



MERDEKA
AWARD

2010

MERDEKA AWARD
2010

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The Merdeka Award aims to promote thought leadership and innovation, foster a culture of excellence, 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.

www.merdekaaward.com





The Merdeka Award

In conjunction with the celebration of Malaysia's 50 years of independence in 2007, the oil and gas industry came together in a spirit of unity to offer an enduring contribution to the people of Malaysia.

The Merdeka Award was thus established by its Founders, namely ExxonMobil, PETRONAS and Shell, on 27 August 2007, to recognise and reward Malaysians as well as non-Malaysians who have made outstanding and lasting contributions to the nation and the people of Malaysia in their respective fields.

The choice of name, Merdeka Award, reflects the Founding Members' aim to commemorate 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.

Each year, the annual Merdeka Award will be conferred on individuals and/or organisations whose excellent work and achievements have made an outstanding impact on the nation and its people in the following categories, namely Education and Community; Environment; Health, Science and Technology; Outstanding Scholastic Achievement; and Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia.

The Award categories reflect focus areas that are regarded as instrumental to the overall growth and development of a nation. One award will be made for each of the five categories above. In the event that in a given year, two individuals and/or organisations are deemed to be equally deserving of recognition, the award will be shared. The Merdeka Award recipient will be awarded with a certificate, a trophy and prize money of RM500,000.

Nomination & Selection

The nomination and selection of Merdeka Award recipients is administered by six committees – five Nomination Committees and one Selection Committee. These 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 Merdeka spirit.

Categories & Recipients 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

ENVIRONMENT

No Winner

HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

No Winner

OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Professor Emeritus Dr Yong Hoi Sen

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

&

Professor Dr Harith Ahmad

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

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA

Tan Sri Just Faaland

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

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.

*“She provided a place of hope, refuge and
development for destitute children facing
the daunting challenges of life”*

*Professor Datuk Dr Shamsul Amri Baharuddin
Member of the Nomination Committee
Education and Community*



DATIN PADUKA MOTHER A MANGALAM A/P S IYASWAMY IYER



PROFILE

Datin Paduka Mother A Mangalam A/P S Iyaswamy Iyer was born in Singapore on May 17, 1926. She spent her childhood living in an extended family home with her grandfather, CK Sundaram Iyer, as patriarch.

“I must say I had a privileged background as my grandfather was a landed proprietor with quite a number of houses, but he was frugal. He always had a sob story about paying bills, and that encouraged me to do something to relieve the situation, to study harder and build myself up,” she says.

A contemplative person from a young age, Mother Mangalam received her education at Raffles Girls’ School and the Saradhamani Girls’ School in Singapore. Her life’s path was set in her teenage years during World War II, as she wanted to alleviate the pain and suffering around her.

“I was actually known to be a dreamer, and in one instance my teacher stated in my report card, ‘Mangalam is a dreamer’. This characteristic of mine, made me look inside myself. I did a lot of thinking and I started to philosophise about life and death. When the war broke out, I realised what I wanted to be. I felt sorry for the war victims, and this was the thing that motivated me to get involved in social work.”

In 1948, the 22 year old took a bold step to leave her family in Singapore and come to Malaya, where, upon passing





Mother Mangalam made the decision at the tender age of 19 to devote her life to God and community work

her teacher training course, Mother Mangalam started teaching in Kuala Lumpur. She was posted to a Tamil school in Bangsar where the students were mostly from poor families.

She spent her time away from the classroom assisting her spiritual mentor, Swami Satyananda, in his relief work among the poor.

Swami Satyananda founded the Pure Life Society in 1949, with the aim of promoting multiracial and multireligious understanding through lectures, forums and programmes.

As a child, Mother Mangalam was inspired by her mentor's teachings and talks on religion. "I used to gasp with wonder even then, though as a child, you don't understand religion," she said. It was no surprise then that she sought his guidance as she settled upon her life's purpose.

Devotion to the Creator, and a compassion for the downtrodden which shaped the Pure Life Society led her to dedicate her life to welfare work, and she was initiated into the Pure Life Society in 1949 with the title 'Sister'. In 1985, she was bestowed the title 'Mother' by the Society.

PURITY OF HEART

Despite her gentle and quiet disposition, Mother Mangalam did not shy away from difficult situations. She was moved by the plight of children displaced and orphaned by the war, and wanted to start a home for them. In 1952, the first few buildings were put up for that purpose, and since then the Pure Life Society home had sheltered and nurtured over 2,000 children of all races and creeds. The home was the first non-government orphanage in the country.



Happy family. A recent photo of Mother Mangalam surrounded by children from the orphanage.

Life was difficult in the early years of the Home, as Mother Mangalam and the children had modest meals as money was scarce. However, she persevered, and over time, things improved.

“My only wish is that the children that were brought up under our care develop themselves so that they will be useful to themselves and society. If it were only for themselves, I wouldn’t be happy. And I must say quite a number of them are going in the way that I want them to be,” she said.

Many of the children under the care of the Home have grown up to have successful careers in medicine and the civil service, among others.

In the ensuing years the Home expanded into an institution to include schools, clinics, recreational halls and vocational training facilities.

Mother Mangalam has always been a firm believer in the concept of purity, which she says is the thread that binds all people together, and can motivate a person to reach his or her full potential.

“Purity is an element present in all religions, and it doesn’t mean a life with no marriage. It means the use of creative energy within us for a higher purpose, for the propagation of species and creation in other fields like music, art or

scientific discoveries, for the benefit, welfare and comfort of mankind. These divine elements are often misused, all because of people's misunderstanding of this great power," she said.

Mother Mangalam also dabbles in poetry, and in 2001 a book of poems written by her called *Dew Drops on A Lily Pad* was published by The Pure Life Society in conjunction with her 75th birthday.

