

ISIS initiates Tun Hussein Onn chair; Dr Muthiah Alagappa is first holder
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KUALA LUMPUR: In honour of the country's third Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn, known as "Bapa Perpaduan" (Father of Unity), the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia has initiated the Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies.

Besides making racial integration and national unity his priority during his five-year tenure from 1976 to 1981, Hussein was renowned for his foreign policies.

During the launching ceremony here Wednesday, his son, Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, said the 1970s provided a strong test in the country's international policy.

With the global political and economic turmoil, the threat of Communism was looming in the Southeast Asian region. "Closer to home, there was the rising threat of Communists.

Despite that, Hussein remained a neutral internationalist.

And despite turmoil in Indochina, Hussein maintained that Asean should be non-aligned.

"He even went to Russia and China to meet the leaders there to get them to respect Asean's non-alignment," said Hishammuddin in his speech read out by his brother, Datuk Haris Onn.

Datuk Dr Muthiah Alagappa was named the first holder of the Tun Hussein Onn Chair.

Funding the Chair is the Noah Foundation, helmed by its chairman Datin Paduka Dr Faridah Abdullah.

Also present at the function as guest of honour was Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah.

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