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A CELEBRATION OF MALAYSIAN ART

In commemoration of the country's 50th Independence celebration, the Perdana Leadership Foundation and its co-presenter, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM) organised an exhibition that gathered sixty-seven of Malaysia's painters and sculptors together to represent, through art, the country's journey towards Independence.

The exhibition was launched by YB Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, the Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage on the 2nd of August 2007 and continued at the Islamic Arts Museum until 16th September 2007. This exciting project, said to be the largest artists' gathering in Malaysia, was coordinated by former Director-General of the National Art Gallery, Datuk Syed Ahmad Jamal with poet laureate and artist, Associate Professor Dr. Zakaria Ali, as Curator.

Artists who participated in the exhibition include Khalil Ibrahim, Yusof Gajah, Wong Seng Tong, Sharifah Fatimah, Cheong Laitong, Choong Kam Kow, and Syed Thajudeen.

(More on the exhibition on pages 9 to 13)





YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Perdana Leadership Foundation

Chairman's Message

The Foundation celebrated this nation's fiftieth year of Merdeka in two ways this year: through words and art. Our Merdeka 50 Exhibition "A Celebration of Malaysian Art" which we organised jointly with the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia gathered over sixty of Malaysia's artists who materialized their perspectives of the country's independence through paint and sculpture. The exhibition was launched by our Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, an art aficionado himself, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim. The art exhibition was also a fundraising exercise for the Foundation for the artists agreed to donate a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their artwork to the Foundation.

In September, we announced the winners of our debut essay contest, "Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders", after months of evaluation and scrutiny by an esteemed panel of judges that include Datuk A Kadir Jasin, Professor Datuk Dr Khoo Kay Kim and Ms Hardev Kaur. Our university level prize winner, Mohd Haizal, drove off with a PROTON Savvy while the Modenas Scooter, the Mountain Bike and other prizes went to the many winners. We had set questions that we hoped would get the students to delve deeper into the history of our beloved country, as well as the personalities that shaped the nation. As the writer Pearl S. Buck said, "If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday." We would like to think that in the course of writing their entries, our participants - regardless of whether or not they won - all understood better the journey that Malaysia took to become the country it is today.

A lot of that journey is documented and I am pleased to note that the Perdana Library is continuing to build up its collection of records, physical and digital: excerpts of our history from newspapers, opinions of the time culled from books and journals, speeches expounding on the policies of the day, photographs and soundbytes. Our Library has purchased and installed a scanning machine for in-house digitisation work that should speed up our progress, and come December, we will be sharing our digitisation knowledge with other Libraries through a special workshop.

On other fronts, the Foundation is more active in academic forums and conventions and this year, took part in the International Convention of Asia Scholars that saw the Foundation's panel on Bangsa Malaysia, as one of the most active panels in the Convention. A publication of the working papers will be produced this year, along with one of our research scholars' theses and the transcripts of the Oral History programme that we initiated last year.

While the Foundation is making good progress on its programmes, we are humbled by how far we still have to go towards documenting and researching Malaysian history. We are grateful for the assistance given to us by our trustees, donors, programme sponsors, collaborators, researchers and supporters, and hope that this support will continue.

On this note, I welcome you to the third issue of the year of Perdana Quarterly

The Foundation's Beginning

Perdana Leadership Foundation was chartered in January 2003 as a non-profit organization, founded with gifts from people who supported the vision of a thriving research and learning institution dedicated to the study of Malaysian leadership and nation-building. It is unique in the sense that it began as an entirely private sector initiative, seed-funded and organized by private sector individuals and corporations. Most of the Foundation's trustees were the early benefactors of this Foundation.

The Foundation's physical home in Precint 8, Putrajaya, was completed in October 2003. The stately building now houses the Perdana Library, an auditorium as well as multi-purpose hall in addition to the offices of the Foundation's Honorary President, YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, and his wife, YABhg Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali.

A tax-exempt, non-profit organization, the Foundation intends to become the premier institution for the study of Malaysia's Prime Ministers and the central resource centre for research into national stewardship as well as a platform for reflection, debate, and discussion with distinguished figures in Malaysian leadership.



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8 June 2007

Welcome Reception for Merdeka de Everest Expedition Team with YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Perdana Leadership Foundation.

15 - 16 June 2007

Seminar of Tun Abdul Razak's Legacy by Akademi Pemuda UMNO, Sime Darby Convention Centre.

11 July 2007

Visit from 'Managing e-University' participants organised by Multimedia University (MMU) and YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and YABhg Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali's Birthday Celebration

17 July 2007

Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art Preview Tea, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM).

29 July 2007

Putrajaya Holdings Treasure Hunt, Perdana Leadership Foundation.

2 August 2007 **august**

Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art Official Launch by YB Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Malaysia at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM).

2 August - 16 September 2007

Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art Exhibition, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM)

2 - 5 August 2007

International Convention of Asia' Scholars (ICAS) 5, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

3 August 2007

Master Chin Kung's Dialogue Session with YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

23 August 2007

Visit from Yayasan Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) Scholars

29 August 2007

Doa Selamat for YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

september

5 September 2007

Merdeka Dialogue in commemoration of fifty years of Independence, Kompleks Perbadanan Putrajaya

10 September 2007

Majlis Pengkisahan Sejarah in commemoration of fifty years of Independence, Kompleks Perbadanan Putrajaya

19 September 2007

"Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders" Essay Contest Prize-Giving Ceremony, Perdana Leadership Foundation



Special dialogue session between the group and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



PLF Librarian showing how to access the Perdana Library online archive via the website



Group photo at of the Foundation's entrance

'Managing e-University: Study Visit for Senior Officials'

On 11th July 2007, Multimedia University officials brought twelve academicians and university administrators from Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Jamaica, Egypt, Thailand, Turkey, Indonesia, Philippines, Oman and Maldives, who were participants for their "Managing E-University: Study Visit for Senior Officials" programme to Malaysia. The visitors joined the birthday celebration of YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, YABhg Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, organised by close friends of the Foundation's Honorary President.

Religious Harmony and Unity Dialogue Session

On the 3rd of August 2007, the World Peace & Harmony dialogue session with its theme "Through Religious Harmony & Unity" was held at the Foundation between Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and Venerable Master Chin Kung from China. The visit which was organised by Tan Sri Dato' Lee Kim Yew was attended by nearly one hundred people. A transcript of the session will be made available at the Foundation.



Members of the audience



(from left) Master Chin Kung, Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew and Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

The Legacy of Tun Abdul Razak

Khairy Jamaluddin (right) handing over a token of appreciation to Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak while Dato' Seri Hishamuddin Hussein looks on



The packed auditorium at the Sime Darby Convention Centre



A small reunion for former press secretary Datuk Mohd Annuar Zaini (left) with Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh Hamzah and Tun Musa Hitam.



The closing speech by Datuk Seri Zainuddin Maidin.



On 15th and 16th June 2007, the Akademi Pemuda UMNO organised a seminar entitled "Legasi Tun Razak kepada Pembangunan Negara" which was held at the Sime Darby Convention Centre. The two-day seminar was launched by the Deputy Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak who is also Tun Razak's son.

Attended mostly by Pemuda UMNO from every state in Malaysia, the seminar was divided into six sessions including a closing session to conclude the whole seminar.

Day One

The first session was on Education, mainly discussing the Razak Statement and the Education Ordinance implemented during Tun Razak's premiership. Moderated by YB Dato' Azimi Daim, the session was discussed by two panelists, YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Haji Arshad Ayub who talked on education accessibility and YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Dr. Abdul Rahman Arshad who talked on unity through education.

The second session was moderated by YBhg Dato' Abdul Rahman Dahlan who was joined by three panelists, YBhg Tan Sri Michael Chen, YBhg Abdul Rahman Hamidon and YB Dato' Shahrir Samad, who together discussed the theme "Government and Society". After tea break, a special session was conducted by YBhg Datuk Mohd Annuar Zaini who called to the stage two well-known politicians during Tun Razak's era, YABhg Tun Musa Hitam and YBM Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh Hamzah. Both former ministers shared their experiences working under Tun Razak and also the challenges they faced in bringing development to Malaysia.

Day Two

The third session on "Economy and Development" was conducted by YBhg Dato' Reezal Merican who gathered four veteran corporate figures, YBhg Tunku Tan Sri Shahrizan Tunku Sulaiman, YBhg Dr. Rais Saniman, YBhg Tan Sri Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman and YBhg Tan Sri G.K. Rama Iyer.

After lunch, the fourth session moderated by YBhg Dato' Mukhriz Tun Mahathir brought the author of "Tun Abdul Razak: a phenomenon in Malaysian politics: a political biography", Dr. Paridah Abdul Samad, and YBhg Dato' Seri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, Chief Executive Officer of ISIS Malaysia to discuss "International Relations" during the time of Tun Razak.

The final conclusion and resolution gathered the moderators from each session to summarize the discussions held throughout the two-day seminar. The seminar was closed by a speech from YB Datuk Seri Zainuddin Maidin, Malaysia's Information Minister.

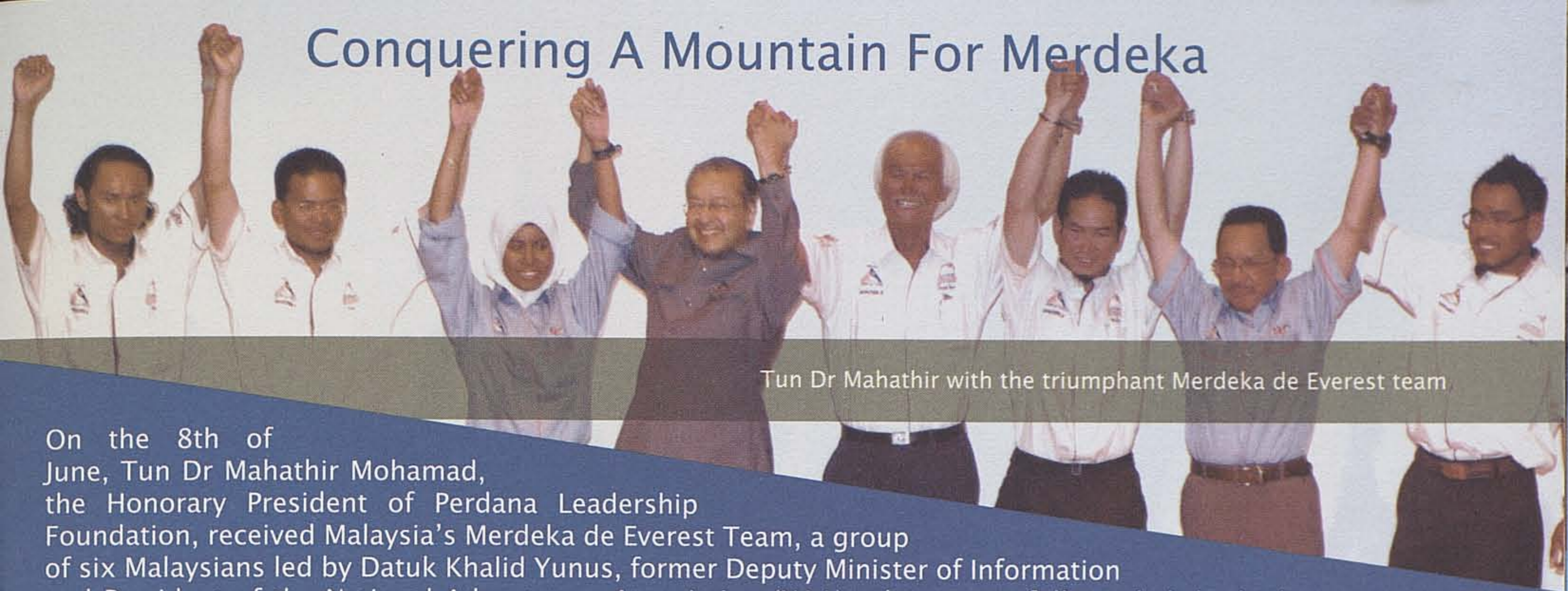
Legasi Razak (excerpt from speech by YBM Tengku Tan Sri Razaleigh Hamzah)

Visi Razak terhadap pembangunan negara adalah visi yang diasaskan atas konsep perpaduan kebangsaan. Perpaduan kebangsaan ini harus dibina secara institusional, yakni berdasarkan system atau dasar-dasar kebangsaan yang adil kepada semua kaum untuk kepentingan negara, bukan untuk kepentingan mana-mana kaum secara 'private'. Pengaruh dan kesan visi Razak ini masih kekal sampai sekarang. Nama Razak dikaitkan dengan beberapa dasar pembangunan negara sampai hari ini. Apabila kita menyebut Dasar Pelajaran Kebangsaan yang ada sekarang dan Dasar Ekonomi Baru (DEB), nama Razak akan disebut-sebut. Bahkan bagi orang yang masih mengetahui sumbangan Razak yang lebih luas, apabila kita menyebut tentang Dasar Kebudayaan Kebangsaan, dasar pembangunan luar Bandar dan pembangunan bandar atau 'urban development', nama beliau juga sering diingati atau disebut-sebut. Parti Barisan Nasional yang ada sekarang ialah hasil visi perpaduan politik kebangsaan Razak. Pada zaman beliau perang mulut dan konforontasi politik antara parti orang Melayu-Islam agak dingin, tidak sentiasa panas dan bergelora seperti hari ini, kerana Razak membawa masuk PAS ke dalam Barisan Nasional. Mengapa? Sebabnya ialah, beliau mahu mengukuhkan perpaduan bangsa Melayu sebagai asas perpaduan kebangsaan atau perpaduan negara.