She has also written another book on the History of Kuala Lumpur Schools in Tamil and has been the editor and publisher of the *Dharma Quarterly* since 1961.

Mother Mangalam's belief in the power of purity extends to her idea of national unity, and how charitable and foster homes which cater to specific races do not contribute to building national unity.

"Homes have been set up separately, and this I don't agree. We never say no to anyone and if a case is worthy, we always take the child in. These children who live in a home will have to relate to a multiracial society outside. These are their growing years, and if they are going to be confined to one race or religion, they will be looking at others with hostility, and this is not good," she said.

Mother Mangalam has been widely recognised for her work among the poor and disadvantaged. She received the *Kesatria Mangku Negara (KMN)* by Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 2003 and a *Pingat Jasa Kebangsaan (PJK)* from the Sultan of Selangor in 1955. She was also honoured with the *Tun Fatimah Gold Medal* from the National Council of Women's Organisations in 1977.

Mother Mangalam remains modest about her achievements. "My achievement? I don't know what it is really. All have contributed to the work, that's all I can say; the environment, people and the children have played a part in what has been achieved thus far. For me, the most important factor is building the right human capital to continue this work in the future, as without it, we cannot achieve anything," she said.



In the 1960s. Children from all races and backgrounds come together at the orphanage. Many of the children who grew up under her care have gone on to become successful individuals.



A glimpse from the past. The late Tun Fatimah Hashim, the country's first woman cabinet minister visiting the children at the orphanage, accompanied by Mother Mangalam.

A recipient of the 2010 Merdeka Award in the Education and Community category, Mother Mangalam takes this latest honour in her stride. “Nothing is static in the world. What gives me real joy is being healthy enough to carry out my work,” she said.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mother Mangalam has been a ‘mother’ to multi-ethnic orphaned children throughout the years, and is a testimony that a life dedicated to serving others can bring fulfilment and joy.

Her selflessness, spirit and lifetime of dedication to the less fortunate personifies the Spirit of Merdeka.

“... for it is in peace and tranquillity that a Nation can progress ...”

Excerpt from Dew Drops on A Lily Pad

Outstanding Scholastic Achievement

Awarded to a student/fellow conducting or playing a major role
in academic research resulting in significant discovery at
a postgraduate level in a local or foreign university.

*“His innovation and pioneering spirit,
commitment and hard work, ingenuity
and world class achievements embody
the qualities of excellence that the
Merdeka Award recognises”*

*Tan Sri Datuk Dr Augustine Ong Soon Hock
Member of the Nomination Committee,
Health, Science and Technology*

PROFESSOR EMERITUS DR YONG HOI SEN



PROFILE

Academician Professor Emeritus Dr Yong Hoi Sen was born on August 25, 1939 in Mentakab, Pahang Darul Makmur. His parents came from Guangdong, China, with little or no education. When Professor Dr Yong was in Primary Six, his father passed away. His mother supported him and his two younger brothers by growing vegetables in their yard in Mentakab New Village, Pahang.

Despite the difficult home environment, Professor Dr Yong was a bright student. He received the Pahang State Scholarship when he was in upper secondary, enabling him to continue his sixth form studies at the Victoria Institution in Kuala Lumpur where his interest in biology was kindled.

“When I was in Form 6, I was exposed to two field projects organised by the biology teacher – one on the vegetation of tin tailings and the other on the fauna of the Dark Cave of Batu Caves,” he said. “The outcome was my first publication on the fauna of Batu Caves which appeared in the Scientific Victorian (1960).

“In those days, you had to choose between biology and mathematics in the science stream, so I decided to pursue disciplines in life science,” he added.

Professor Dr Yong received all his formal education in Malaysia, graduating from the University of Malaya where he specialised in the areas of botany and zoology and received his doctorate from the same university for research in genetics and zoology.





Researching the richness and diversity of the Malaysian ecosystem

He is the first Malaysian to hold the Chair of Zoology at the University of Malaya and is currently Professor Emeritus at the Institute of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya.

He has supervised 11 PhD and 12 MSc candidates, in addition to numerous final year research projects. A number of foreign and local higher degree students under his supervision have successfully produced monoclonal antibodies against various human parasites. These monoclonal antibodies could be employed for diagnostic purposes. A molecular marker was discovered by Praphathip Eamsobhana, his PhD student from Thailand, for the diagnosis or confirmation of human angiostrongyliasis which is a disease due to the presence of lung worm.

Professor Dr Yong has published over 300 articles and four books on Malaysian flora and fauna. He also established an illustrated quarterly called NATURE MALAYSIANA, and was editor of various journals including the Malayan Nature Journal.

Although he was offered a Commonwealth Scholarship to study for a PhD in the United Kingdom, Professor Dr Yong chose to receive all his education in Malaysia and says this has not been a disadvantage to him.

PIONEERING DISCOVERIES

Professor Dr Yong adopts a holistic and innovative approach to solving problems in biosystematics, employing both classical and modern methods.



“In life sciences, correct identification (or diagnosis) is critical and biological problems are often very complex and require different approaches to arrive at the correct answer,” he said.

“When I was pursuing my PhD, there existed conflicting opinions on some specific problems such as whether two given rats were of the same or different species, based on ‘classical approaches’ (anatomy and morphology),” he added. “To resolve the problem, I employed modern or newer approaches such as cytogenetics, immunogenetics, serology, and electrophoresis. This multidisciplinary approach resolved the problem for good. In a particular case, the two rats considered to be colour phases/morphs of the same species were shown to be valid sibling species. The challenges in those days were the lack of equipment and experts for guidance. I had to learn from existing publications.”

His innovative approach and wide interests have led him to explore several branches of biology. Among outstanding and significant discoveries made by Professor Dr Yong were the direct development of frogs - that female mammals

with XO chromosome constitution or X-monosomy may be fertile. His other discovery is the phenomenon of isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) gene duplication in soy bean.

