the Australian National University in 1995. Two years later, he became the Dean of Asian Studies at the same university in 1996 and held the position up until 2005. During this period, Professor Milner remained a prolific academician and writer, publishing titles not only on Malaysian history but also on the historical and cultural processes that shape the Asian region, and which also influence Australia's opportunities and security. He is now Emeritus Professor of the Australian National University. He is also International Director and Professorial Fellow at Asialink (University of Melbourne), where he continues to work on Australia-Asia issues.



With Tan Sri Mohamed Johan Jawhar Hassan, HRH Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah and Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, 2014

In Australia, Professor Milner currently lives on a cattle and sheep property, run by his wife, Claire, and son, John. He intervenes in the running of the farm from time to time, while his wife critiques his academic writing in the same spirit. They also enjoy discussing their children and their respective families.

Work

Professor Dr Anthony Milner's primary interest is in Malay and Malaysian history, and his second interest is in regional relations, including Australia's relations with the Asian region. His work on Malay or Malaysian topics has taken place primarily at the Australian National University, Monash University, Cornell University, the University of Kent, the



With Professor Azirah Hashim, Director of the Asia Europe Institute in 2016



Professor Wang Gungwu at the launching of a book by Professor Milner in 2016



Professor Milner with the late Professor Lee Poh Ping, Dr Alice Ba and Professor Kuik Cheng Chwee in 2015



In discussion with Minister of Higher Education Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh, 2016

Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies; in Malaysia at the University of Malaya and Universiti Kebangsaan (as Pok Rafeah Chair), as well as the prominent think-tank, ISIS Malaysia (where he held the Tun Hussein Onn Chair 2014-2015). At the University of Malaya, he currently works closely with Professor Azirah Hashim, Director of the Asia Europe Institute.

Professor Milner's research interests include Asian regionalism and the analysis of non-Western (especially Southeast Asian) approaches to international relations. In recent years, he has written the overview essay on 'Asian regionalism' for the annual Routledge Press volume *The Far East and Australasia* (New York



With Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Former Foreign Minister of Thailand and Professor Azirah Hashim at the University of Malaya, 2017

and London); he was also co-editor of the Asialink Commission report, *Our Place in the Asian Century: Southeast Asia as The Third Way*. In government bodies and in such non-government institutions as Asialink and the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, he has comments on regional relations in a range of Australian and Southeast Asian newspapers, as well as on the Australian ABC.

Professor Milner has also served on a range of Australian Government committees, including the Foreign Affairs Council and the Australia Malaysia Institute. He was made a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 1994 and a National Life Member, Australian Institute of



With Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in 2015

International Affairs in 2007. In the same year, he also became a Member of the Order of Australia. In such institutions as the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, he has sought opportunities to enhance Malaysia-Australia cooperation. On engagement and relationship building, and on openness and moral balance in foreign-policy thinking deserves more attention in the general study of international relations.

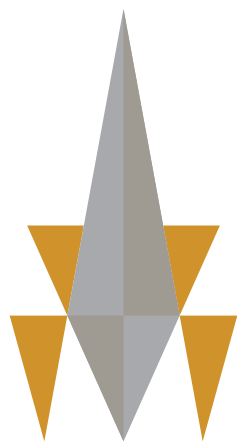
Professor Milner is keen to show that old traditions of foreign relations – traditions that go back to the sultanates of pre-British times – continue to be influential and relevant till today. He hopes to show that the long-established Malay emphasis on engagement and relationship building, and on openness and moral balance

in foreign-policy thinking deserves more attention in the general study of international relations.

