

## Chairman's Message



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

The final quarter for the year 2006 has been a relatively quiet one for Perdana Leadership Foundation due to the month of Ramadan and the festive Syawal celebration towards the end of October.

The Foundation hosted a 'buka puasa' gathering for its trustees, major donors, collaborators and employees to strengthen bonds and to keep members apprised of Foundation activities.

There are also ongoing projects like the Essay Contest and Malaysian Anecdotes. Response for our Essay Contest 2006 has been positive with students organising special visits to the Foundation specifically to retrieve more information about the contest and to gather useful references and materials from our Perdana Library. This is precisely the kind of interest that we aim to generate from the contest, and we are hopeful that many young Malaysians will make their views heard via their essays.

Our collection of Malaysian Anecdotes is proceeding at a slow but steady pace. I would like to thank all the Malaysians and non-Malaysians who have responded to our call for anecdotes. We wish we can publish all your stories! I urge all other Malaysians and Malaysian-loving residents – particularly those who have lived through the leadership of our past Prime Ministers – to contribute to this collection. If you do not write, call us and we will send our writer over for your anecdotes!

For this year, we can look forward to launching the Merdeka 50 Art Heritage Exhibition, to commemorate our nation's 50 years of independence, where we will gather 50 artists to give their artistic interpretation of Malaysia's development since independence.

The Foundation will also continue with its collaborative programmes, such as the Perdana Discourse Series and the Research Awards, and has embarked on the Oral History Series in partnership with UUM. Our first "subject" for the Oral History is, of course, the Foundation's Honorary President who, with his twenty two years of experience at the helm of this country, has a wealth of experience to share with our interviewers. The Oral History interviews will proceed to other personalities of Malaysian leadership history, and the Foundation will reproduce the interview transcripts in book and video form.

I personally hope that the awareness created via our projects will generate new insights into the history of Malaysia. Rome was not built in a day, so the saying goes, but Malaysia has come a remarkably long way in fifty years and the making of this country is something that should be of interest to all Malaysians.

The Foundation welcomes 2007 with open arms and looks forward to an exciting year ahead.

Chairman's Message

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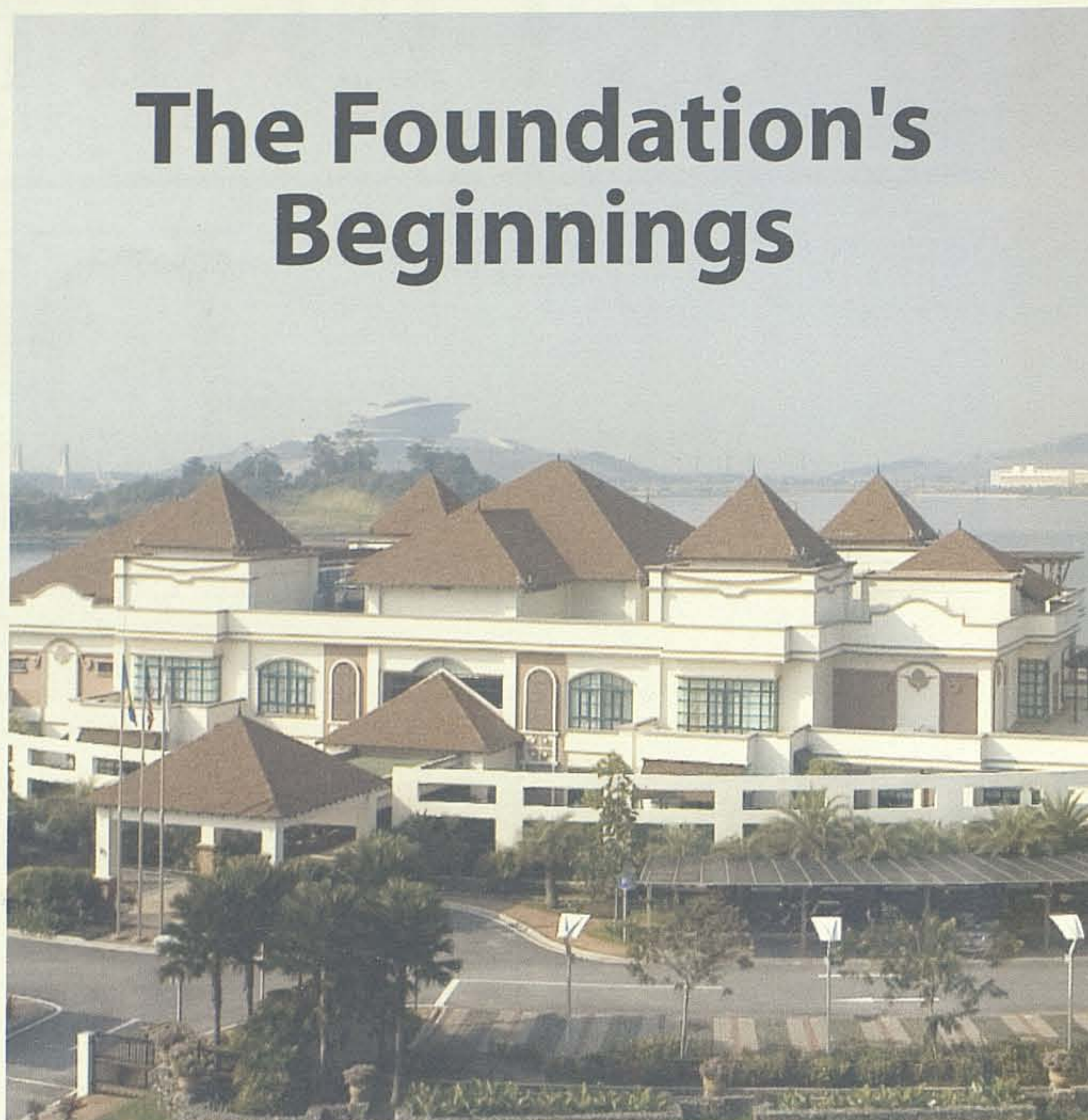
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In Brief

