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Mahathir-Award

DR MAHATHIR RECEIVES ASEAN TOP ENGINEERING AWARD

JOGJAKARTA, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today received the Asean Federation of Engineering Organisations' (AFEEO) Distinguished Honorary Fellow Award for his outstanding contribution to the engineering profession and the nation.

The award was presented to him at the opening ceremony of AFEEO's two-day conference being held here from today.

"I am now a qualified engineer," said Dr Mahathir in jest during his speech at the award presentation ceremony.

He received the award from AFEEO chairman Ir. Pandri Prabono.

The award is presented to heads of state, prime ministers, deputy prime ministers and world renowned personalities who have contributed outstanding services to the profession, the institution and/or the nation.

AFEEO secretary-general Airlangga Hartarto, in the citation for the award, said that under Dr Mahathir's leadership, Malaysia had been transformed into one of the most economically stable and technologically advanced countries in the world.

He said the modern Malaysia was now one of the global hubs for business and technology.

Airlangga described Dr Mahathir's contribution to the all-round development of Malaysia as phenomenal, listing down his major successes during his tenure as Prime Minister, a seat which he will vacate at the end of this month after 22 years in office.

He said that under Dr Mahathir, Malaysia moved out from being a country with primary reliance on natural resources like tin, timber and rubber into a producer of high-tech goods and services.

The AFEEO secretary-general also credited the Prime Minister for getting Malaysia out of two major economic crisis -- in the mid 80's and in 1997-1998 when Dr Mahathir directed the Malaysian economic recovery on a different path, unlike other countries facing similar crisis.

-- BERNAMA

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