

**Mahathir Conferred Master Foreign Going Award By MHAPA
Bernama
8 May, 2013**

SHAH ALAM, May 8 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today conferred the "Master Foreign Going" award by Malaysia Harbour Pilots Association (MHAPA) which carries the title Captain.

The award was given in appreciating Dr Mahathir's contributions when he was Malaysia's fourth prime minister in advancing the local maritime sector to be on par with developed nations.

In his acceptance speech, Dr Mahathir expressed satisfaction on the growth of Malaysia's maritime sector and the role played by harbour pilots in navigational matters.

"Our maritime sector is now of international standard. Now we no longer deal with international ships that are of 200 tonnes or 300 tonnes but 80,000 tonnes. I don't know how they (harbour pilots) manage it. One slight mistake will cause a huge burden," he said, adding that North Port and West Port were handling a combined 13 million containers annually.

"Fifteen years ago the figure was just one million in all our ports combined as compared to Singapore's 12 million. But now we becoming more popular."

He also urged the government and industry players to increase maritime safety as this was vital for the nation and people.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=948468>