Translation:-

Razak's Vision in national development was a vision based on the foundation of national unity. National unity should be institutionally built, based on a system of national policies which are justified by all races for the country's interest, not for any private or individual race's interest. The influences and effects of Razak's Vision remain until today. When we talk about the National Education Policy and the New Economic Policy, it is always associated with Tun Razak's name. For those who are aware of Tun Razak's direct contribution to the country, they will also talk about the National Cultural Policy, Rural Development Policy and Urban Development. The Barisan Nasional party that governs Malaysia today is also part of Tun Razak's vision of political unity. During his time, political relations between Malay Islamic parties were calm, thanks to his action in bringing PAS into Barisan Nasional. He did it because he wanted to strengthen unity among Malays, and make that the foundation of national unity.

Conquering A Mountain For Merdeka



Tun Dr Mahathir with the triumphant Merdeka de Everest team

On the 8th of June, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Honorary President of Perdana Leadership Foundation, received Malaysia's Merdeka de Everest Team, a group of six Malaysians led by Datuk Khalid Yunus, former Deputy Minister of Information and President of the National Adventurers Association (NAA), who successfully scaled the highest mountain in the world to commemorate the nation's fifty years of Merdeka. The group included Marina Ahmad, the first Malaysian woman to scale the Everest peak. The Quarterly's editors interviewed Datuk Khalid in his home to find out more about the expedition.

Tall and affable, Datuk Khalid Yunus does not strike you as the athletic type but this former Deputy Minister was instrumental in the setting up of the National Adventurers Association in 2004 of which he is the current President. The National Adventurers Association (NAA) or Persatuan Kembara Negara organizes challenging mountain-climbing "circuits" in Malaysia and overseas. Its over-arching goal is to conquer the highest peak in the world, Mount Everest, every four years. Datuk Khalid Yunus himself lead the Merdeka de Everest Expedition 2007 and although he did not reach the summit, due to mountain sickness, the rest of his team members successfully and safely scaled the highest mountain in the world.

Q: Why does NAA focus specifically on mountain climbing, Datuk?

A: Because it's an extreme sport and not everyone can go for it! Seriously, it's a different kind of game that requires a certain kind of attitude. I would say three elements are necessary to climb a mountain - a high degree of discipline, a lot of patience, and an inexhaustible supply of will power. You need all these to be successful and these elements are also crucial character building traits. Hence, NAA sees mountain climbing as also a character building exercise and not a purely physical challenge. It's in line with the government's objectives to have a nation that's healthy in all respects - emotional, physical and mental.

Q: Can you tell us more about the group dynamics of the Merdeka de Everest expedition?

We learnt to work together towards one common objective and to communicate with one another, that's very important. The seven of us climbed with one mind and focus - no distractions. The spirit of togetherness must prevail, if not it's not easy to achieve your target. Climbing Everest is very challenging, either you go up and come down in one piece, or you go up and don't come down at all!

Q: What was the role of the leader in the group, Datuk?

Well, I was the team leader and for such a risky expedition like ours, what the leader says, goes. No other team member should question the leader's decision, simply because there is no time for debates and arguments once you are up there. Of course, this places a very heavy responsibility on the leader who must give the right direction, the right advice, at the right time. When you are climbing Everest, the weather plays a major role in determining your next move. If you make a mistake in estimating the weather, then your team will face a very difficult time. You also have to make other decisions that affect your team.

For example, when we got to Camp 3, I had the Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) which is potentially fatal as it attacks the brain or the lungs. I was given treatment and was all right the next day. But I had to make a decision - do I go up with my team members or not? If I go with them and should anything happen to me, then it will affect my team members, distract their focus. So, I decided to stay behind. This is the sacrifice I had to make for the sake of the team, keeping in mind the expedition was in commemoration of the country's independence.

You know, leaders are not important, what happens to leaders are not important, leaders come and leaders go, but what's important is what happens to the people you lead when you are gone.

Q: Datuk, on a different note, you were the Permanent Chairman of UMNO Youth for twenty years, from 1994 to 2004. What do you feel are the challenges that Malaysian youth currently face?

We always say the future lies in our youth and to ensure Malaysia will continue to prosper, the youth must have the right attitude, understand their wider role and responsibilities as citizens of the country and think about other people, and not just themselves. It's a different situation now - but yes, for this country to grow, our youth must have the right attitude and be unselfish.



Members of the Expedition Team

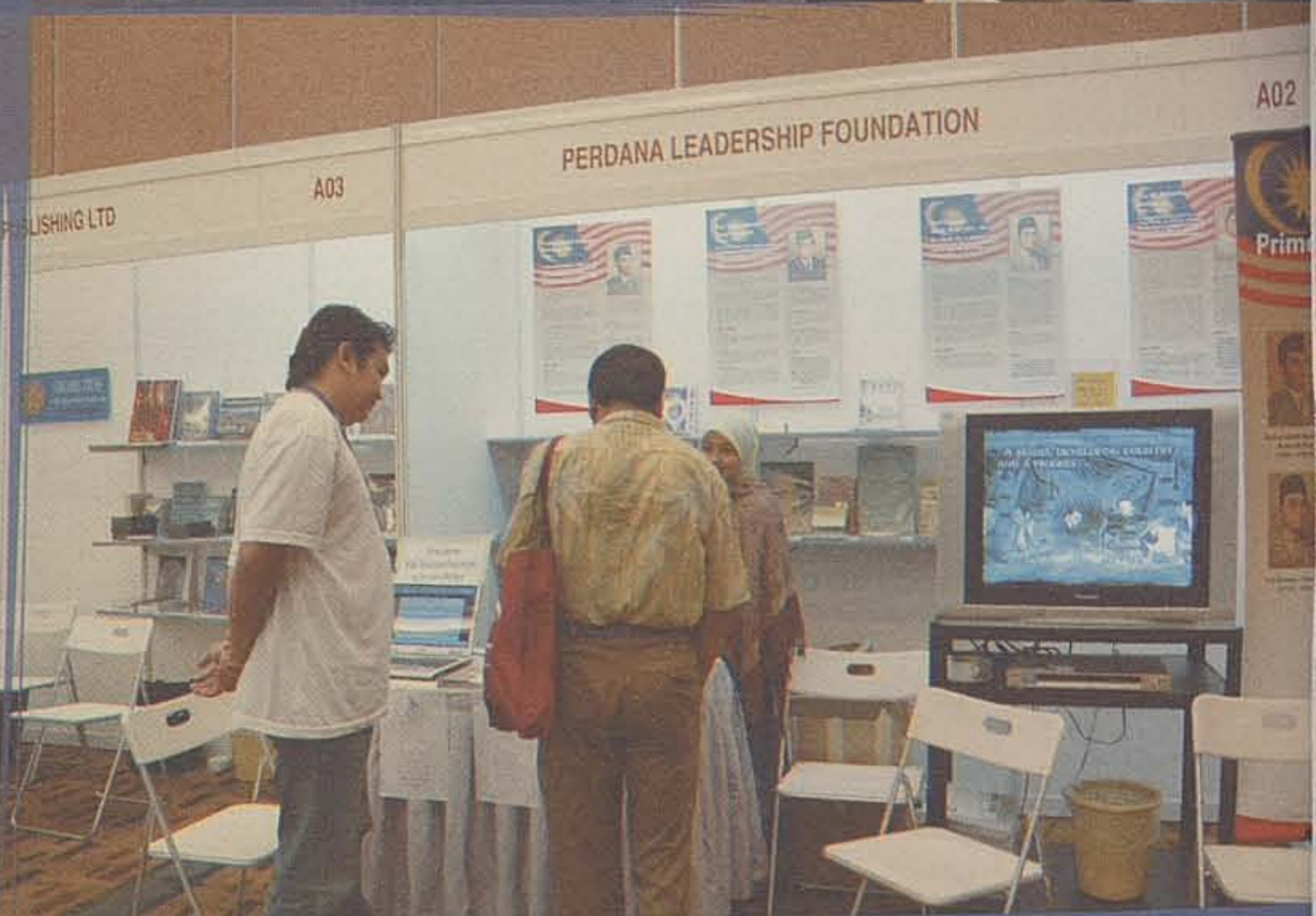
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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dato' Haji Khalid bin Yunus, 64 | Mohd Rafi Kori, 28 |
| Idris Said, 52 | Muhamad Fauzan Haji Hassan, 40 |
| Ahmad Reduan Rozali, 24 | Marina binti Ahmad, 25 |
| Ahmad Fakhri Abu Samah, 26 | |

International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) 5

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, 2 – 5 August 2007

From the 2nd to the 5th of August, the International Convention of Asia Scholars was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. With the theme “Sharing a Future in Asia”, over 2,000 delegates from 60 countries participated in ICAS 5. Perdana Leadership Foundation participated in the exhibition hall and also organised a panel session entitled “The Making of Bangsa Malaysia” which took place on the last day of the convention, 5th August 2007.

The panels were categorized into sub-themes such as Arts, Culture and Heritage; Development and Urbanisation; History; Religion; Welfare and Health; Documentation, Resource Management and Technology; Economy, Business and Law; Environment and Energy; Knowledge and Philosophy; Language and Literature; Media and Communication; Politics and International Relations and Society and Identity.



Photos of Perdana Leadership Foundation's exhibition booth at the ICAS 5 Exhibition Hall

About ICAS

The first ICAS was held in Leiden in 1998. ICAS 2 (Berlin, 2001), ICAS 3 (Singapore, 2003), and ICAS 4 (Shanghai, 2005) followed as ICAS's role in developing Asian studies became progressively prominent. ICAS is also listed among the largest gatherings of research scholars from Centres on Asia and Asian Studies, especially in the humanities and social science fields. Recent developments in Asian studies indicate an emerging trend in cross-disciplinary and inter-regional approach in Asian studies. This positive development among the scholars of Asian studies was the reason why it was enhanced through a dynamic and interactive platform at ICAS 5 in Kuala Lumpur.

The Making of Bangsa Malaysia

At 11:30, Sunday morning, 5th August 2007, the Perdana Leadership Foundation conducted a panel session entitled "The Making of Bangsa Malaysia". Chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak from Universiti Utara Malaysia and convened by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustapa Kassim, the Director of the Institute of Dr. Mahathir's Thoughts, the session brought together six local scholars to discuss "Bangsa Malaysia", which was first introduced by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in 1991 as part of his Vision 2020 flagships. Among the panelists were Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ariffin Omar, Assoc. Prof. D.S. Ranjit Singh, Dr. K Nadaraja and the Foundation's Research Scholars, Sue Valquis Mashhor and R. Sivaperegasam.



Second from left: Dr. Mustapa Kassim, R. Sivaperegasam, Dr. Ariffin Omar, Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Ishak, Sue Valquis Mashhor, Dr. K. Nadaraja, a fellow observer, Dr. D.S. Ranjit Singh and fellow observer.

Joined by more than 70 participants, local and foreign, the panelists each presented their respective topics. Dr. D.S. Ranjit Singh started the discussion by presenting his paper, "The Nation-State and the Concept of Bangsa Malaysia" which touched on how far Malaysia has come towards the ideal perception of a nation-state. Dr. Ariffin Omar later discussed the definition of Malay in his paper, "The Evolution of the Nation of Bangsa Malaysia".



Question and Answer session with the participants

Dr. K. Nadaraja then gave an overview of foreign colonisation and occupation as well as Islamic fundamentalism and other contentious issues especially the political realities in Bangsa Malaysia. Dr. Mohamed Mustafa related Bangsa Malaysia with Vision 2020 and Sue Valquis Mashhor presented a retrospect of the agendas and policies implemented by all five prime ministers and its relevance as a guideline to the future. The final panelist, R. Sivaperegasam, talked on Malay supremacy and its effect on the formation of Bangsa Malaysia.

The session continued with very lively questions and answers. The general agreement was that "Bangsa Malaysia" comprises of a united multiracial society, but Malaysia still has a long way to go to achieving that status.



Panel session

The Making of Bangsa Malaysia

International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS) 5

Excerpts from the papers presented at Perdana Leadership Foundation's The Making of Bangsa Malaysia Panel
5 August 2007, KL Convention Centre

In 1995, former Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad defined Bangsa Malaysia as "people being able to identify themselves with the country, speak Bahasa Malaysia and accept the Constitution". This notion of Bangsa Malaysia was part of his Vision 2020, aimed at bringing greater national integration among the various ethnic groups within the country. The concept as put forward by Dr. Mahathir was however not spelt out in explicit terms. Moreover, whatever that was espoused by Dr. Mahathir was not totally accepted by various groups. This panel was convened to bring together the various aspects and elements of "Bangsa Malaysia" for further reflection and discussion.



Mohamed Mustafa Ishak: Bangsa Malaysia and Vision 2020

Professor Mustafa argued that whilst Vision 2020 may provide a clear economic blue-print to transform the country into a developed state, it is still far from providing an adequate solution to the problems of national unity in the country. Despite the relatively stable political and economic climate in Malaysia, the country is still grappling with the potent interplay between the forces of ethnicity and nationalism within its polity, he said. In his view, these forces would continue to make nation-building a very difficult challenge for the country, and he is doubtful that our Vision 2020 would be achieved, vis a vis national unity.



Ariffin Omar: The Evolution of the Nation of the Bangsa Malaysia

Professor Ariffin presented a historical overview of Bangsa Malaysia, explaining that this idea of a nation-state with a population of diverse ethnic origins sharing a common vision, values and political goals only came into focus after the ending of the Second World War in Malaya, prompted by the British's proposal of the Malayan Union. According to Professor Ariffin, Malays living under their various governments had no idea of a modern nation state while a significant number of Chinese and Indians still directed their loyalties to their countries of origin. The Persekutuan Tanah Melayu that was subsequently created in the stead of the bitterly opposed Malayan Union cannot be accepted as a nation state because there were no shared political values or ideals. It was also a tragedy that "Malaysia" took form before the idea of a Malayan nationality could take root among the various ethnic communities, and this underlies the challenge in the creation of Bangsa Malaysia.