“The answers for many biological problems require multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary inputs,” he said. “My main tool was genetics and this is a very powerful tool in solving many biological problems.”

“Of course I had and still have great interest in various groups of living organisms,” he added. “I believe that to excel, one must be multi-skilled, flexible, and knowledgeable with broad-based knowledge. One must also have basic knowledge on various disciplines of science and humanities.”

Professor Dr Yong is also a keen researcher in the area of human and medical cytogenetics to identify the genetic or hereditary basis of diseases and disorders.

He made new discoveries of species and recorded new living organisms and confirmed the occurrence of many other species in Malaysia.

The discovery of the largest trypanosome parasite found in frogs and toads in the world was among his most noteworthy achievement. The parasite, called *Trypanosoma raksasa*, was also a milestone in that Malay was used next to the traditional Latin nomenclature.

“The use of Malay words or words in any other language does not pose any



Prof Yong has identified many new species and recorded new living organisms in Malaysia

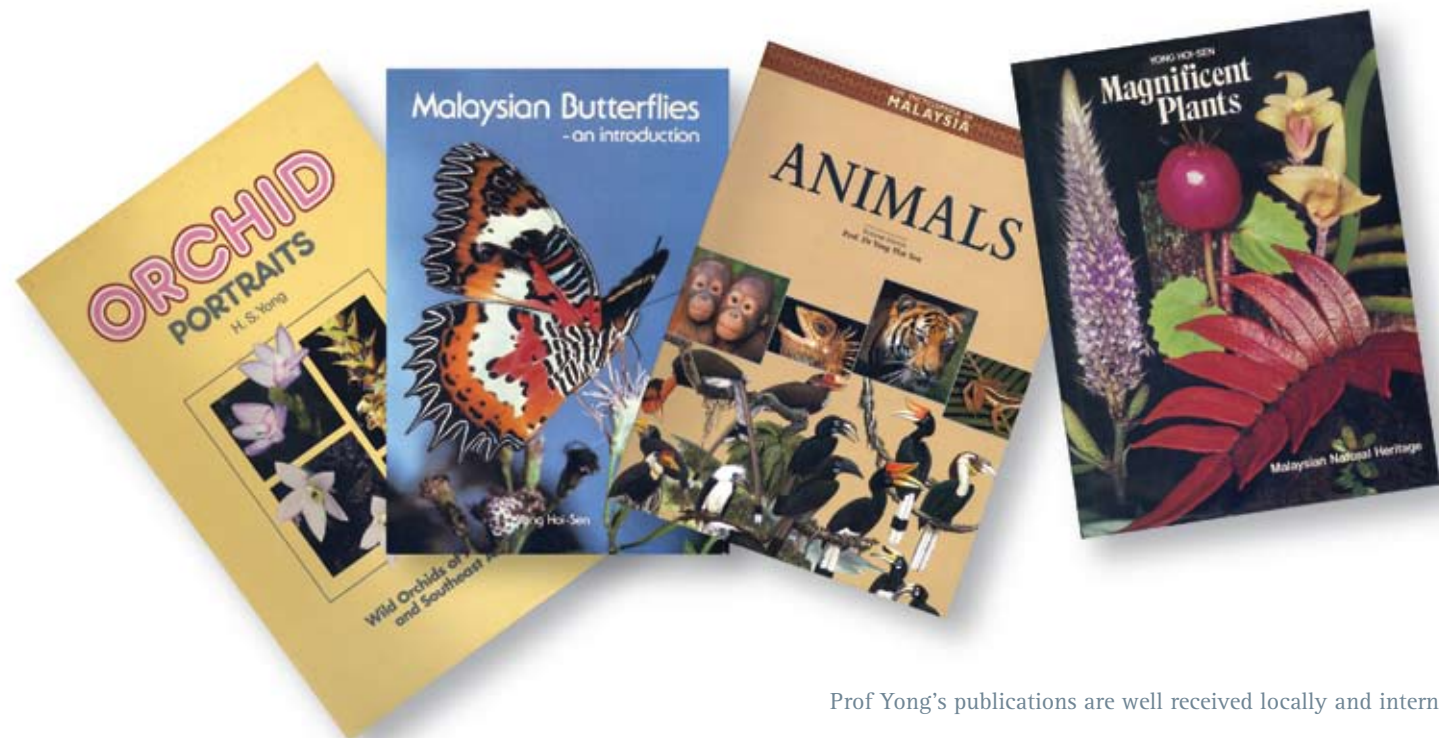
problem in naming a new species of living organism,” he said. In fact, there are others now using Malay words for naming new species.”

Several other species of fauna have been named after him by foreign scientists including *Topomyia* (*Topomyia*) *yongi*, a species of mosquito from Peninsular Malaysia, and *Kalophrynus yongi*, a new microhylid.

On being named the joint recipient of the 2010 Merdeka Award in the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement category, he remains modest and says that he is pleased that associates and friends in the scientific community have recognised his contributions in the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

Professor Dr Yong was appointed by the Government of Malaysia as a Foundation Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 1995. He was appointed a Senior Fellow (with the title Academician) in 2002, and was conferred the JMN (Johan Mangku Negara) by His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 2002.

Professor Dr Yong has been honoured with several other accolades including the Malaysia Toray Science Foundation First Science and Technology Award in 1994 and the National Science Award in 1995.



Prof Yong's publications are well received locally and internationally



Carrying out a field study early on in his career

Despite his many achievements, he views his published works as his most significant achievement.

“I think my greatest success is in pioneering the local publication of scientific works by Malaysians, and founding and editing the first-ever Malaysian full-colour quarterly NATURE MALAYSIANA for some 20 years. This magazine and the books have been very well received locally, regionally and internationally,” he said.

