

25/09/2004

Message from Datuk Teo Chiang Kok, President

THIS year's Fiabci Awards of Distinction for outstanding real estate creations are unique for two reasons. Firstly, we are presenting nine awards, which is a testimony to our resurgent economy, and secondly, we are proud to honour our longest-serving Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, with a Fiabci Award of Distinction for Nation Building.

History will judge Dr Mahathir, who has been Prime Minister of Malaysia for 22 years, on many fronts. As one of the longest-serving Prime Ministers in the world and one who has taken Malaysia through the best of times as well as the worst, we can rightly say that he has always had the knack of turning every calamity into an opportunity. Very much like the word "disaster" in the Chinese language, which carries the character for "opportunity" within its word composition.

Never has Malaysia's profile under Dr Mahathir's leadership been more dynamic than in the real estate sector. The man who steered Malaysia through the recession in 1985 was ready in 1997, when the second recession hit the country and much of Asia. He had a battle plan, and this plan prevented Malaysia from suffering upheavals in real estate values as well.

His plan preserved the values of the properties of the citizens, unlike what happened in our neighbouring countries, where fortunes and homes were lost in the aftermath of the currency crisis.

Thinking outside the box, finding local solutions to imported problems, always preserving the quality of life for his people and acting in the public's interest for the benefit of the majority have been the hallmark of Dr Mahathir's reign as Prime Minister. His legacy in real estate is indeed well-documented.

We are proud to recognise Dr Mahathir and his contributions by presenting him with a Fiabci Award of Distinction for Nation Building.

This year's list of winners may be of some surprise. This is because Fiabci has been expanding its horizons to recognise areas of property excellence not previously considered - but which are, nevertheless important to the growth and maturity of our real estate market.

Congratulations to all winners, and may the award spur you to greater success.

DATUK TEO CHIANG KOK
PRESIDENT

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