D.S Ranjit: The Nation-State and the Concept of Bangsa Malaysia

Professor Ranjit argued that in Asia and Africa, the concept of the modern nation state took the form of the fight for independence from colonial masters and in current times, ethnic nationalism has come to the forefront. In the case of Southeast Asia, the newly born states are the result of the processes of national independence movements as well as that of decolonization. The Southeast states inherited polities made up of diverse ethnic groups, religions, cultures and geographical regions marked by separate and often divergent identities, royalties and nationalisms. Thus, since Independence, the ongoing search for viable national political systems to convert divergent communities into ideal modern nation-states remains as one of the biggest and most difficult tasks for the governments of Southeast Asian countries, not just Malaysia.



K. Nadaraja : Bangsa Malaysia: Its Political Realities

Professor K.Nadaraja commended the concept of Bangsa Malaysia as envisaged by former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, but doubts its viability, given the context of Malaysian society and the nature of our political system. He outlined the obstacles along the path to true unity: divergent interests of the different ethnic groups with each group well-entrenched in its own culture, religion and language; the "Bumiputra" status and the privileges that come along with it; national and vernacular schools, economic disparity among the races; race-based political parties.



Sue Valquis Mashhor: Bangsa Malaysia and the Value System

Associate Professor Sue Valquis took a more optimistic stance, emphasizing on the role of Rukun Negara and the values that Malaysians need to adopt - moderation, tolerance and sensitivity - to ensure the successful creation of a more united nation.



R. Sivaperegasam P. Rajanthiran: Bangsa Malaysia vis-a-vis Ketuanan Melayu

Mr Sivaperegasam explored the concept of Bangsa Malaysia vis-a-vis "Ketuanan Melayu", and stated that the notion of Bangsa Malaysia has been rejected by Malays because of the threat it presents to Ketuanan Melayu (Malay supremacy or dominance). He acknowledged the basis of Ketuanan Melayu, whilst clarifying that this phrase did not come into vogue until the early 2000s and is mostly espoused by UMNO, and examined further whether or not Bangsa Malaysia would infringe on Malay special rights and privileges.



Tun Dr Mahathir and Tun Dr Siti Hasmah in front of Yeong Seak Ling's art



Tun Dr Mahathir admiring Wong Seng Tong's creation.



Tan Sri Azman Hashim delivering his speech at the preview



From left: Tan Sri Nik Mohamed, Puan Sri Elizabeth Moggie, Tan Sri Leo Moggie, Tan Sri Azman Hashim, Datuk Ismail Yusof

Preview Tea & Official Launch

On the 17th of July 2007, the Perdana Leadership Foundation organised a private preview of the Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art exhibition for the Foundation's trustees, donors, art collectors, and selected corporate figures at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM). The guests of honor were the Foundation's Honorary President, YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, YABhg Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Held at the Islamic Arts Museum award-winning restaurant, the event started off with a welcome address by the Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim, followed by a passionate overview of the exhibition and its works by Exhibition Curator Dr Zakaria Ali. The curator and Project Coordinator, Dato' Syed Ahmad Jamal, then lead the guests for a tour of the gallery, where the guests had the chance to chat with the artists who attended the preview.

Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art had its official launch on the 2nd of August 2007, at the Inverted Dome Pavillion of the Islamic Arts Museum. Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, YB Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, officiated the event which was attended by more than three hundred guests from the corporate sector, the art world, as well as art students from Penang and Perak. Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim talked on the importance of upholding the nation's visual art industry before launching the Foundation's and the Museum's art catalogue, Merdeka 50.

Following the catalogue launch, Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim signed the canvas in the exhibition gallery to officiate the exhibition and then was taken on a guided tour by Dr. Zakaria Ali, getting waylaid along the way by artists excited to personally convey the meaning of their works to him.

A press conference capped the whole event, during which the Minister elaborated on a proposal to designate an open space in KL for artists to create and promote their works, in support of the visual art industry in Malaysia.

For more information on the exhibition and works, please contact Wirduna Ahmad (Tel: 03 8885 8960 / email: wirduna@perdana.org.my) or visit www.art4merdeka.com

The guests at the official launch

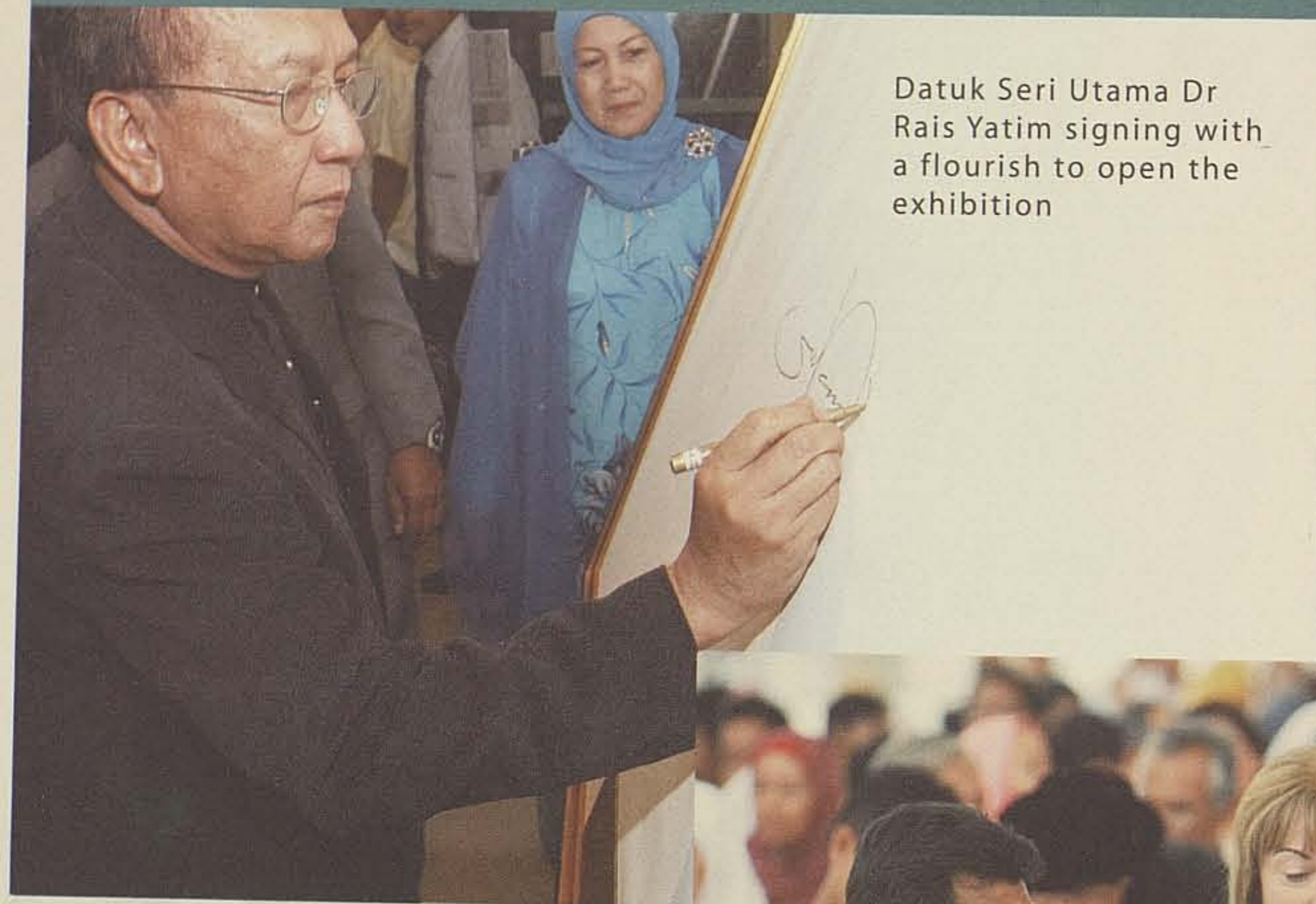


Artist Yusuf Gajah next to his creation

5 MERDEKA

A CELEBRATION OF MALAYSIAN ART

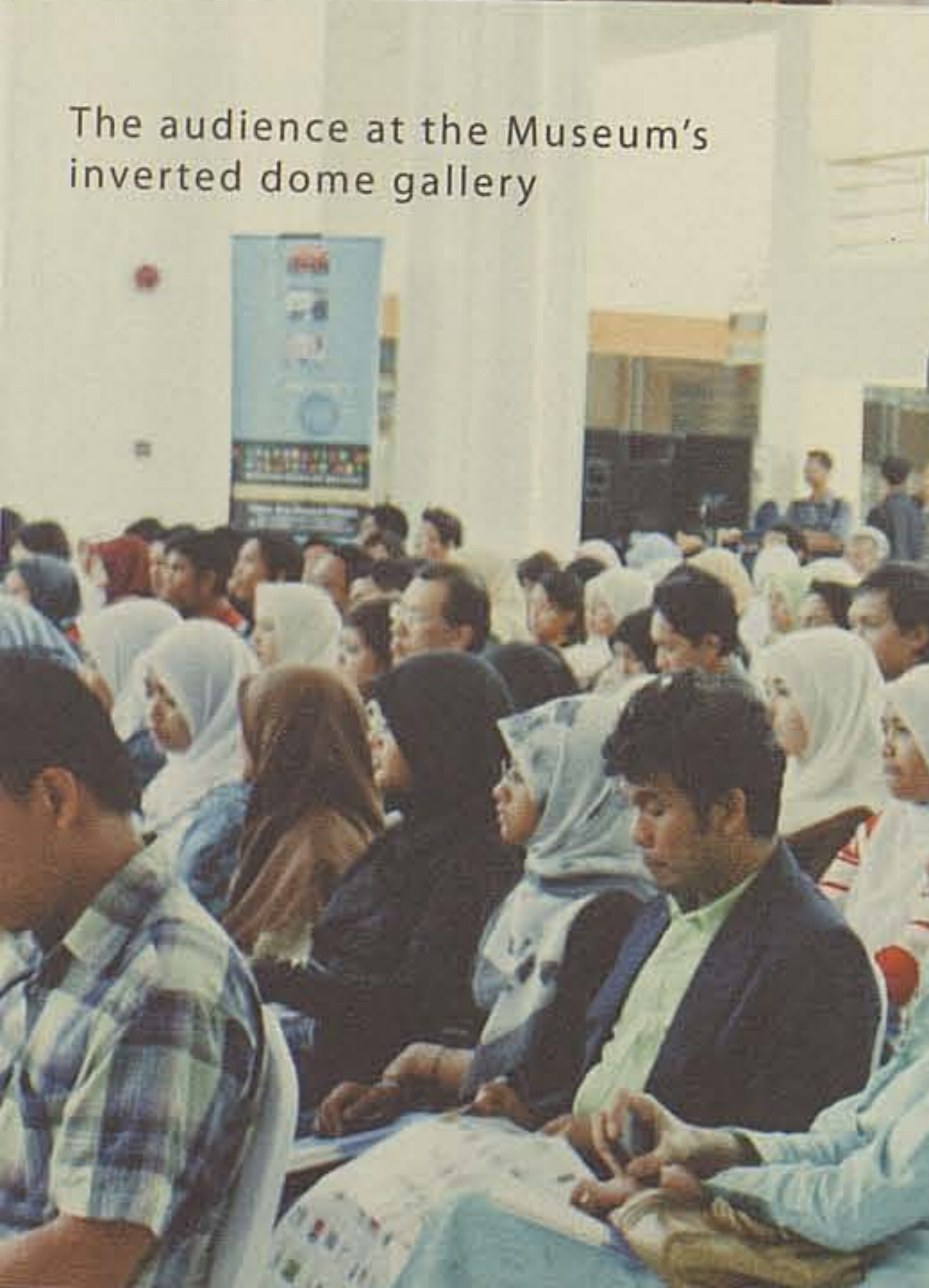
Photos From 2 August 2007,



Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim signing with a flourish to open the exhibition