He advises young people interested in pursuing a career in science to be creative and imaginative and to pursue original ideas and new knowledge.

“They should not be in a great hurry as significant breakthroughs can rarely be documented before a decade or so of sustained activity,” he said.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

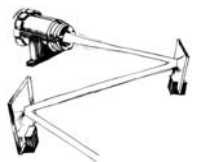
Professor Dr Yong is an outstanding scientist whose accomplishments play a major role in advancing research and education in science. He has demonstrated the benefit of wide ranging research and its far reaching impact on the understanding of the natural world.

A black and white portrait of Professor Dr Harith Ahmad, a man with dark, curly hair, a mustache, and glasses, looking directly at the camera. The background is a solid dark grey.

*“His study and contributions have
initiated collaborations between
universities and industries which
support the advancement of knowledge,
powering world class research,
education and training.”*

*Dato’ Dr Hj Abdul Razak Mohd Ali
Member of the Nomination Committee
Outstanding Scholastic Achievement*

PROFESSOR DR HARITH AHMAD



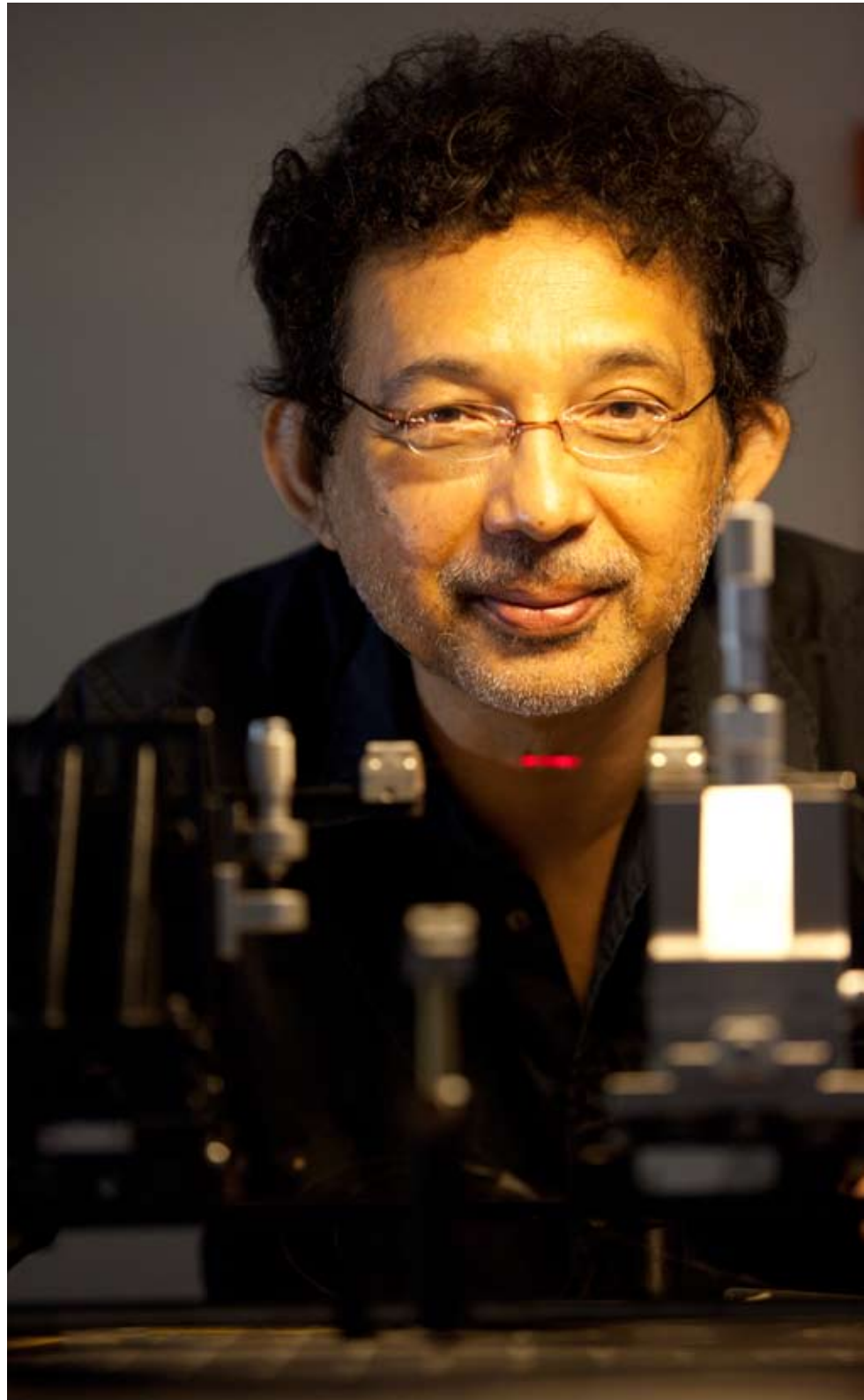
PROFILE

Professor Dr Harith Ahmad was born on November 2, 1954 in Alor Star, Kedah. He received his undergraduate education at University of Malaya where he obtained a first class degree in physics and went on to do his master's degree in High Voltage Technology and a doctorate in Laser Technology from the University of Wales in the United Kingdom.

He began his academic career at the University of Malaya in 1983 as a lecturer and is currently a Professor of Photonics at the university. His other appointments and positions include:

- Programme Head, National Top-Down Project on Photonics, MOSTI (since 1999)
- Programme Head, Optical Planar Waveguides Project (since 2001)
- Senior Principal Analyst, Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), Prime Minister's Department (since 2001)
- Reviewer, IEEE Photonics Technology Letters (in the US)
- Fellow, Academy of Sciences, Malaysia.

