

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**17 OCTOBER 2005**

### **Five Scholars Receive Perdana Leadership Foundation's Inaugural Research Awards**

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Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia and Honorary President of Perdana Leadership Foundation's (PLF), presented the Foundation's inaugural Research Awards to five scholars at a ceremony held in Putrajaya today. The Research Awards will enable them to conduct in-depth research on various aspects of the nation's leadership history.

The grants are worth between RM10,000 and RM15,000 for research of up to 12 months and RM20,000 - RM50,000 for research of between 18 months and 24 months. The Institute of Quality and Knowledge Advancement (InQKA), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) is the Foundation's academic collaborator for the programme.

In congratulating the scholars, Tun Dr. Mahathir said, "We hope that the scholarly undertakings by this inaugural batch of recipients will lead to new insights into the policies, strategies and leadership of the nation's past Prime Ministers and build on the corpus of knowledge on the stewardship of the country. We believe that the research work itself will spark new studies into areas of the country's history that would otherwise remain neglected."

In his address, Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim, Chairman, Board of Trustees of PLF, said that the Research Award is in line with Foundation's aim of stimulating research into the leadership of Malaysia's past leaders.

“This is the first time that the Foundation is awarding research grants and we are encouraged by the overwhelming number of applicants as well as the range of topics submitted by applicants for the research grants. This interest augurs well for the PLF in meeting its objective to become not just a central resource centre, but also a leading research and learning institution for studies on our past leaders. There are five scholars this time around, a number that we intend to increase in future. We also aim to introduce a fellowship award in the near future,” added Tan Sri Dato’ Azman.

This year, Perdana Leadership Foundation’s grants are awarded to:

- 1 Dato' Professor Dr. Mohd Yusof Hasan, Professor / Research Fellow at the Aminuddin Baki Centre for Global Education, UPSI, who will analyse Malay intellectualism through the thoughts of three prominent Malay thinkers
- 2 Dr Suhaimi bin Shahnnon and Professor Dr. Kamaruddin Ngah of Universiti Sains Malaysia’s Centre for Policy Research; whose research work will examine the politics of national identity with respect to the country’s four Prime Ministers
- 3 Associate Professor Azhari-Karim, an Associate Professor at Universiti Sains Malaysia, who will examine the country’s past foreign relations policy in general and Malaysia-Germany relations in particular
- 4 Ms Sue Valquis Md. Mashhor, a Coordinator at Universiti Teknologi MARA’s Faculty of Law, whose study will analyse Tun Dr. Mahathir’s approach in regional development and ASEAN.
- 5 Mr. R Sivaperegasam P Rajanthiran, a doctoral student who will study the pattern of oppositionism of PAS and DAP towards Tun Dr Mahathir’s declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state on 29th September 2001.

The scholars’ findings will be published by the Foundation and the scholars will be invited from time to time to deliver talks on their areas of study.

Set up in 2003, the Perdana Leadership Foundation's mission is to research, document and publicize the intellectual legacies of Malaysia's past Prime Ministers. Based on the principle that past leadership can yield valuable insights for future development, the Foundation's objective is to increase awareness and appreciation of Malaysia's rich development experience. The Foundation's Perdana Library offers access to a vast collection of speeches, documents, books and audio video material, affording a glimpse into Malaysia's history of nation-building.

More information on the Research Awards is available at [www.perdana.org.my](http://www.perdana.org.my).

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