Patrick Lasak explaining his art to a group of eager visitors



The audience at the Museum's inverted dome gallery



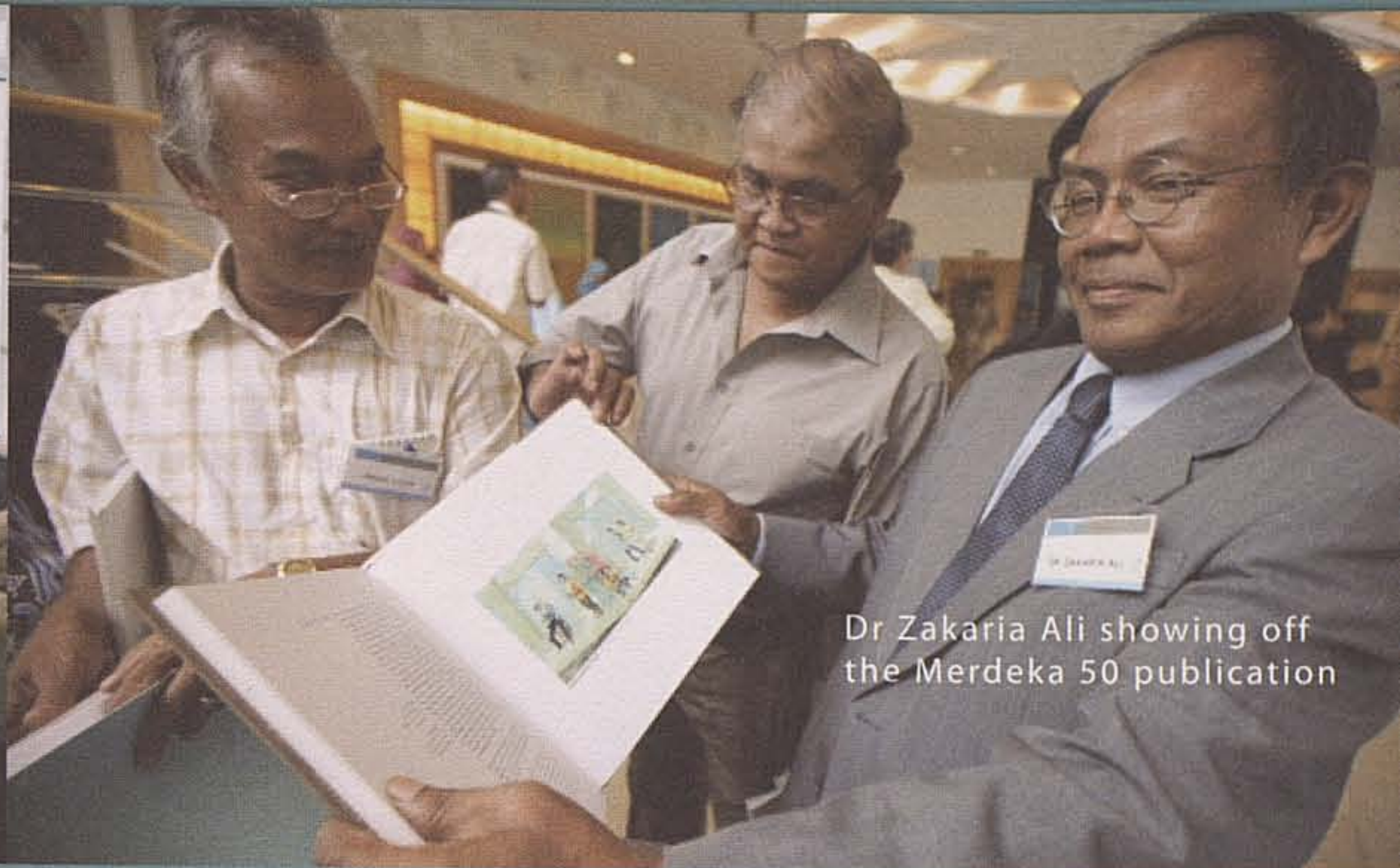
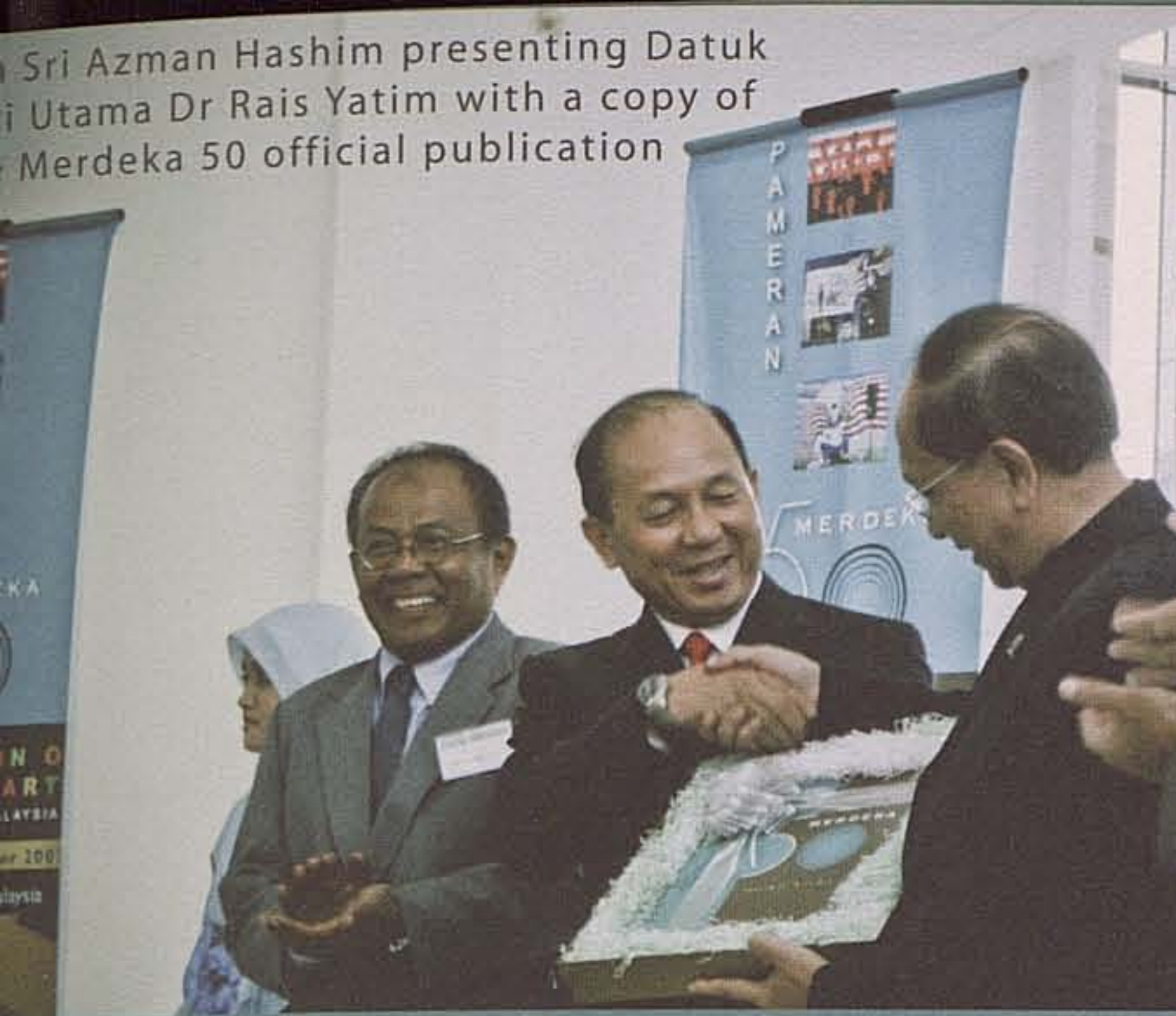
Dato' Munir Majid and his wife were among the guests of the launch



Tan Sri Nik
Patrick Lasak

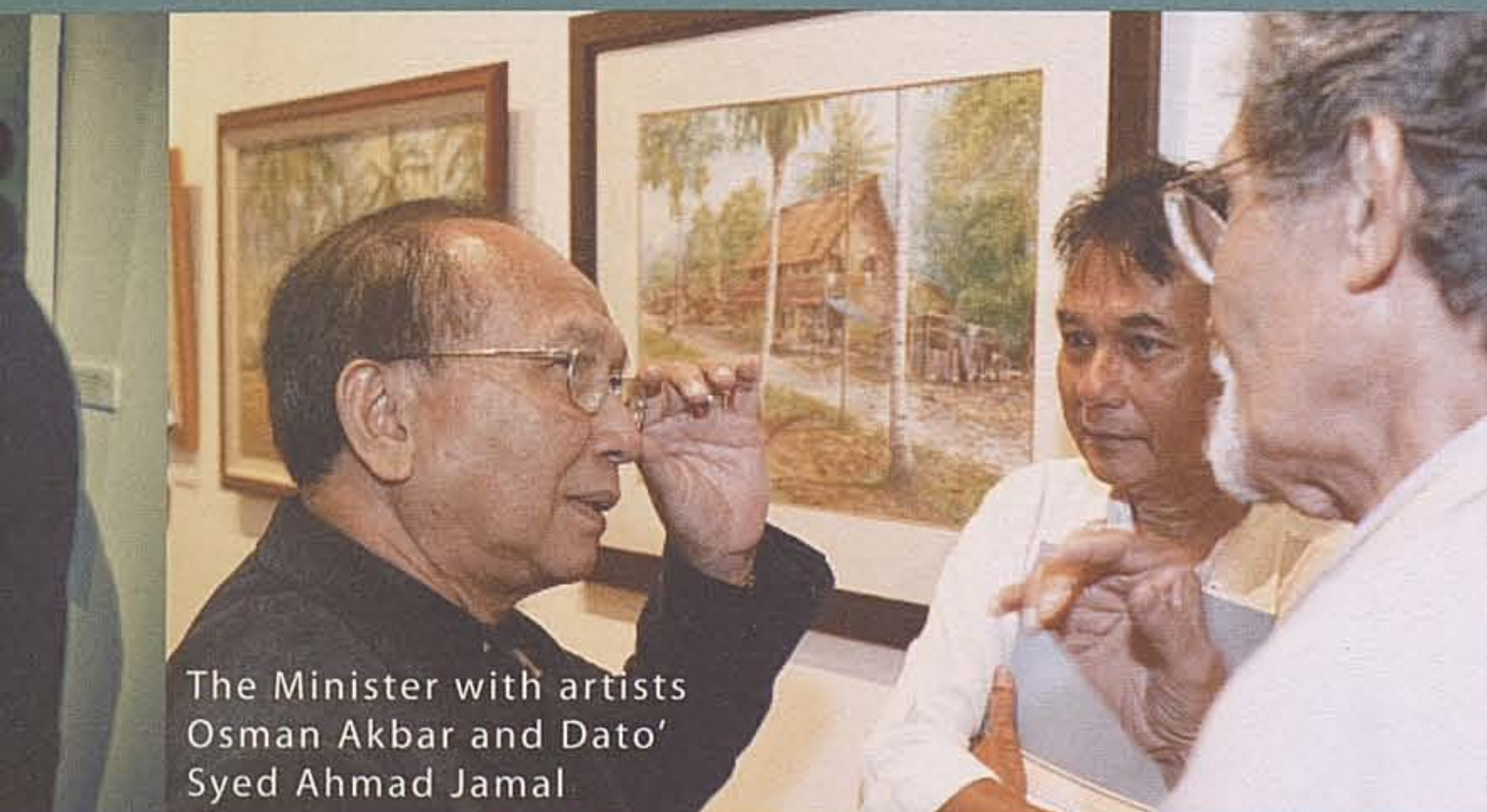


Sri Azman Hashim presenting Datuk
Utama Dr Rais Yatim with a copy of
Merdeka 50 official publication

