

The Citation for Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

A statesman and spokesman for the developing world, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad has guided the destiny of his nation over a decade and a half, propelling it to forefront of the Asian and world economics.

He is living testimony of his own exhortation to his countrymen that "the most important helping hands we can rely will always be the ones that are at the end of our arms.

The fourth and longest serving Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir joined the United Malay National Organization in 1946. In 1981, he became president of the party and Prime Minister of Malaysia.

He has provided over the transformation of his country from an economically vulnerable exporter of primary commodities to one of the most dynamic economics in Asia.

His vision of Malaysia as a developed country by the year 2020 has fired the imagination of an entire nation and has become the new national aspiration.

His forthright exudation of the views of the developing nations and his tireless campaign for a more equitable, humane and just world, have made a significant contribution to international understanding.

He has played an important role in the setting up of the South Commission and the South Center and the formation of the G-15.

Indeed, the first G-15 Summit was hosted by Dr. Mahathir in Malaysia.

He has also played a major role in the consolidation of ASEAN and in its emergence as the most dynamic regional grouping in the world.

Throughout his career in the public life, Dr. Mahathir has shown a remarkable ability to forward-looking, dynamic and modern nation and future generations will remember him as the architect of modern Malaysia.

By conferring the Jawaharial Nehru Award for International Understanding on Dr. Mahathir, India honors this outstanding son of Malaysia and reaffirms its conviction that the world need leaders who can build for us a better world to live in and bequeath to our children a better world.