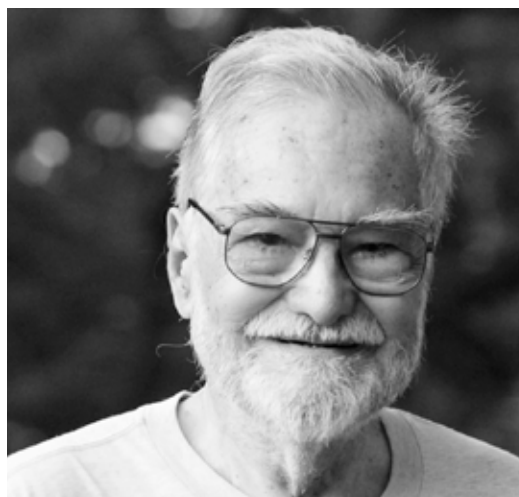
Personal Philosophy: “Keep moving forward, hurl oneself into life - explore, debate, experiment - but be alert to unintended consequences”.

Message to Young Malaysians: “Young Malaysians need to learn about leaders of the past – right back to pre-British times. Some classical Malay texts – such as the *Hikayat Hang Tuah* – offer insights that can be of assistance even today. Modern Malaysian leaders have displayed skill and foresight in economic and social policy, and Malaysia’s success in foreign policy, especially in building ASEAN, ought to be inspirational”.

Merdeka Award Past Recipients



MERDEKA
AWARD
2008



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

**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 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)

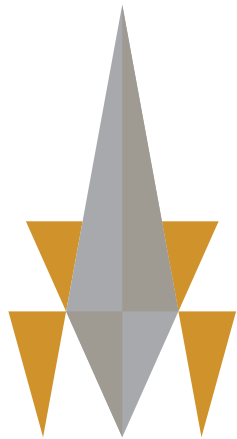
For outstanding contribution to the study and understanding of diabetes and the relationship between hormones and stresses in various tissues



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO
THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA**

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

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

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



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Professor Datuk Dr Halimaton Hamdan

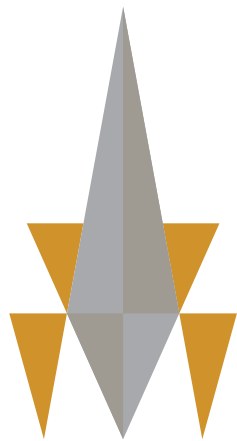
For outstanding contribution in the development and application of Maerogel as a commercially viable multi-purpose material



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



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 Emeritus Professor
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



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

**Distinguished Professor Datuk
Dr Harith Ahmad**

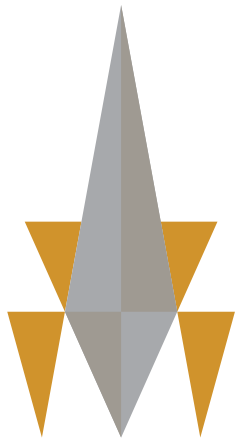
(Joint Recipient)

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



**OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA**

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**

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

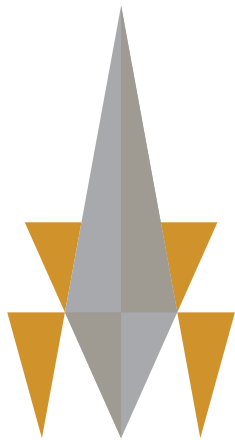


**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**

Professor Dr Mak Joon Wah

(Joint Recipient)