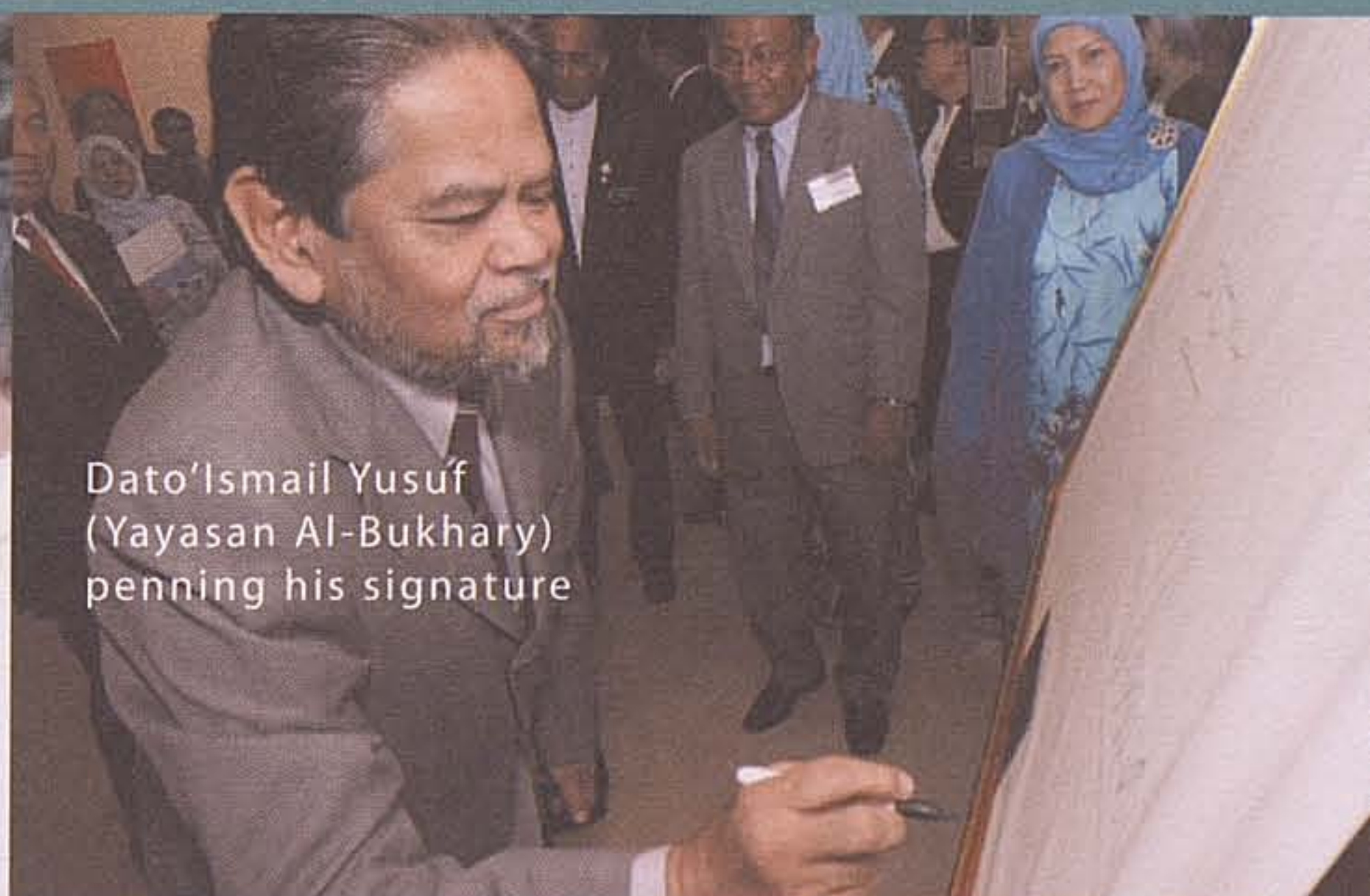


Dr Zakaria Ali showing off
the Merdeka 50 publication

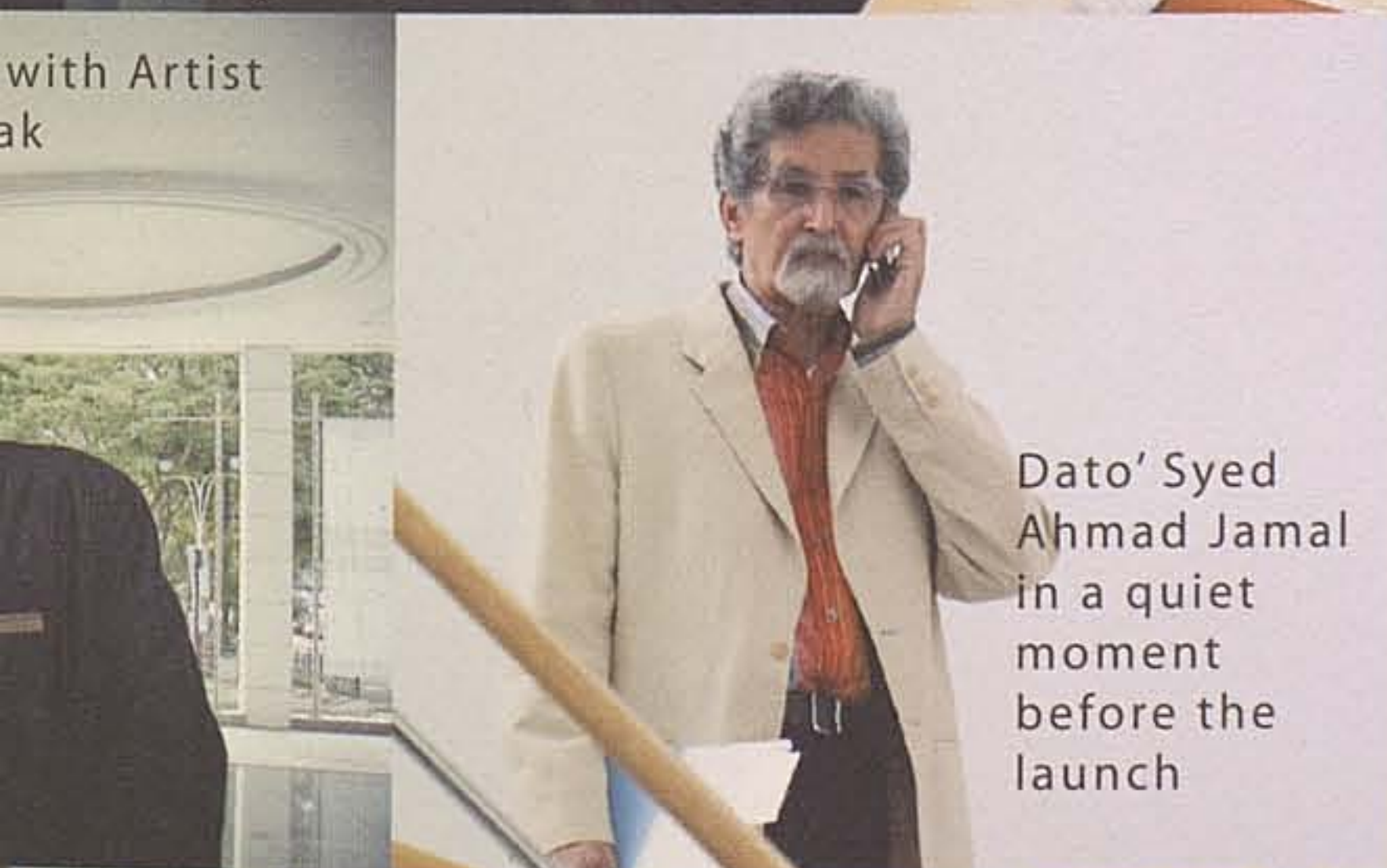
The Official Launch Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia



The Minister with artists
Osman Akbar and Dato'
Syed Ahmad Jamal



Dato' Ismail Yusuf
(Yayasan Al-Bukhary)
penning his signature



Dato' Syed
Ahmad Jamal
in a quiet
moment
before the
launch

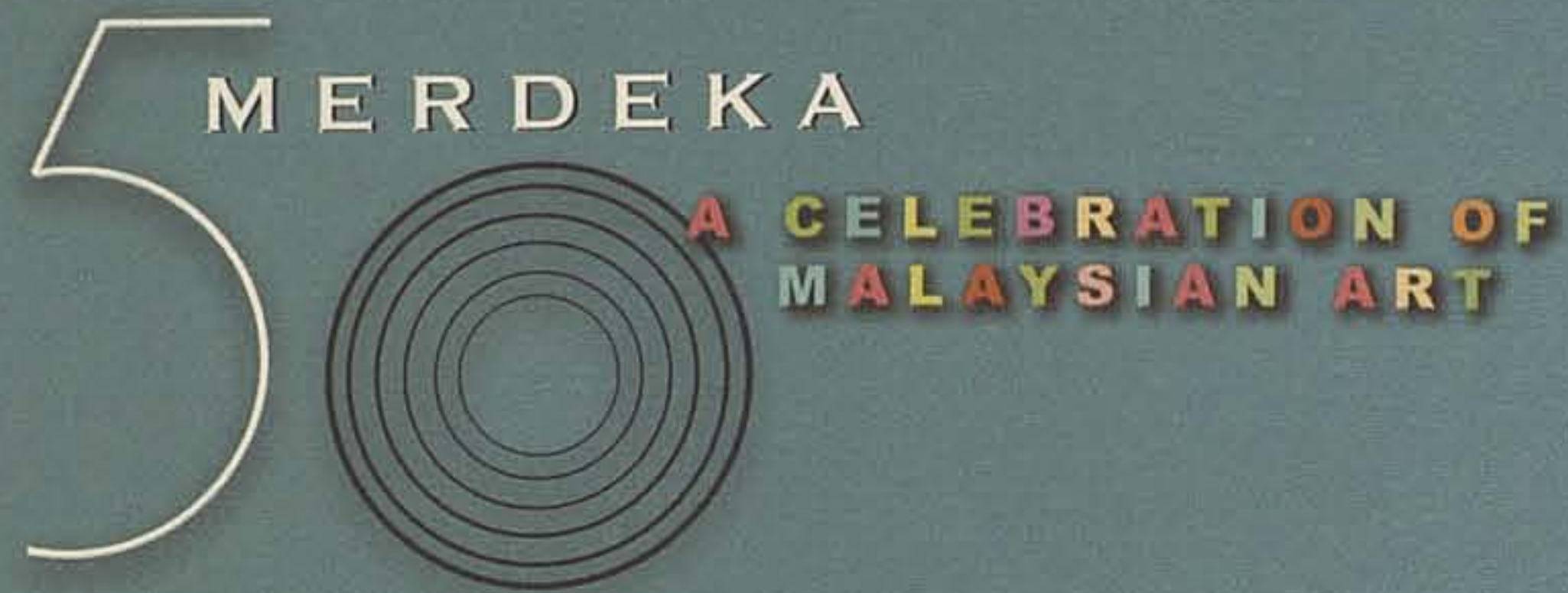


Datuk Rais admiring Zainuddin Abidin hazir's metal relief art



The Minister at the Press Conference

Excerpts of Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim's keynote speech



“Depiksi tentang adat resam dan budaya kita harus terserlah dan jelas dalam lukisan dan arca kita”.

On the exhibition

“Kita melahirkan suatu hasrat dan di samping itu berdoa, seterusnya bertenaga dan berusaha supaya bidang seni lukis dan arca ini diberi tumpuan yang lebih daripada yang telah kita laksanakan setakat ini. Apa yang telah dikemukakan menerusi usaha 67 pelukis dan pengarca ini, kita mengharapkan langsungannya pada zaman-zaman akan datang menceritakan tentang kehebatan dan kebolehan kita di tanah air kita sendiri.”

“How we have wished that artists of Malaysian cultural backgrounds could depict life in the kampung, portray a small boy climbing up the coconut tree, or if you like, to paint how politicians argue in a mural. All these perhaps are depicted through the colours that we see today. Most of the works that are exhibited today would convey the meaning of the struggle of the people. They would convey perhaps the colours of the kampungs and the towns and above all they would convey the illusion of tomorrow.”

On art and cultural influences

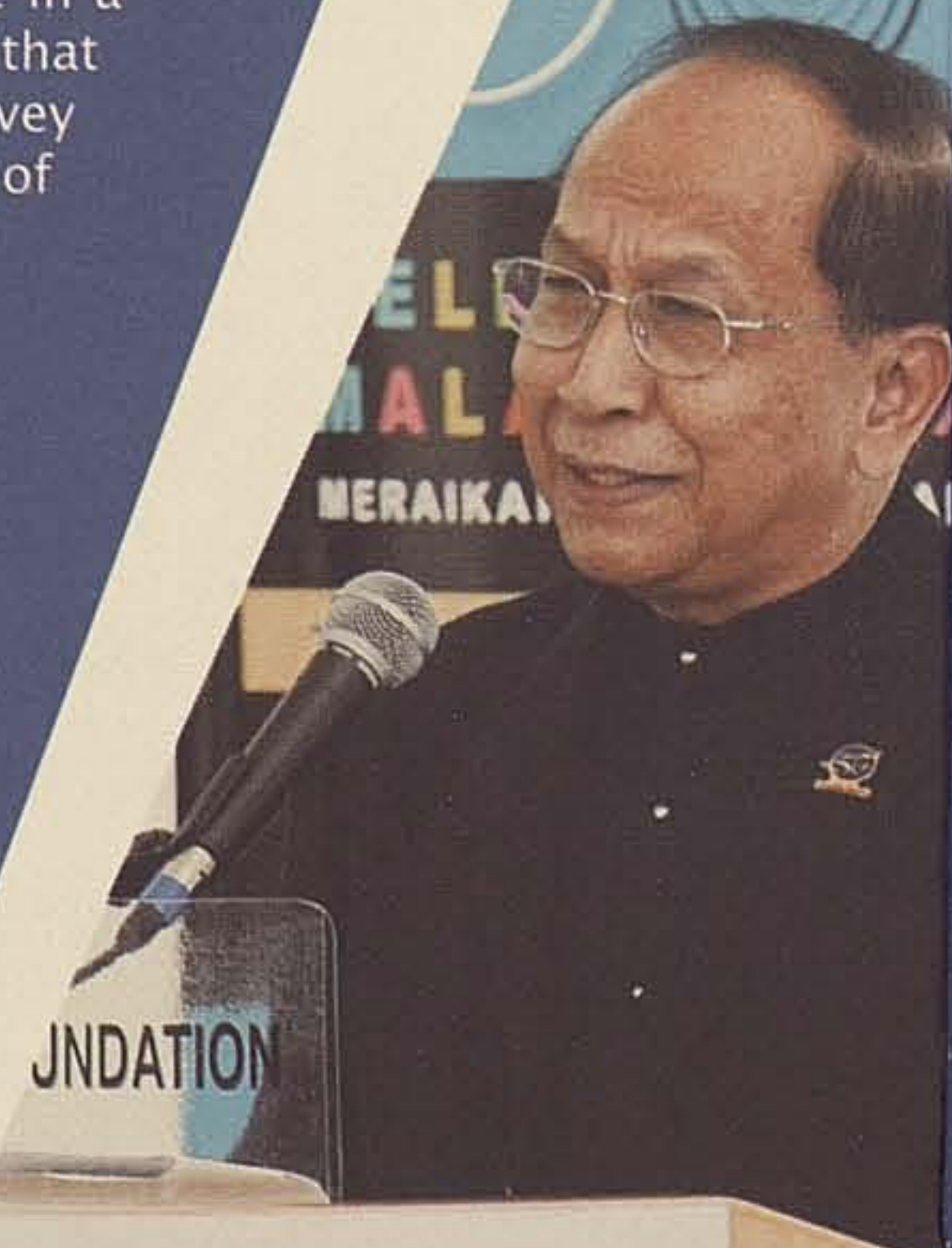
“Apa yang kita pelajari dari sekolah seni di London tentulah sedikit sebanyak kita nukilkan di atas kanvas kita. Apa yang kita pelajari dari Sekolah Seni Lukis Nanyang, Singapura tentulah mencerminkan bagaimana kita membuat potrait seseorang itu. Seterusnya tentang landskap, cubism, expressionism, dan sebagainya. Oleh yang demikian, janganlah kita takuti perubahan ini. Masalah yang berkaitan dengan arus global perlu kita tangani bersama. Dan menerusi usaha Muzium Kesenian Islam dan Yayasan Kepimpinan Perdana inilah dapat memberikan jawapan kepada setiap persoalan yang kita sering fikirkan.”