Professor Dr Harith's areas of expertise are Fibre Optics And Waveguides (Planar Lightwave Circuit), Quantum Electronics And Lasers (Laser Technology) and Fibre Optics & Waveguides (Fibre Optic Technology). He has over 300 journal publications and conference proceedings in his name, all of which are recognised by the International Citation





A keen researcher in the field of photonics technology

Index. He has also obtained 10 patents jointly with Telekom Malaysia and has supervised more than 10 PhD students and over 30 MSc students.

Professor Dr Harith has been interested in physics and mathematics from an early age.

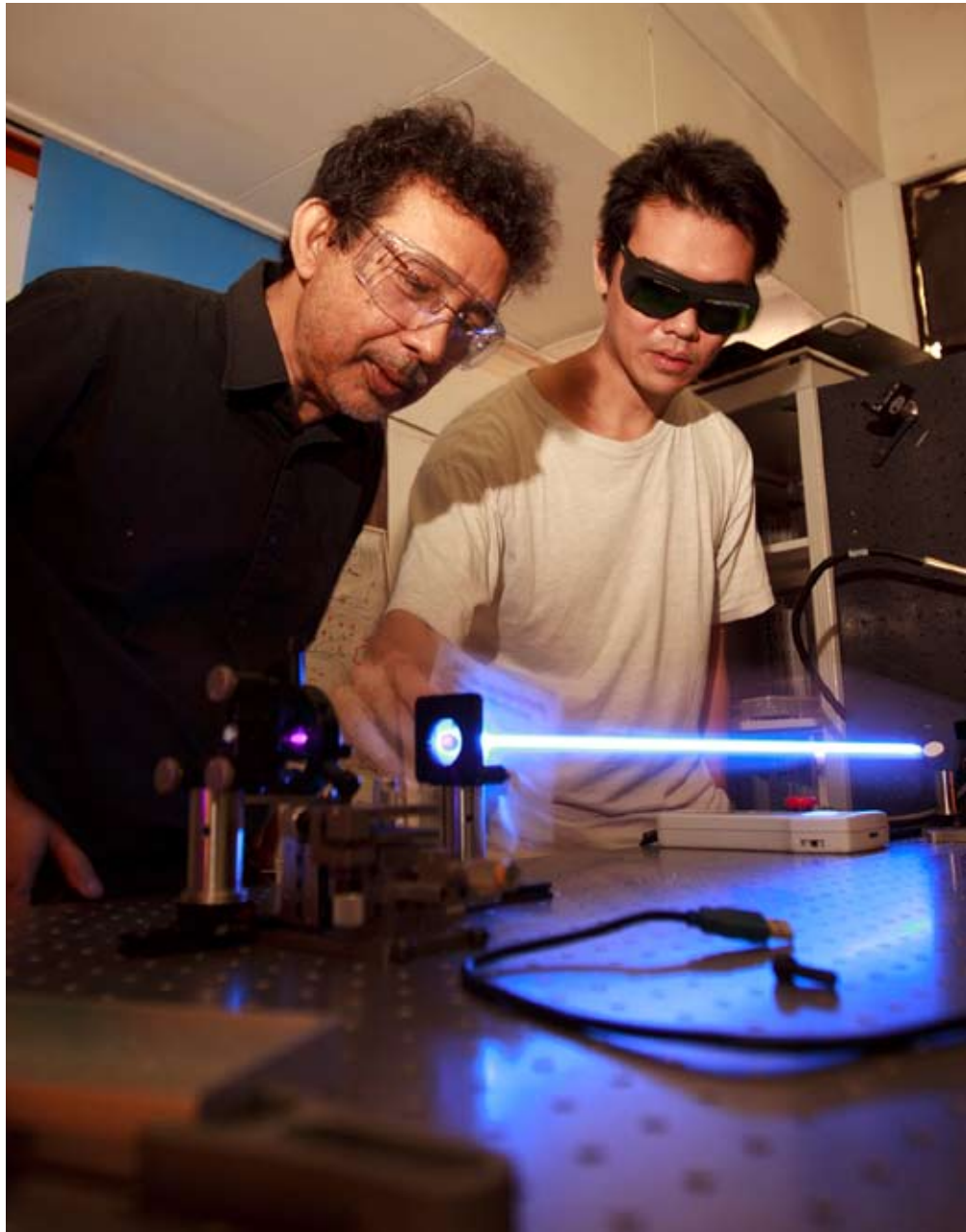
“Physics was something I enjoyed most as a student - physics and maths were my strong points. If you look at what happens around you, it is all based on physical principles. Of course there are other opinions, but physics is the mother of all sciences,” he said.

Professor Dr Harith has worked in the semiconductor industry prior to a career in academia.

“I thought it was more interesting to work in the academic field, and I would like to encourage young people to join academia as it provides freedom to pursue your hobbies, passions and interests,” he said.

FOREFRONT OF RESEARCH

Professor Dr Harith's pioneering research in the field of laser technology has initiated the development of devices and techniques for industrial and scientific applications. He holds numerous patents in photonics products jointly with Telekom Malaysia. Under his leadership, the Laser Research Group at the Department of Physics, University of Malaya, covered extensive research areas in the field of photonics including exploring the technology of femtosecond lasers.



Prof Harith nurtures the interest of his students by encouraging imagination and creativity

"We were the first in Malaysia to initiate work in optical fibres in the mid 1990s. In early 2000, we moved into fabrications of optical circuits," he said.

Never one to rest on his laurels and always pushing the boundaries of knowledge, Professor Dr Harith was also instrumental in initiating and developing a photonics laboratory and the only planar lightwave fabrication facility in the region.

Professor Dr Harith is currently researching nano photonics because of its many potential applications. It also provides an inroad to new areas of research and new products.