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

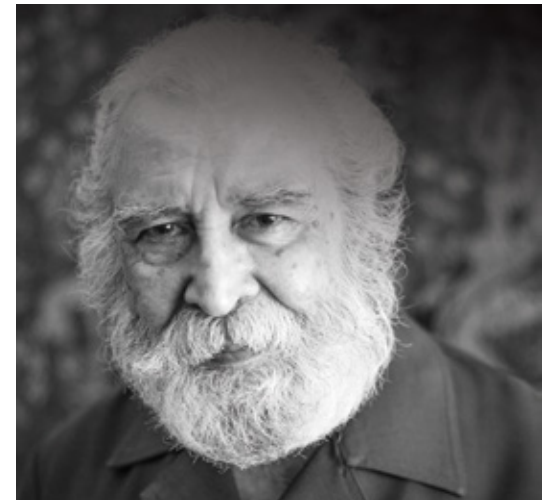


MERDEKA
AWARD
2012



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

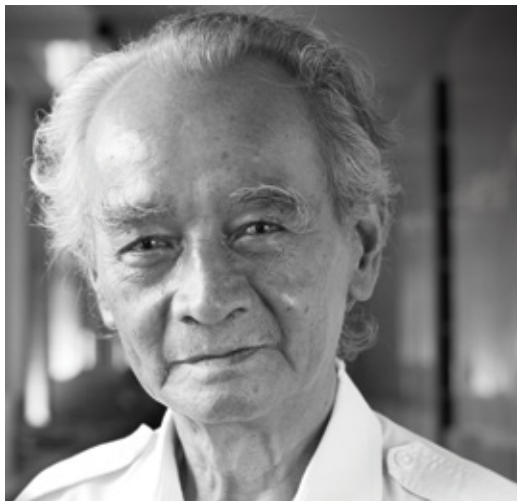
For outstanding contribution to the research and development of the chemistry and technology of palm oil and for his significant role in advocating and promoting the Malaysian palm oil industry to the world



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT

Tan Sri Professor
Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas

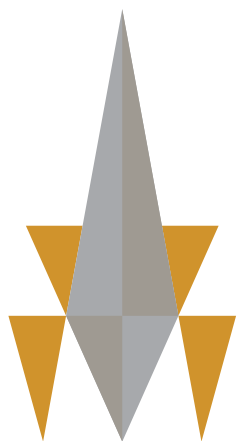
For outstanding contribution to the scholarly research in the area of Islamisation of contemporary knowledge and of Muslim education



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA

Dr Engkik Soepadmo

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



MERDEKA AWARD 2013



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama 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



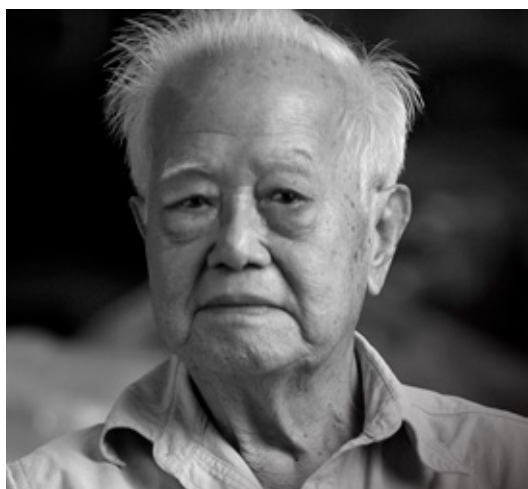
EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

Raja Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama

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



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

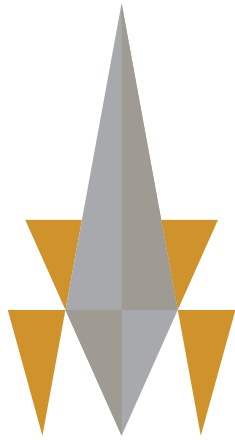
For outstanding contribution to pioneering the development of clinical research and cardiac surgery in Malaysia and for his instrumental role in the establishment of the National Heart Institute (IJN)



OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Lam Sai Kit

For outstanding contribution to scholarly research and development in medical virology and emerging infectious diseases including dengue



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



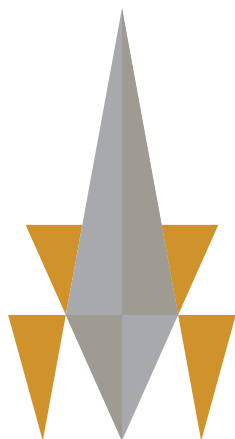
**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**
Professor Dr Abdul Latif Ahmad
(Joint Recipient)
For outstanding contribution to the scholarly research and development of technologies in the areas of polymer science, wastewater treatment and membrane separation technology



**OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC
ACHIEVEMENT**
Professor 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



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

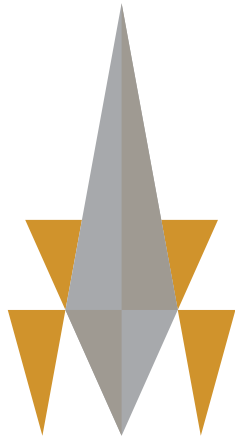
For outstanding scholastic contribution in the research of separation processes and water and wastewater treatment and for his instrumental role in the setting-up of the Centre for Ionic Liquids



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



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 & 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



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

Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment

The Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment was first launched in conjunction with the 2011 Merdeka Award Presentation Ceremony by Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak.