On creating an artists' space in Kuala Lumpur

“Di Malaysia, kita masih perlukan satu kawasan yang luas di mana pelukis-pelukis boleh berkarya waktu petang, malam, pagi, atau mengikut jadual mereka sendiri. Insya Allah, KEKKWA akan cuba mendapatkan satu kawasan kecil di mana kita akan bina infrastuktur atau prasarana yang ringkas, suatu tempat di mana pelukis-pelukis tanah air boleh ke sana membawa easelnya, warnanya, duduk di situ melahirkan karyanya. Dulu kita mengadakan pameran di Jalan Melayu, gagal. Kita mengadakan pameran di Jalan Ampang, gagal. Jadi sebelum terjadi kegagalan yang ketiga, saya ingin berazam bersama-sama dengan Muzium Seni Islam dan Yayasan Pimpinan Perdana, barangkali dengan sokongan Balai Seni Lukis dan semua pihak yang cintakan seni, agar tempat ketiga ini tidak menemui kegagalan lagi.”

On art and fifty years of independence

“I do believe that everyone here this evening represent that symbol of well being for Malaysia. Fifty years is a nice round number. In terms of a human being, he has reached maturity. In terms of a building, this is just the beginning. But that building and that human being have to be merged and art is the cement that will put the blocks and the bricks together. Let us hope for that and let us all cheer for the future of art in Malaysia.”



5 MERDEKA

A CELEBRATION OF MALAYSIAN ART

2 August – 16 September
Islamic Arts Museum, Malaysia

The sixty-seven art pieces of Merdeka 50 were categorised as:

The Flag Bearers

Ever-committed lovers of the Jalur Gemilang

These painters put the flag at the centre of their compositions. Everything else serves as fillers, peripheral to the 'Jalur Gemilang', the white and red stripes, the yellow 14-pointed star, the crescent and the blue background. The flag may be folded, fluttering in the wind, partially seen, blending into something else but is readily recognisable. The flag might be sewn on the space suit of a Malaysian astronaut or be transformed into the red of a hibiscus. Equally, this versatile symbol can serve as the backdrop to a series of clenched fists or wrap the buildings of Putrajaya.

The Current Chroniclers

Watchful artists, impressed by doers and deeds

Highlighting news items of national interest, these artists are partly propelled by the urge to mythologise. Their works elevate them several notches above the ordinary, emphasizing the heroic and the spectacular. Even the ordinary, when spun at the right pitch, has its own sparks of magic. Polygonal ketupat packets can say something about our aesthetics, while kites seemingly reach for the moon. Wild birds symbolize the paradise of the tropical rain forest; solitary Azhar Mansor sails around the world in the foam trails of Ali the Malay slave whom Magellan renamed Enrique.

The Oblique Turners

Observers who glance elsewhere

These painters look for the metaphors in other things: bamboo shoots; a sunken Portuguese galleon; celebratory brush strokes in search of coherence; rays of sunlight; textured coral reefs; an off-centre lair; a range of blue mountains; un-deciphered, or rather un-decipherable group of letters; tranquil lotus; tumbles of pulsating lines; horizontal crossbars and multiple laths; stretches of rainbows; vertical poles with waving flags; a golden mihrab; shrunken clay of roundels; mesh of greens punctuated by bursts of maroon; leaf-like strokes; an archipelago of clouds; ghostly double-portraits of James W. Birch; a grotesque torso.

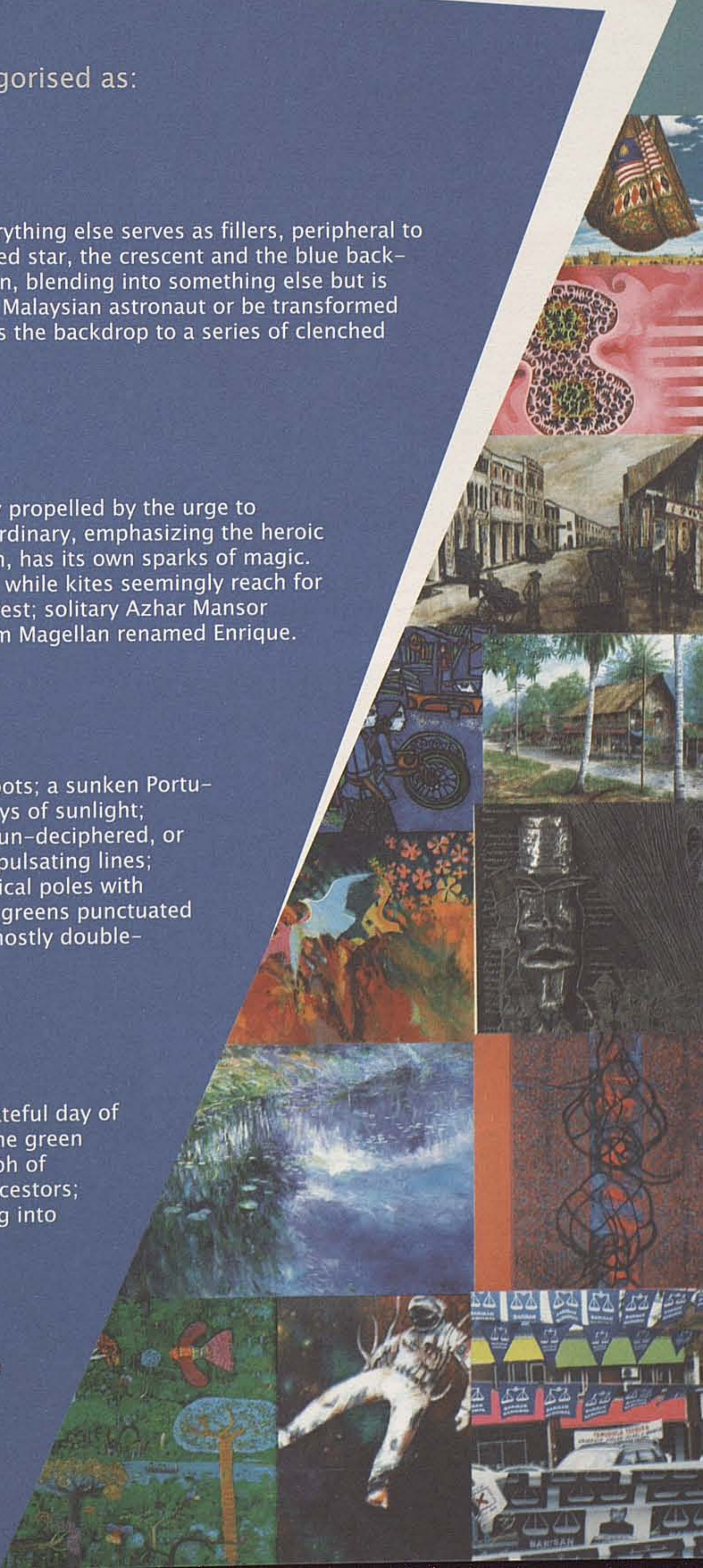
The Memory Enlisters

Brooding over lost innocence

The 'Memory Enlisters' keep returning to where they were on the fateful day of 31 August 1957, or even further back. These paintings represent the green years of the 20th century as much as the sepia-coloured photograph of Petaling Street. There are the dilapidated houses bequeathed by ancestors; the small town consisting of a row of shops; the dirt road stretching into uncharted hills; two girls walking home under a green sun.

The art pieces can still be viewed at the Perdana Leadership Foundation upon request.

The synopsis of the book, Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art is on page 18.



Essay Contest Prize Giving Ceremony 19 September 2007

On 19th September 2007, the Perdana Leadership Foundation organised the Prize-Giving ceremony for the Foundation's "Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders" Essay Contest. The event was attended by nearly four hundred guests from all over Malaysia including the winners, their family members and respective institutions and schools.

The ceremony started off with a keynote speech by the Guest of Honor, Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim, Chairman of Perdana Leadership Foundation's Board of Trustees, followed by a statement from the judges, delivered by Datuk A Kadir Jasin. Then, the announcement of the winners started.

Mixed emotions were felt when the First Prize and Grand Prize winners of each category were announced. Nurashikin Md Deris from SMK Darul Ehsan, Selangor was declared the First Prize winner for the Lower Secondary category while Rachel Decruz who just celebrated her 15th birthday earlier that week was announced the Grand Prize winner for the Lower Secondary category. She also won for her school a complete computer workstation which was received by the Vice Principal of Co-curriculum, SMK King George V Seremban, Encik Adam @ Karim bin Haji Abdul Malik.

The First Prize for Upper Secondary went to Amir Fareed Abdul Rahim from Kolej Yayasan UEM. Amir said the FTEC laptop would prove useful when he goes to Oxford University to pursue his degree. The Grand Prize winner for the Upper Secondary category was Syamsul Azuan Che Hasan from MRSM Beseri who won a Modenas "Elegant" scooter which was presented by DRB-Hicom's Managing Director, Datuk Khamil Jamil. His school, MRSM Beseri, represented by the Vice Principal of Student Affairs, Encik Mohd Razawi Abu Bakar, took home a computer workstation.

The most intense moment was when the First Prize winner for the Tertiary level was announced; Loh Kwong Fei from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). This made Mohd Haizal Zainuddin from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), the Grand Prize winner for the Tertiary category and thus the proud owner of a new Proton Savvy. The Proton Savvy key was represented by Encik Yusri Yusuf, Proton's Head of Corporate Communications. The Dean of Science and Technology Faculty UKM, Professor Dr. Aminah Abdullah, received the workstation that Haizal won for his institution.

The event was later followed by a photo session with the winners, sponsors and their respective institutions and as Maghrib arrived, the guests gathered for buka puasa at the Foundation's banquet hall.

The Foundation congratulates all winners and is keen to make the essay contest a regular affair to encourage sound research and good writing into the country's history. As German poet and novelist Hermann Hesse noted, "Without words, without writing and without books there would be no history, there could be no concept of humanity."

About the Perdana Leadership Foundation "Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders" Essay Contest.

As part of its Public Outreach 2006-2007 Programme, the Foundation launched an essay contest in September 2006. The essay contest was divided into three categories, Lower Secondary category (Form One to Three), Upper Secondary (Form Four to Form Six) and Tertiary (Undergraduate level up to the age of 25). Lower Secondary students were asked to select one of Malaysia's past Prime Ministers and discuss his contributions to the country while Upper Secondary students were asked to give their thoughts on a united Malaysian nation. University and College students had to write about the five lessons to be learnt from Malaysian history, from Merdeka to the present day.

The judges went through three hundred thirty seven (337) entries which were made up of seventy five (75) entries from the Tertiary level, one hundred and eight (108) entries from the Upper Secondary level and one hundred and fifty four (154) entries from the Lower Secondary level. From those entries, forty two (42) entries were shortlisted and evaluated by the three top judges, Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr. Khoo Kay Kim, Datuk A Kadir Jasin and Hardev Kaur, who were supported by Datuk Zawiyah Baba, Puan Zaini Arshad and Puan Nasirah Aris.

Partners for this essay contest include Proton Holdings Bhd, DRB-HICOM Bhd, Maybank, Berjaya Corporation Bhd, Sunway Group, MPH Bookstores, AmBank Group, Bank Rakyat, Yayasan Emkay and CIMB Bank. The official media for this essay contest are The Star and Utusan Malaysia.



Syamsul Azuan Che Hasan (Grand Prize winner for Upper Secondary) puts the key in the Modenas' signiture, as Datuk Mohd Khamil Jamil of DRB-Hicom looks on.



Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim delivering his keynote speech during the Prize-Giving Ceremony.



Rachel Decruz (Grand Prize winner for Lower Secondary) unlocks her new Mountain Bicycle as Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim and Tan Sri Nik Mohamed look on.



Tan Sri Nik Mohamed shakes hands with Mohd Haizal Zainuddin (Grand Prize winner for Tertiary) in his new Proton Savvy while Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim looks on.



(Group Photo - from left) Afnan Aqif, Ammira Zunnurainn, Gan Chee Meng, Amir Fareed, Nurashikin Deris, Syamsul Azuan Che Hasan, Rina Cheah, Siddarth Nayar, Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim, Loh Kwong Fei, En Saleh Osman (MRSM Beseri's Principal), Professor Aminah from UKM, Rachel Decruz, Mohd Haizal Zainuddin and Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Nik Yaacob.

