

**Turkmenistan President Conferred Honorary Doctorate By Universiti Teknologi
Petronas
Bernama
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8 (Bernama) -- Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) today conferred Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Petroleum Engineering and Technology.

The highest honour given by the university was presented by the university's chancellor and former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in recognition of Berdimuhamedov's effort in promoting the advanced application of engineering for the benefit of his country and humanity.

In a special convocation ceremony held at Dewan Filharmonik Petronas, here, UTP rector Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Kasim said Berdimuhamedov had gone to great lengths to promote national science as the primary driver of Turkmenistan's future progress, including large-scale reforms in education and strengthening international cooperation.

In support of the country's endeavour, Zainal Abidin said UTP, Petronas and Malaysia through numerous technical development and educational sponsorship programmes were honoured to be part of the progress.

"Since 1999, 56 Turkmenistan students have graduated from UTP and returned to their country, where they are actively contributing to nation-building. Another 54 are now enrolled in various programmes at the university," he said.

President Berdimuhamedov, who arrived here on Tuesday for a three-day visit to Malaysia, was later brought to the skybridge at Level 42 of the Petronas Twin Towers where he was briefed on the Kuala Lumpur City Centre development.

He then attended a luncheon hosted by Dr Mahathir at the Malaysian Petroleum Club.

According to Wisma Putra, this is Berdimuhamedov's first visit to Malaysia since becoming president on Feb 14, 2007, providing an opportunity for both countries to discuss regional and international issues of common interest.

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