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 talent development 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.

The Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment has successfully identified eligible individuals and partnered them with their choice of institutions and organisations.

2013

RECIPIENTS	INSTITUTIONS
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	Institute of Genetic Medicine, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Broad Institute of Harvard-MIT
Dr Natrah Fatin Mohd Ikhsan Understanding molecular microbial ecology towards sustainable agriculture production	Scripps Institutions of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, and University of Sydney, Australia

2014

RECIPIENTS	INSTITUTIONS
Dr Kamalan Jeevaratnam Mechanistic insight for cardiac cellular therapy using stem cells	University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
Dr Lim Hong Ngee Nanotechnology-based blood testing to identify breast cancer	University of Toronto, Canada

2015

RECIPIENTS	INSTITUTIONS
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	New York University Medical Center
Dr Mohd Sukor Su'ait Advanced Energy Conversion And Storage Material From Malaysian Palm Oil Industries	Ecolé Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

2016

RECIPIENTS	INSTITUTIONS
Dr Khamarrul Azahari Razak The Power of Knowledge: How Prepared Are We For Disaster – The Malaysia Context	Disaster Prevention Research Institute, Kyoto University, International Research Institute of Disaster Science, Tohoku University and Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Kobe, Japan
Ms Koh Lily How Small and Medium Enterprises' (SMEs) can strategically position themselves in the value chain in the midst of Industry 4.0	Harvard Business School

Merdeka Award Roundtable

The Merdeka Award Roundtable was launched in August 2011 as a series of TV talk shows on Astro AWANI, focusing on key issues that are of importance to Malaysia and Malaysians. Designed to inspire debate, each Roundtable features a panel of experts from the corporate, academic and social sectors to share insights on the discussion topic. The Roundtables serve to nurture a more engaged and informed society in building a successful and developed nation.

Leading figures from the nation's corporate, academic and social spheres meet at the Roundtables, making it an ideal platform for thought leaders to share their insights and opinions.

Over the years since its inception, the proliferation of interesting views on various topics has contributed in bringing to life the true spirit of Malaysian independence - the liberation of mind and spirit, and the pursuit of excellence.

Some notable Merdeka Award Roundtable discussions include:

- Create Malaysia: Harnessing the Creative & Cultural Industries to Spur Economic Growth
- Banking on Biodiversity: Striking a Balance Between Conservation and Development in Malaysia
- Agents of Change: Challenges and The Future of Non-Profits in Malaysia
- The Future of Our Past - Safeguarding Malaysia's Historic and Heritage Places
- Playing The Game: The Future of Sports in Supporting Development in Malaysia
- By The Book: Challenges in Nurturing a Reading Culture in Malaysia
- Turning the Tide: Brain Drain to Brain Gain
- To Greater Heights: Elevating Malaysia in the Digital Economy



MERDEKA AWARD ROUNDTABLE
PLAYING THE GAME: THE FUTURE OF SPORTS
IN SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT IN MALAYSIA

 IZUMI TAKAGI Moderator Special TV Commentator & Lecturer at International Sports University Malaysia	 MARCUS LIEW Founder & Group CEO, Total Sports Asia (TSA)	 JEFFREY ONG KIM PHEE Head Coach National Team Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)	 U.A.M. TUNAKI YAN SRI UNGKAN IDRIS ALMARHUM TUNASRI JAFAR President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia (OCM)	 DR. WIDADATI MERED BADER President Malaysian Association For Sport Management (MAMSM) & ex- Senior Lecturer at University of Malaya (UM)	 CYNTHIA NG Moderator
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An initiative to promote excellence by
ExxonMobil, PETRONAS, and others.