Lower Secondary

Grand Prize

(Mountain Bicycle Trek 4900, RM1,000 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM1,000 Maybank savings certificate, Two-week work shadowing experience)

Rachel Decruz

SMK King George V, Seremban
Negeri Sembilan

First Prize

(FTEC Laptop, RM800 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM800 Maybank savings certificate, One-week work shadowing experience)

Nurashikin Md Deris

SMK Darul Ehsan, Selayang Baru
Selangor

Second Prize

(iPod Nano, RM500 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM500 Maybank savings certificate)

Afnan 'Aqif Mohd Pidaus

Kolej Yayasan Saad, Melaka

Third Prize

(Motorola mobile phone, RM300 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM300 Maybank savings certificate)

None

Fourth Prize

(RM200 worth of MPH book vouchers and RM200 Maybank savings certificate)

Ngu Toh Ann

Catholic High School Sibu, Sarawak

Hong Chuen Yen

SMK Kota Samarahan, Sarawak

Nurul Kamilah Mat Kamil

SM Sains Tengku Muhammad Faris
Petra, Kelantan

Hong Chuen Lin

SMK Kota Samarahan, Sarawak

Erin Chuah Wei Yen

SMK Seri Bintang Utara, Kuala Lumpur

Tarvinder Kaur A/P

Gogisar Singh

SMK Gunung Rapat, Ipoh, Perak

Koon Yi Han

Tsun Jin High School, Kuala Lumpur

Charis Hii Mei Lin

SMK St Colomba, Sarawak

Ong Choon Hoong

Tsun Jin High School, Kuala Lumpur

Cristal Tan Pek Lynn

SMK (P) Methodist, Melaka

Sin Hui Ying

Tsun Jin High School, Kuala Lumpur

Jason Wong Yung Chen

SMK Marudi, Sarawak

Upper Secondary

Grand Prize

(Modenas "Elegant" Scooter, RM1,000 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM1,000 CIMB savings certificate, Two-week work shadowing experience)

Syamsul Azuan Che Hasan

MRSM Beseri, Perlis

First Prize

(FTEC Laptop, RM800 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM800 CIMB savings certificate, One-week work shadowing experience)

Amir Fareed Abd Rahim

Kolej Yayasan UEM, Tanjung Malim,
Perak

Second Prize

(iPod Nano, RM500 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM500 CIMB savings certificate)

Ammira Zunnurainn Mazlan

SMK Simpang Rengam, Johor

Third Prize

(Motorola mobile phone, RM300 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM300 CIMB savings certificate)

Gan Chee Meng

SM St Xavier, Penang

Siddarth Nayar Sree

Kantan Nayar

SMK St Michael, Ipoh, Perak

Fourth Prize

(RM200 worth of MPH book vouchers and RM200 CIMB savings certificate)

Ngu Thieng Kui

SMK Chung Hua Miri, Sarawak

Tan Chooi Yao

Tsun Jin High School, Kuala Lumpur

Nurlina Suraiya Md Sharif

SMK Seri Gombak, Selangor

Khor Guo Sheng

SMK Sultan Abdul Aziz Teluk Intan,
Perak

Gopiraj A/L Jegathisan

SMK Dengkil, Selangor

Siti Syafiqah Razali

SMK Khir Johari, Tanjung Malim, Perak

Chua Yee Min

SMK Kepong Baru, Kuala Lumpur

Afza Diyana Abdullah

MRSM Kuching, Sarawak

Tertiary

Grand Prize

(Proton Savvy, RM1,000 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM1,000 AmBank savings certificate, Two-week work shadowing experience)

Mohd Haizal Zainudin

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Bangi, Selangor

First Prize

(FTEC Laptop, RM800 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM800 AmBank savings certificate, One-week work shadowing experience)

Loh Kwong Fei

University Putra Malaysia, Serdang,
Selangor

Second Prize

(iPod Nano, RM500 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM500 AmBank savings certificate)

Rina Cheah Soo Gim

Inti International College Penang Sdn
Bhd, Penang

Third Prize

(Motorola mobile phone, RM300 worth of MPH book vouchers, RM300 AmBank savings certificate)

Zahid Zainal

Universiti Putra Malaysia, Bangi,
Selangor

Fourth Prize

(RM200 worth of MPH book vouchers and RM200 AmBank savings certificate)

Andrea Christine Filmer

Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang

Wong Yung Tat

Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

Soraya Salim

Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia,
Selangor

Emily Chin Ee Meng

Monash University Malaysia, Selangor

Ahmad Arshad Ezhar

Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran, Negeri
Sembilan

Chin Wee Loon

Penang Medical College, Penang

Teo Chien Yi

Asia Pacific Inst. of Information
Technology, Kuala Lumpur

Nazri Shukran Mamat

Universiti Kuala Lumpur

Mohd Ramadan Mohd

Khalid KUKTEM, Penang

Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders

"Memupuk Minda Bakal Pemimpin"



Excerpt from the essay that won Mohd Haizal Zainuddin the Grand Prize for the Tertiary category. Mohd Haizal is passionate about history and has participated in Kuiz Asean and Kuiz Sejarah (for Astro TV Programme) in the year 2000 and Kuiz Perdana in 2001.

"Satu lembaran baru telah terbuka" kata Tunku Abdul Rahman. Itu kata-kata beliau pada 31 Ogos 1957, kira-kira hampir 50 tahun yang lalu. Kini, beliau telah pergi dan meninggalkan sebuah asset yang tidak ternilai harganya kepada kita rakyat Malaysia; sebuah negara yang merdeka dan berdaulat. Setelah dijajah berkurun-kurun lamanya, maka tamatlah satu rangkaian penjajahan yang silih berganti bermula dari Portugis, disusuli Belanda, kemudian British, diikuti Jepun dan disambung semula oleh British. Tempoh separuh abad cukup lama. Jika usia ini disamakan dengan umur seorang manusia, tentunya ianya sudah cukup matang dan kaya dengan pengalaman. Pengalaman adalah guru yang terbaik. Belajar dari pengalaman hidup bererti belajar dari kesilapan. Maka, adalah penting segala pengalaman ini dijadikan pengajaran ke arah merencana masa depan negara bagi mencapai status cemerlang, gemilang dan terbilang.

Di sini segala peristiwa, rentetan dan coretan dari aspek perpaduan, ekonomi, politik, sosial dan keselamatan negara diterjemahkan oleh penulis secara men-



Excerpt from Syamsul Azuan's winning essay "Bagaimana untuk mewujudkan Bangsa Malaysia yang bersatu padu?". Holding firm to his belief that "Today is better than yesterday", Syamsul Azuan uses that motto to pursue his passion in writing which eventually won him the Grand Prize for the Upper Secondary category.

Kita sedia maklum budaya mencerminkan diri sesuatu bangsa. Oleh itu, sebagai sebuah negara yang bercirikan masyarakat majmuk, kita mempunyai kepelbagaian budaya dan adat resam yang paling unik. Potensi budaya ini hendaklah dikekalkan dan setiap etnik hendaklah menghormati adat resam kaum lain ... Mungkin keadaan ini bertepatan dengan kata-kata falsafah Confucious, "apa guna kita tidur sebentar sekiranya mimpi kita berbeza-beza, lebih baik berlain bantal tetapi mimpi kita tetap sama". Dalam pada itu, program yang dipromosikan kerajaan seperti Kongsi-Raya dan Deepa-Raya haruslah dipuji kerana merupakan satu bentuk kefahaman tentang budaya yang menjurus ke arah perpaduan kaum.

Selain itu, sukan memanglah suatu aktiviti yang relevan dalam hal perpaduan dan persefahaman. Falsafah utama dalam sukan ialah bertanding dan

As August 31st dawned, Tunku slept the sleep of a man at peace, a man who had dreamt, persevered and achieved a near miracle. A new nation had been born in an atmosphere of racial harmony. Indeed, to quote T.H. Sicoock, 'The sense of shame at subjection and (the) resolve to overcome it by building a viable nation was expressed with great human dignity by Tunku Abdul Rahman on the attainment of Merdeka.' For the Tunku, as he assumed the mantle of Prime Minister, there were more dreams to be realized.

On May 27th 1961, the Tunku obliquely referred to a greater dream of his, the concept of Malaysia that would profoundly affect the young country of Malaysia as well as sent shockwaves throughout the region. 'Sooner or later Malaya should have an understanding with Britain and the peoples of Singapore, North Borneo and Sarawak'. On September 16th 1963, Malaysia was formed.

dalam berdasarkan senario yang berlaku sejak kemerdekaan negara hingga kini.

Sistem politik moden yang ada di Malaysia telah berjaya mewujudkan kestabilan selama 40 tahun lebih. Keupayaannya mewujudkan kestabilan tersebut bergantung kepada dasar-dasar yang dilaksanakannya untuk mengendalikan kontradiksi yang muncul dan meredakan ketegangan dalam masyarakat khususnya soal perpaduan kaum.

Banyak peristiwa yang dipelajari berkenaan dengan perpaduan kaum. Apabila soal perpaduan kaum diketengahkan, tentunya resipi kejayaan negara sehingga ke hari ini adalah berdasarkan konsep perkongsian kuasa. Kontrak sosial 1957 yang dipersetujui oleh Parti Perikatan, yang pada itu diketuai oleh UMNO, MCA dan MIC, telah mencapai satu konsensus politik antara kaum: pada satu pihak terdapat pengiktirafan akan kedudukan sejarah orang Melayu di negara ini, antara lain, dengan mengadakan peruntukan dalam perlembagaan bagi hak keistimewaan orang Melayu; di pihak lain pula hak kewarganegaraan diberikan kepada Cina, India dan lain-lain, dan mereka dibenarkan meneruskan kegiatan ekonomi tanpa gangguan. Konsep yang berupa situasi menang-menang (win-win situation) adalah pengorbanan besar orang-orang Melayu ketika itu dan merupakan hubungan timbal balik yang ideal. Apa yang lebih penting, konsep perkongsian antara Melayu dan bukan Melayu ini adalah berdasarkan model konsosiasional yang terdapat dalam masyarakat majmuk lain di dunia. Ramai pengkaji politik mengakui masyarakat di negara ini sebagai "an extreme example of a plural society".

menang. Justeru, demi menjamin kemenangan, para pemain tidak boleh memikirkan perbezaan kaum, agama dan budaya. Dalam konteks negara kita Malaysia, hubungan antara atlit akan terjalin walaupun berbeza kaum. Inilah yang dikatakan matlamat yang seia sekata, ke gunung sama didaki, ke lurah sama sama dituruni, kemenangan sama diraih, kekalahan sama dirasa pedihnya, ibarat orang memiat daging, sakit di orang sakitlah awak. Sebagai contoh, Temasya Sukan Malaysia (SUKMA) dapat mengeratkan perpaduan kerana pelbagai kaum mengambil bahagian. Manakala, kegiatan sukan di sekolah-sekolah dapat memupuk persefahaman di antara pelajar yang berbilang kaum dan begitulah juga kejohanan-kejohanan sukan di peringkat antarabangsa. Kemenangan mereka akan menjadi kebanggaan kepada negara dengan slogan, MAJULAH SUKAN UNTUK NEGARA.

Kesimpulannya, tugas untuk mewujudkan bangsa Malaysia yang bersatu-padu bukanlah suatu kerja yang mudah. Sememangnya banyak cabaran yang perlu ditempuhi. Namun, kita boleh menghadapi semua cabaran-cabaran untuk mengekalkan kemerdekaan kita, mempertahankan maruah bangsa dan negara dengan syarat semua rakyat memberikan komitmen yang padu melalui bersatu-padu, mengamalkan sikap toleransi antara satu sama lain. Ini negara kita, hak kita, milik kita bersama. Yakinlah dengan slogan, SATU BANGSA, SATU NEGARA, 50 TAHUN, NEGARA KITA GAGAH GEMILANG.

There were plenty of challenges and trials still to be faced. There was Dr. Subandrio who declared Malaysia as Indonesia's public enemy and initiated armed hostility or "Confrontation" against the creation of Malaysia. This happened a short six weeks after Azahari's Revolt in Brunei which had threatened to spill over fizzled out. There was also the secession of Singapore. The Tunku decided that a Civil war was too high a price to pay and he decided to let Singapore go their separate way. This courageous and even unpopular decision averted the blood bath that would have resulted as Lee Kuen Yew increasingly played the racial card. In facing all these challenges the Tunku displayed the strength of character, calmness and integrity that personified him.

The Tunku had always promoted racial unity. However, on May 13, everything came crashing down. The May 13th incident with its underlying racial issues is often erroneously seen as a telling repudiation of the Tunku's policies. In hindsight with almost 50 years of nationhood behind us, it is clear that the fault was never the Tunku's. It was the people's lack of wisdom in sharing his values of compassion and understanding that broke faith with him and caused us to choose the path of anger and arrogance in those fateful days. We broke his heart.



Excerpt from Rachel Decruz's winning essay "Abah". A State Champion in Scrabble and Public Speaking, Rachel of Sekolah Menengah King George V, Seremban. Rachel also loves ballet and plays the piano.



Excerpt from the essay by First Prize winner for Tertiary category, Loh Kwong Fei. A proud stamp collector and a chemical engineering student at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Kwong Fei who loves writing was awarded the second runner up in the NACES Inter-University essay writing competition and a semifinalist in the L'Oreal Brandstorm 2007 competition.

Clearly, the next lesson we learn is that education is the key to change the mindset of the community and has the power to unite people of different cultures to achieve a similar goal. In the past, the manifestations of mono-culturalism in our education policy is evident with the introduction of 'ultimate objective', implementing ethnically-based quota system since the early seventies and retarded development of mother tongue schools. Consequently, the Abdul Razak Report 1956 dropped the proposal for the "ultimate objective", and instead recommended a national education system conducive to the growth of the mother tongue education. If ever there was any so-called "social contract" as often referred to by the ruling elite, the Education Ordinance 1957 was the genuine "social contract" in respect of the national education.

Unfortunately, barely 4 years after the implementation of the Education

Ordinance 1957 founded upon multi-culturalism, came the Rahman Talib Report 1960 that re-introduced the "ultimate objective" – the conservative policy of mono-culturalism. The Education Act 1996 retains the mono-cultural nature of our education policy and continues to pursue the "ultimate objective" with renewed vigor.

Currently the national education policy implemented by our government is in essence a policy that promotes national unity as its prime objective. Emphasis is placed on the national language without jeopardizing the development of the language and culture of other ethnic communities. Today, globalization is fast taking place, resulting in stiff competition world-wide. A new policy of teaching Mathematics and Science in the English language was introduced in 2004, to further benefit from the language's universality and available resources.

In the past, racial quotas in universities and racial polarizations in schools had been affecting the development of racial unity within our younger generation. Racial quota is a highly politicized and controversial issue in university admission. In 2002, the government introduced a new university admission system based on meritocracy. Under the new system, greater numbers of Bumiputera students were able to secure places in local universities.