His research contributions in laser technology, optics and optical fibres include the design and fabrication of semiconductor-pumped solid-state lasers, developing techniques to study laser shadowgraphy, researching the interaction of electromagnetic waves in crystals, designing a fibre laser and developing tuneable solid state lasers.

Professor Dr Harith enjoys spending time in the laboratory. “You should enjoy what you are doing, and if you think you cannot enjoy it and there is no passion, it would be better to look for something else to do,” he said.

He is delighted to have been selected as a joint recipient of the 2010 Merdeka Award in the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement category. He cites his contribution in the development of research in the country as his greatest achievement.

“I am glad to be able to develop good research in Malaysia and have produced many PhDs who are now working in other universities where they can pass on their knowledge,” he added.



In his laboratory, where he spends most of his time researching and supervising his students.



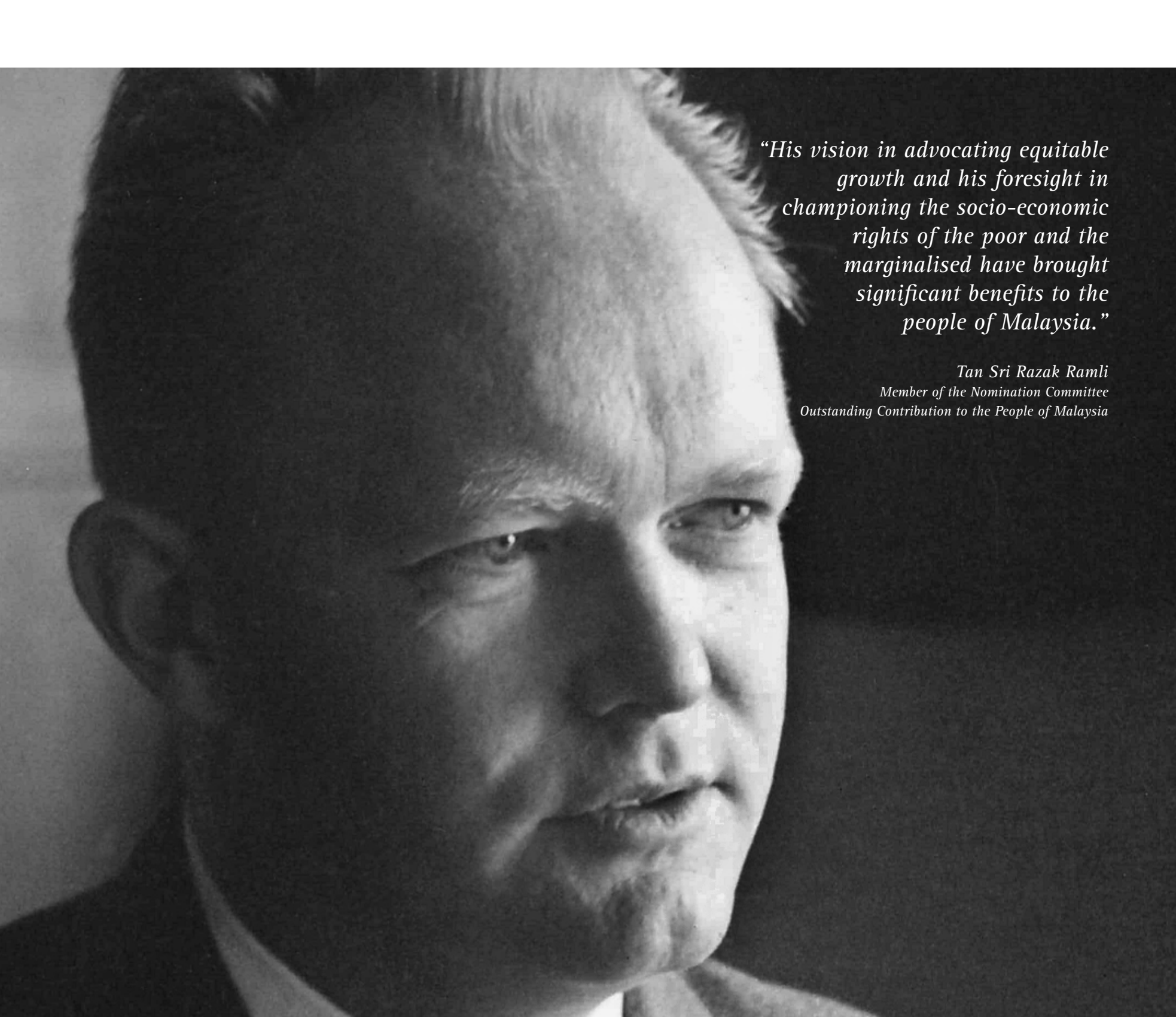
He continues to take an active role in facilitating the development of photonics research and education

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Professor Dr Harith has made an immense contribution to science by steering the development and application of photonics technology in Malaysia. His research and the commercial potential of his research in photonics provide the framework in strengthening Malaysia's position as a vibrant and competitive nation where cutting edge capabilities and technology are available to businesses and communities.

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.



“His vision in advocating equitable growth and his foresight in championing the socio-economic rights of the poor and the marginalised have brought significant benefits to the people of Malaysia.”

*Tan Sri Razak Ramli
Member of the Nomination Committee
Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia*

TAN SRI JUST FAALAND



PROFILE

Tan Sri Just Faaland was born in Oslo on January 25, 1922. He received his education at the University of Oslo and Oxford University in Mathematics and Economics. Tan Sri Faaland was mentored by Professor Ragnar Frisch, who was a joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1969 with Jan Tinbergen.

He first came to Malaysia in 1969 while he was serving as Director of the Harvard University Malaysia Advisory Group, to advise the Government of Malaysia in the area of socio-economic planning.

He has held various leadership positions in international organisations including President of the OECD Development Centre in Paris, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Washington, World Bank's Representative in Bangladesh and Economic Consultant to the United Nations and its agencies.