Watch the upcoming
Roundtable on Tuesday,
February 7, 2017 at 6:00pm
on **ASTRO AWANI CHANNEL 501**

With repeats on:
Wed, Feb 8, 2017 at 6:00pm
Thurs, Feb 9, 2017 at 6:00pm

For more information, please visit: www.merdekaaward.com.my

MERDEKA AWARD ROUNDTABLE
BY THE BOOK: CHALLENGES IN NURTURING
A READING CULTURE IN MALAYSIA

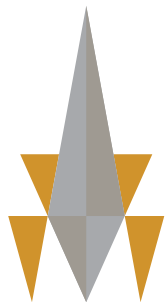
 LT COL. DR. UNDERJET SINGH Senior Lecturer, National Challenge University of Malaysia	 SAYED MUNWAR Senior Lecturer, CICU, Kota Bharu	 TEOH LIAN EWE Co-Founder, Bookurise	 UMAPANAN AMPOKAPARAN Host of Book Review Show on BFM Radio	 CYNTHIA NG Moderator
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With repeats on:
Thurs, May 18, 2017
at 9:30pm
Wed, May 24, 2017
at 9:30pm

Watch the upcoming Roundtable on
Wednesday, May 17, 2017
at 8:30pm
on **ASTRO AWANI CHANNEL 501**

An initiative to promote excellence by
ExxonMobil, PETRONAS, and others.

For more information, please visit: www.merdekaaward.com.my



MERDEKA
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Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia

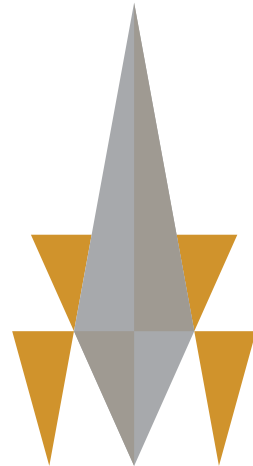
YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz

Tan Sri Rainer Althoff

YAM Tengku Datin Paduka Setia Zatashah Sultan

Sharafuddin Idris Shah

The Logo and Trophy



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



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 Awards winners. The trophy also represents environmental concerns in the form of a plant shoot *Rebung*, transparency, ethics, and the glorious five decades of Malaysian independence.



Dato' Johan Ariff

After serving in the Ministry of Information, Dato' Johan Ariff set up his Design Practice in 1974, when PETRONAS logo was also conceived. Though multidisciplinary, his Practice is largely involved in Corporate Identity commissions. Some of his works are in the permanent collection of the World Trademark Centre, Belgium. He has executed and supervised the largest logo portfolio in the country.

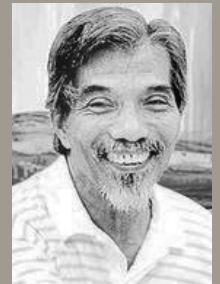
An Artistic Vision of Excellence



This Latiff Mohidin sculpture incorporates the kinetic element of a rotating ball symbolising freedom. The sculpture rests on a granite base denoting strength and fortitude. The piece also incorporates the traditional elements of *Sulur Bayur* underscoring heritage and *Pucuk Rebung* signifying excellence.

Latiff Mohidin

Artist, sculptor and poet Latiff Mohidin is one of Malaysia's pre-eminent artists. He first made an impact on the local art scene at the age of 11. His education in art has taken him to Berlin, Paris and New York, where he developed a strong visual language that permeates his work.





Caricature by Datuk Mohd Nor Khalid (LAT) during a live drawing for the 2016 Merdeka Award Presentation Ceremony.

The sketch is LAT's personal interpretation of the Spirit of Merdeka, which he drew while sharing his personal experiences and highlights of his life's work. It resembles a cartoon LAT holding up the Latiff Mohidin sculpture, which is designed to incorporate aesthetic elements to symbolize the values of freedom, fortitude, heritage, and excellence.

Datuk LAT was himself a recipient of the Merdeka Award in 2014 for his 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.

