

Mahathir on Science and Technology

A commemorative volume
in conjunction with the award of
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

Compiled by
Universiti Sains Malaysia



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Preface

In the world of academe, there is no better way to recognise a legacy than to publish it for public record. This is exactly the reason why this compilation is undertaken, namely to place on public record the legacy of a statesman and his passion for science and technology. Trained as a medical doctor, his perspective on science and technology is both clinical and compassionate. For him, science and technology must serve public interest as a way for society to better itself, indeed the world as well. This is clearly spelt out in one of the challenges outlined in his brainchild, the nation's blueprint, Vision 2020.

The launching of this compilation as a commemorative volume in conjunction with the 33rd Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), as well as the 35th anniversary of the establishment of USM makes it even more auspicious. It is intended to mark and celebrate the conferment of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad from whom the university has benefited significantly.

For this purpose, we have selected some twenty seminal addresses related to science and technology by the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, including a few articles that he wrote for the media in the 1960s. This is to demonstrate not only his keen interest on the wide-ranging topics of science and technology, but also his command and competency on a complex discipline, evident from the critical comments and innovative suggestions inherent in all of his addresses and writings. Indeed, USM is inspired by his thought-leadership.