Currently, he is a Senior Consultant with the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) Norway, an independent centre for research on international development and policy. He has written and published numerous books and articles, reports and papers, including a selection of papers in recent years on policies in Malaysia.

“Life is full of surprises and the human condition is in frequent change. It is a



privilege to be an observer also at this late stage in life,” he said.

Tan Sri Faaland received the honorary Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM) in 2002. He was inducted in 1982 into the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav by the Norwegian Government. He has been honoured with many awards including an honorary doctorate by the University of Malaya.



Having just received his Panglima Setia Mahkota order, which carries the title Tan Sri.

EQUITABLE GROWTH

Tan Sri Faaland has always advocated equitable growth and the socio-economic rights of the poor. In Malaysia, he promoted those principles through the formulation of the Malaysian New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1970.

Tan Sri Faaland enjoys the outdoors.
Sailing in the Fjords near Bergen, Norway.



“When I went to Oxford for graduate studies in economics just after the Second World War, what we now associate with development studies was just in its infancy. My particular field of study was the interrelation between international trade and employment. When later I came to focus on developing countries, this gave me a good start. I realised the importance of seeing employment not only as a source of income, but also as a major component in the set of ways in which people are active participants in the economy and the wider society,” he said. “Participation and inclusion are concepts that go beyond employment to wider issues of the control of economic destiny of self, of group and of nation.”

The purpose of the NEP was to eradicate poverty and foster national unity by enabling the ethnic groups in Malaysia to participate more equitably in the economy, without depriving any ethnic group of its social and economic rights.

Tan Sri Faaland first came to Malaysia before the May 13, 1969 racial riots as head of a team of international experts as the Director of the Harvard University Malaysia Advisory Group. The group was attached to the Economic Planning Unit to advise the country on economic matters.

After the May 13 incident, Tan Sri Faaland assisted the National Operations Council, led by Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak and worked closely with the Malaysian Government and the Economic Planning Unit, to elevate the living standards of the poor and marginalised.

“What little I knew related to Malaya rather than the whole country. I was aware of the main phases of wartime happenings and of the great importance of Malayan tin and rubber exports for the health of the economy. I had some acknowledge of the massive scale of the immigration of Chinese and South Asian labour. On arrival in KL in July 1968 I had a lot of catching up to do. I was fortunate to be placed in the EPU where also most of my colleagues in the Harvard Advisory Group were present,” he said.

The socio-economic climate in Malaysia in 1969 and 1970 gave rise to the need for better social equity and participation by all citizens for the country to progress.

“It called for a new approach. The persistent, even increasing gap between rich and poor, had the political effect of pushing many intellectuals and politicians towards advocacy of radical solutions. There was a clear need for a new alliance of moderate elements,” he said.

The NEP was not unanimously agreed upon when it was mooted, and not by all members of the Harvard University Malaysia Advisory Group. Tan Sri Faaland managed to convince them that it was the best way forward.

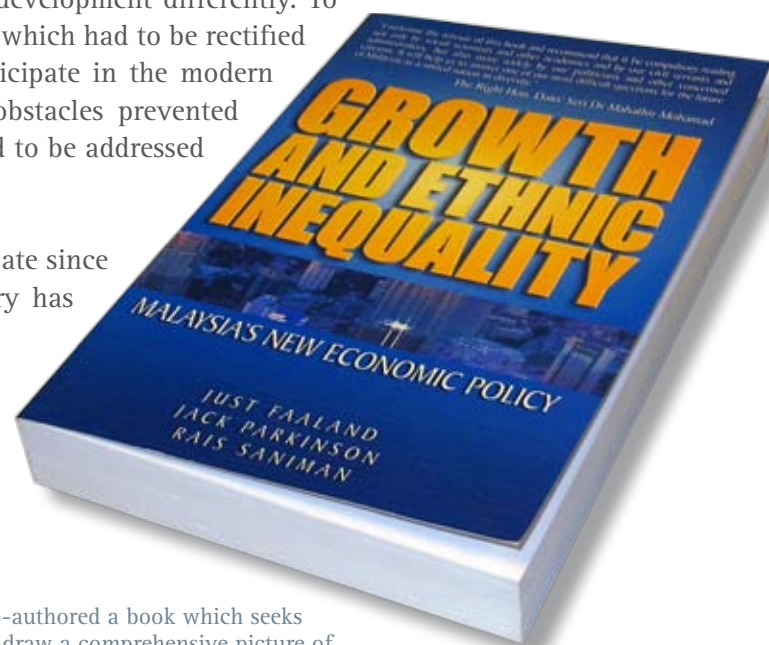
“Two major schools of thought emerged on how to react to the political and social upheaval. One emphasised economic growth over other priorities. Proponents of the NEP interpreted the challenge of development differently. To them there was clear evidence of a growing structural defect in the country which had to be rectified urgently. Large segments of the population remained ill-prepared to participate in the modern economy and key policies and major institutional, social and cultural obstacles prevented effective participation of segments of the population. These imbalances had to be addressed directly, not just as elements of a growth strategy,” he said.

The success of the NEP in achieving its objectives has been a subject of debate since its inception but Tan Sri Faaland is pleased overall with how the country has progressed since the policy was implemented.

“Malaysia has come a long way in its pursuit of the NEP objectives. Its experience of success is an inspiration and a model for other countries with multi-ethnic populations. Yet, much remains to be done to build a One Malaysia (united Malaysia), both in economic life and in the wider search for common identity and national ideals,” he added.

Tan Sri Faaland had a good working relationship with the Government, at the time led by Tun Abdul Razak.

Co-authored a book which seeks to draw a comprehensive picture of Malaysia's New Economic Policy.





In 1985, Tan Sri Faaland received his doctorate at the University of Bergen. He is photographed here with his son Jon and colleagues.

