

'Mahathir can help unite Third World'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Malaysia under Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership was today hailed as the nation with the best answer to the current leadership crisis within the Third World.

The secretary-general of the Third World Foundation for Social and Economic Studies, Mr Altaf Gauhar, said: "We feel Dr Mahathir can provide the leadership to initiatives to unite the Third World.

"The Third World countries are in a mess at the moment because of a crisis in leadership. The only hope left is for them to have dialogues among themselves to forge greater unity."

Mr Gauhar, in describing Dr Mahathir as a pragmatic person, said he could lead Third World nations in reorganising themselves.

"Dr Mahathir had emerged as a very sincere person who has tremendous feeling for the Third World," Mr Gauhar told the *New Straits Times* after a lecture on *Petrodollars: What Happens?*

Visionary

The lecture was organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS).

Mr Gauhar is also the editor-in-chief of the Third World Media which publishes the magazine *South* and the *Third World Quarterly*.

He said Dr Mahathir

has the ability to "turn ideas which sound nice into action with merit".

The Prime Minister, he added, was also a visionary dedicated to the welfare of the masses.

He said these were some of the reasons why Malaysia had been chosen as the venue for a seminar on South-South cooperation in May next year.

Dr Mahathir is expected to open the seminar and make the keynote address. Prominent Third World leaders including former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere are expected to attend the seminar.

On the Malaysian system of Government, he said it was exceptional as it had a proven tradition of succession in the leadership.