Excerpt from the essay by First Prize winner for Upper Secondary category, Amir Fareed Abdul Rahim. Amir, who is attending Pembroke College, Oxford University to pursue his undergraduate studies in Economic and History this fall, is also passionate about the performing arts and has written, directed and acted in several schoolplays during his time in Kolej Yayasan UEM.

Education is the easiest way to reach the masses especially young minds, the largest target group which has the biggest potential of success. The primary step is to abolish streams and support only the national schools and national secondary schools similar to the vision school idea. National laureate Dr. Syed Othman Syed Omar even suggested that all the streams should be integrated nationwide from primary schools to universities. The medium of communication will only be Bahasa Malaysia and English, while students need to choose a compulsory third language which is either Mandarin or Tamil. If implemented successfully in a decade, young Malaysians will be multilingual with at least sound knowledge in three languages. This will not just enhance interracial understanding but boost the value of every human capital produced by Malaysia and indirectly increase the competitiveness of our workforce globally.

However, the main problem according to Dr. Wee Ka Siong is the inability of the school administrators to encourage healthy racial interaction among students. Thus, government intervention at its maximum must take place. Firstly, the appointment of head teachers must be solely based on merits. The head teachers then should study their schools' racial interaction patterns and come out with an immediate solution. Action must be taken, for instance, in making sure that Malay, Chinese and Indian students mingle together. Tan Sri Murad Mohammed Noor of the Murad Report said in an interview recently, "As a teacher who imparts knowledge, teach them how to contribute towards the nation and how to respect the multi racial aspect of our country."

Teachers must promote the idea that a united Malaysian nation benefits everyone if it is materialised. Moreover, the cabinet must only concentrate on making policies while the implementation must exclusively be executed by the Education Ministry and state-level departments. In addition, the education syllabus needs to be revised with phrases such as "racial tolerance" deleted and replaced by accurate terms like racial integration with constant use of "Malaysian nation" instead of naming the races. If the Malaysianisation policy in education is executed brilliantly, given time, a united Malaysian nation will be developed in less than two decades.



Excerpt from Nurashikin Md Deris's essay "Sumbangan Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad terhadap Malaysia" which won her First Prize in the Lower Secondary category. A straight A PMR student, Nurashikin is also active in athletics and traditional dance.

Tun Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad ialah seorang pemikir Islam yang unik yang membawa revolusi mental kepada rakyat. Beliau mahu Malaysia menjadi sebuah negara maju dan rakyatnya mampu bersaing di peringkat global. Hasratnya dijelaskan dalam Wawasan 2020 yang beliau utarakan pada 28 Februari 1991 semasa pelancaran Majlis Perdagangan Malaysia. Matlamat ini adalah ke arah pembentukan sebuah negara yang benar-benar maju dari segala segi menjelang tahun 2020.

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad juga memperkenalkan konsep pensyarikatan Malaysia. Konsep ini adalah satu konsep yang menggalakkan team work, semangat kerjasama yang erat dan dijalin

dengan ikatan 'esprit de corps' yang kukuh yang bertujuan menjana kerjasama antara sektor awam dan swasta agar kedua-dua sektor bekerja sebagai rakan kongsi.

Beliau tidak jemu menghidangkan Malaysia dengan perubahan yang hebat. Langkah awalnya setelah menjadi Perdana Menteri Malaysia ialah memperkemas jentera kerja dengan menggerakkan kempen Bersih-Cekap-Amanah dan Kepimpinan Melalui Teladan ke arah menerapkan nilai tanggungjawab dan etika murni dalam kalangan awam.

Beliau juga menerapkan unsur-unsur Islam dalam pentadbiran. Kempen peningkatan Daya Pengeluaran Negara juga dianjurkan, begitu juga dasar 'Penerapan Nilai-nilai Islam' sebagai satu wadah menerapkan budaya kerja yang selari dengan ajaran Islam. Selain itu di bawah kepimpinannya, tertubuhlah Universiti Islam Antarabangsa dan Bank Islam. Sejak itu, Malaysia diberi penghormatan dan kepercayaan untuk mengendalikan persidangan bertaraf antarabangsa seperti PATA, CHOGM, kumpulan selatan dan Sukan Komanwel.

The following titles are available for purchase at the Perdana Leadership Foundation at prices less than retail. If you are interested in any of the titles, please contact Puan Latifah at 03 8885 8942 / latifah@perdana.org.my. All proceeds from the sale of these items will go to the Foundation.

Books / CD for sale

Books / Speeches by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

- Globalisation & The New Realities
- Islam & The Muslim Ummah
- The Malaysian Currency Crisis
- Melayu Mudah Lupa / Malays Forget Easily
- The New Deal for Asia
- Reflection on Asia
- The Role of Islam
- Terrorism & The Real Issues
- The Way Forward
- Islam, Knowledge & Other Affairs
- Selected Speeches by Dr. Mahathir Vol. I
- Selected Speeches by Dr. Mahathir Vol. II

Others

- Monograph Perdana Discourse Series No.1/2004 - National Unity
- Monograph Perdana Discourse Series No.4/2004 - Political Stability and Sustainability as Key Success Factors in Developing Malaysia
- Peace Dividends, War Profits: Proceedings from the Perdana Global Peace Forum 2005
- Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art
- Final Judgement by Michael Collins Piper
- The High Priest of War by Michael Collins Piper
- The New Nuclear Danger by Dr. Helen Caldicott

CD / VCD / DVD

- Perdana Global Peace Forum 2005 DVD (Set of 5)
- Perdana Discourse Series: Positioning Malaysia in the World Arena DVD (Set of 2)

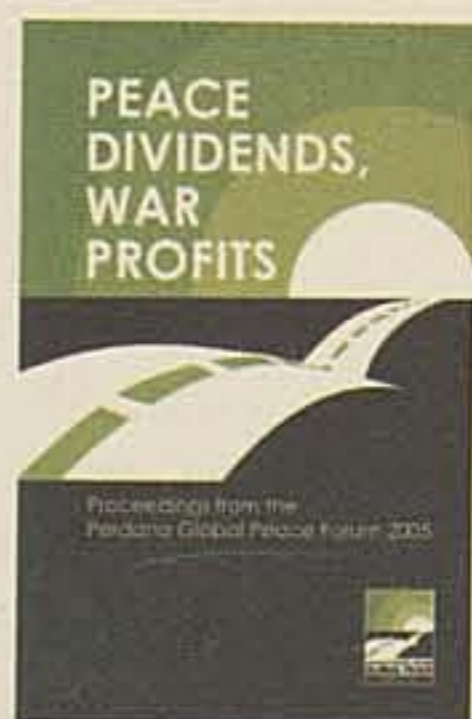
Perdana Leadership Foundation Publications

Peace Dividends, War Profits: Proceedings from the Perdana Global Peace Forum 2005

Publisher : Perdana Leadership Foundation
Edited by : Dr. Rusnah Johare, Jasni Rahim, Zarina Abu Bakar, Shamsul Akmar Musa Kamal
Year : 2007
Price : RM 25.00

Synopsis :

This Publication features the main speeches from the Perdana Global Peace Forum 2005 which was organized by the Perdana Leadership Foundation on December 15-17, 2005 at the Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Themed "Peace Dividends, War Profits" and chaired by the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, the Forum's speakers included former Prime Minister of Australia Bob Hawke, British MP George Galloway, former United Nations Assistant Secretary General Denis Halliday and Hans-Christof Von Sponeck, British filmmaker Tariq Ali, and Iraq war veteran Jimmy Massey, along with the other well-known figures of the anti-war movement. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, delivered a dinner keynote address on Islam and Peace, while the Deputy Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak, presented the Forum's closing address.



Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysia Art

Publisher : Perdana Leadership Foundation and Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM)

Author : Dr. Zakaria Ali

Year : 2007

Price : RM 80.00

Synopsis :

This publication is a catalogue of the sixty-seven paintings and sculptures on display at the exhibition. Each work is accompanied by a commentary by the exhibition's curator, Dr. Zakaria Ali. More than just a catalogue, though, this book contains a fascinating essay on art and nationalism in Malaysia, revisiting the visual elements that embodied, in their time, the struggle for peace and independence. This book is also a tribute to Malaysia itself, illustrating the nation's progress and the patriotism that surrounds it.



Selected Titles from the Perdana Library's Rare Book Collection

Towards a Malayan Nation by T.H. Silcock (1961)

This is a timely book on an important subject regarding national unity. It is a compilation of essays which discusses how different races, i.e. Malay, Chinese and Indian could live in one nation and share different culture. The author also played a constructive personal part in a succession of remarkable developments which ended in the birth of the Malayan Nation--an event which most people once regarded as impracticable.

Blueprint for Unity - selected speeches and statements of Tun Tan Siew Sin (1992)

This book contains the political biography and nearly one hundred important speeches of Tun Tan Siew Sin, one of Malaysia's foremost leaders, during the past two decades. The collection of his utterances, some of which mark momentous and dramatic events in Malaysia during the past twenty years, will, it is hoped, make a notable contribution to the understanding of the man and his labour of love for his community and his country - Malaysia. They reflect the thoughts and wisdom of Tun Tan on crucial issues affecting the Chinese community in particular and Malaysia in general.

The Development of a Plural Society in Malaya (1977)

A plural society is one in which the different races which comprise a population live as separate communities. They have been divided not only by race, but by religion, language, culture, customs, food, occupation and living area. The development of Malaysia's plural society was a product of the colonial era and a legacy of British rule. The ending of the colonial era and the return of full independence to the peninsula and to Sarawak and Sabah in the context of Malaysia has given a political dimension to the plural society. The plural society is responsible for much of the colour, variety and interest which outsiders admire in Malaysian society, and which tourist brochures proclaim: but to bring the diverse peoples to tolerate those differences and to develop a common identity which is Malaysian is a task with which Malaysian leaders still grapple.

Putrajaya Holdings Treasure Hunt

On 29th July, 2007, Putrajaya Holdings organised the PJH Treasure Hunt for its staff and the public and selected Perdana Leadership Foundation as one of its checkpoints. More than 1,000 treasure hunters thronged the Foundation on the Sunday to seek clues hidden in the Foundation's launch video and around the Foundation's exhibition hall. It was an eye-opening experience for many of the treasure hunters, who had never visited the Foundation before, and many returned to visit the Foundation and our library following the event.



Participants combing our photo exhibits for clues



Eager treasure seekers



Our Exhibition Hall had never been so popular

Visit from Yayasan Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) Scholars

On 23rd August 2007, the Foundation received more than one hundred Yayasan Tenaga Nasional Scholars aged ten to fourteen, all of whom are academic achievers from under-privileged families. The Foundation's librarians briefed the visitors on the Foundation's set-up and took the group for a tour of the Library and Exhibition Hall.

The Perdana Leadership Foundation is open to group visits by appointment. For more information, please contact En. Adnan Haris (03 8885 8940 / adnan@perdana.org.my)



(Group photo) Yayasan TNB Scholars giving a big thumbs up for the visit



PLF's Librarian introducing the Foundation.



The students in the Library

Perdana Library's Digitization Unit

Perdana Library has been digitising library materials since 2005 but in-house digitizations was limited to newspaper clippings. Recently, the library invested in the i2S CopiBook (Colour) Face Up Book Scanner to increase digitization productivity. Before the procurement, the Library would require 3 working days to completely digitize, archive and produce one PDF file of a 400-page book. This process would involve scanning, image conversion and image editing as well as page rescans due to unexpected errors. With the new scanner, tasks are completed within one day, greatly increasing the Library's digitization productivity in terms of speed, accuracy and quality. The library currently has over two hundred thousand digital records in its collection.



Perdana Library's New Scanner

(Information provided by Ahmad Munawar, Librarian)

Perdana Leadership Foundation thanks the following major contributors to the Foundation

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We also thank all our other individual donors, including those who contributed to the Foundation via the Malaysian Tatler Annual Ball 2005.

Merdeka 50: A Celebration of Malaysian Art

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Supported by
Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Malaysia
Malaysia Tourism Board

Thank you to all artists who participated in the exhibition who kindly agreed to donate part of the proceeds from the sale of their art to Perdana Leadership Foundation.

Perdana Leadership Foundation's "Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders" Essay Contest

Thank you to all our Prize Sponsors

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Events

Digitisation & Preservation Workshop

From the 3rd to the 5th of December 2007, the Perdana Library will be organising a Digitisation & Preservation Workshop. The 3-day workshop will provide guidelines on how to manage digitisation projects and will give Perdana Library's insights and perspective into the whole process. Participants will be exposed to practical sessions on digitisation and preservation that highlight issues such as selection, copyright, outsourcing and vendor evaluation. There will also be case studies to evaluate the experience of other institutions. Librarians, Information Professionals, Archivists, Document Management Personnel, Record Administrators and those interested in digital preservation are invited to register for the workshop. For more information, please contact Ms Suzila Kassim at 03 8885 8966 or Mr. Adnan Haris at 03 8885 8940. Seats are limited, and will be on a first come first served basis.

Wacana Kesarjanaan Melayu "Pemodenan Bangsa"

The Institute of Dr. Mahathir's Thoughts (IPDM), Universiti Utara Malaysia will be organising a Malay Scholars Discourse with the theme "Pemodenan Bangsa (Culture Modernisation)" on the 3rd December 2007. The discourse will focus on three Malay intellectuals Munsyi Abdullah Abdul Kadir (Munsyi Abdullah), Pendita Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad (Za'aba) and YABhg Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. The event is co-sponsored by Perdana Leadership Foundation and supported by the Foundation's Research Fellow, Dato' Mohd Yusof Hasan (UPSI) who is finalising his research on "Pemikiran Mahathir Mohamad: Kesenambungan Gelombang Keintelektualisme Melayu Global dari Munsyi Abdullah dan Za'aba".