“While the advisors could contribute from the basis of analytical expertise and experience, there were capable Malaysians in charge who could ensure that priorities and positions of their respective institutions would prevail. The best traditions of proper and effective Civil Service ruled. The link between the foreign advisors and the political decision makers typically went through the leading civil servants,” he said.

A core group of civil servants was trained to carry out the work of the NEP, and the training of Malaysian civil servants was an important part of the project, he said.

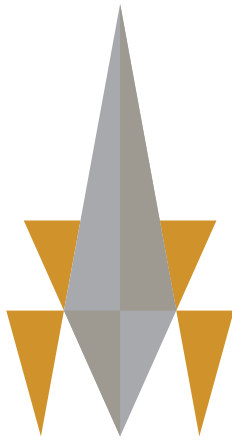
As a recipient of the Merdeka Award for Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia, Tan Sri Faaland accepts this latest accolade as recognition of the efforts of the Government and leaders of this nation in propelling the country forward.

“I accept the 2010 Merdeka Award with a sense of wonder as well as gratitude. I’d like to take the Award as recognition of the formulation of the NEP as an important part of the work of Tun Razak in the history of the nation, and of the many dedicated civil servants, politicians and others who, under shifting circumstances over the decades, have sought to realise Tun Razak’s (vision) for the nation,” he added.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Tan Sri Faaland has played an instrumental role in finding a balance between economic prosperity, social equity and inclusive growth in Malaysia, eschewing the threat of social disharmony and disintegration, and paving the way for economic growth and prosperity that the country continues to enjoy.

Merdeka Award Past Recipients



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 and economic opportunities for women through advocacy

Tun Fatimah Hashim passed away on January 9, 2010. She was 86. She had an illustrious career in politics and was the nation's first woman cabinet minister, holding the Welfare portfolio from 1969 to 1973. Tun Fatimah was synonymous with the women's rights movement in Malaysia.



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY

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

Dato' Lim Phaik Gan continues to work on her autobiography.



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Professor Dr Halimaton Hamdan

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

Seconded from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), she is currently leading the National Nanotechnology Directorate as Undersecretary. A plant has been set up for the production of Marogel and is scheduled to begin operations before the end of the year.

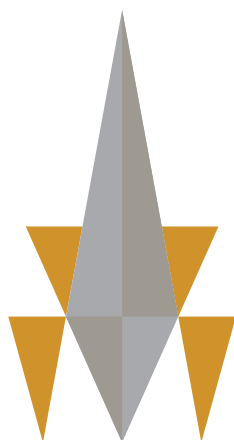


OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Professor Dato' Ir Dr Zaini Ujang

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

Professor Dato' Ir Dr Zaini Ujang has published two books in 2010; Budaya Inovasi and Elevating University, Creating Innovation (in English and Malay). He has led Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) to receive the Anugerah Harta Intelek Negara (Organisasi) and helped the university to attain Research University status in 2010. He was also appointed Visiting Professor at Lund University, Sweden, and appointed an international consultant for ground water quality and water level increment in Madinah City, Saudi Arabia. He is heading the Megascience Project in Water for the Academy of Sciences, Malaysia.



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

Royal Professor Ungku Aziz continues to work on a book of *pantun* (traditional Malay verse). University of Malaya published a book entitled 'Royal Professor Ungku A. Aziz: The Renaissance Man'. It is a collection of essays by former colleagues that chronicle his life story and his contributions to the field of education in the country.



ENVIRONMENT



Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)

For outstanding contribution to the Belum-Temenggor Forest Complex Conservation Initiative.

With the prize money from the Merdeka Award, the Malaysian Nature Society has set up an MNS –Merdeka Award fund and allocated part of the money for its ongoing work and campaign at the Belum-Temenggor Forest Complex in northern Peninsular Malaysia. The fund invited submission for proposals by all Malaysians earlier this year. The projects supported by the Fund are:

- Monitoring raptor migration;
- Involving the local community in the conservation of the critically endangered Southern River Terrapin;
- Congregating firefly zone survey and details of water-birds and wetlands habitat
- Survey of the Sarawak Coast.



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

The Team has described a new hamster model for the Hendra virus infection (the Hendra virus is closely related to the Nipah virus), and it also showed that antibodies can be used to protect against Hendra infection in the hamster model.



HEALTH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Kadir
(Joint Recipient)

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

Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Kadir has numerous ongoing projects and research initiatives with clinical trials and basic research, with five papers published in 2009. He was also invited to deliver a lecture at the Monash University Research Centre on the occasion of the Centre's 40th anniversary.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA

Datuk Leslie Davidson

*For outstanding contribution in the introduction of the pollinating insects *Elaeodobius kamerunicus* from Africa to the oil palm and plantations in Malaysia, leading to the rapid development of the palm oil industry*

Datuk Davidson continues to contribute articles and letters to newspapers and actively campaigns against what he sees as the negative effect of the media's biased reporting on Malaysia's palm oil industry.



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Tan Sri Datuk Dr Lal Chand Vohrah

Dato' Dr Hj Abdul Razak Mohd Ali

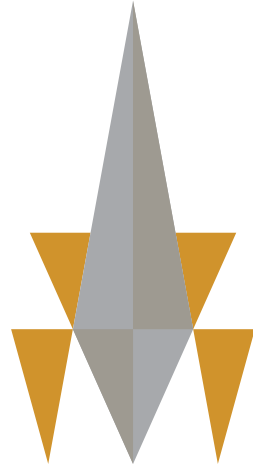
Outstanding Contribution to the People of Malaysia

Tan Sri Dato' Ernest Zulliger

Tan Sri Dato' Megat Zaharuddin Megat Mohd Nor

Tan Sri Razak Ramli

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.

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.



An initiative of



