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Indonesian varsity to honour Dr M

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HONORARY DOCTORATE: Former PM recognised for development of Malay community

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An honorary doctorate in humanities and cultural studies will be conferred upon Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad by Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS-Solo) today in recognition of his role in the development of the Malay community.

UNS-Solo rector Prof Dr Ravik Karsidi said the award, in the field of Leadership and Empowerment of Malay Communities, was being given in recognition of Dr Ma-

hathir's contributions during his 22-year tenure as Malaysia's prime minister.

"Malays in the region were once left behind compared with other communities.

"But under Dr Mahathir's leadership, they have now been lifted and continue to prosper.

"He has played an extensive role in shaping the self-belief of Malays, enabling them to step forward as equals with others," he said after the opening of an international seminar, here, yesterday.

The seminar, entitled "The Future of Malay Communities in the Midst of Crisis

and Global Political Change", was jointly organised by UNS-Solo and Universiti Utara Malaysia ahead of

today's conferral ceremony.

The seminar, with speakers comprising Malaysian and Indonesian academics, was held to explore the socio-economic and cultural development of Malay communities, as well as to study Dr Mahathir's methods and contributions as a national and regional leader.

"He has played an extensive role in shaping the self-belief of Malays, enabling them to step forward as equals with others."

Prof Dr Ravik Karsidi
 UNS-Solo rector

Keynote speaker and chairman of UNS-Solo's board of trustees Dr Akbar Tandjung called Dr Mahathir "a legendary leader" who should be an example to Malay communities in the region.

"His firm and strong style, especially when dealing with the West and the world at large, gave Malays a voice on the global stage.

"His visionary methods should

be used as a reference in the face of great changes ahead, particularly in the effort to build an Asean Community by 2015."

Dr Mahathir is the second person to receive an honorary doctorate from Indonesia's seventh-ranked public university, after former Indonesian Agriculture Department secretary-general Dr Mas'ud Wisnu Wandara in 2009.

The conferral ceremony, part of Dr Mahathir's two-day trip to the country, will be available for live-streaming at <http://www.uns.ac.id/streaming>.

After the ceremony, Dr Mahathir is expected to pay his respects to former Indonesian president Suharto at Astana Giribangun, the Suharto family mausoleum near Surakarta.

He is also expected to deliver a public talk at the Perdana Global Peace Foundation's "War is a Crime" exhibition at Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta tomorrow.



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be honoured by **Universitas Sebelas Maret** today