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PM one of Asia's strongest leaders

Michael N. Mangan

I AM an Australian who lived and worked in Kuala Lumpur for seven years and married to a Malaysian, but now based in South Korea.

I think President Megawati Sukarnoputri's farewell speech recently to Dr Mahathir, expressed it all.

He truly is one of the strongest leaders Asia has seen in modern times. I admired him for standing up to the Western leaders. He was not afraid to tell them when they have been unfair, or pursue unbalanced and blatantly biased policies.

He was rubbished and condemned by the Western world for his use of the ISA, (which was actually framed by the British). But now they have even introduced its own version of the ISA.

He had the guts and foresight to introduce capital controls and stop all Malaysia's money going abroad.

I lived in Malaysia many years, after first visiting it more than 12 years ago, and have seen how Malaysia has transformed itself to what it is today. His leadership has been a great part of what Malaysia is now.

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