Thank You



# The Foundation's Beginnings



Perdana Leadership Foundation was chartered in January 2003 as a non-profit organisation, 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 organised 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 organisation, 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.



## Perdana Leadership Foundation

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Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad

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# Events Calendar

## October 3, 2006

Perdana Leadership Foundation's Honorary President, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad hosted a 'Buka Puasa' gathering with the board of trustees, major donors, collaborators, volunteers and employees of the Foundation.

## October 16, 19 & 30, 2006

Our Oral History series kicked off with interviews with Tun Dr. Mahathir on the nation's developments, his previous premiership and issues of the day. The interviews were conducted in 3 sessions at his office in Putrajaya and in KLCC.

## February 5 - 7, 2007

PGPO Exhibition & Conference on "Expose War Crimes. Criminalise War"; PWTC, Kuala Lumpur.

## April 18, 2007

6th Perdana Discourse Series on "Media & National Development"; Perdana Leadership Foundation.

## Majlis Buka Puasa

On 3 October 2006, the Perdana Leadership Foundation organised a Buka Puasa hosted by the Honorary President, YABhg Tun Mahathir Mohamad, for the trustees, major donors, collaborators, volunteers, as well as staff of Perdana Leadership Foundation. The event was attended by more than 200 invitees, who stayed for 'buka puasa', Terawih prayers and supper.



PLF's academic collaborators from UiTM.



Tun Dr Siti Hasmah with Dr. Norashfah Hanim of InQKA, UiTM



Tun Dr Mahathir arrives at Perdana Leadership Foundation



Steve Wong, Datuk Abdullah Abdul Rahman & Datuk Ismail Yusof

# Perdana Focus: Sue Valquis Md. Mashhor

by Nurol Akma Latif



*Assoc. Professor Sue Valquis Md. Mashhor,  
Faculty of Law, Universiti Teknologi MARA*

*Assoc. Professor Sue Valquis Md Mashhor is one of Perdana Leadership Foundation's research scholars. She is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Law, UiTM and has been lecturing for 20 years in courses such as Public International Law, Malaysian Legal System, Islamic Family Law, Law of Torts, Law and Medicine, Law Relating to Health Care, Legal Process and Administrative Law. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Law in UiTM.*

## **Research Focus: An Analysis of Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad's Approach in Regional Development and ASEAN**

Ms Valquis's research is entitled "An Analysis of Tun Dr. Mahathir's Approach in Regional Development and ASEAN". The research aims to study the concept of regional development propounded by Tun Dr. Mahathir for Malaysia during his premiership. Apart from that, the research focuses on Malaysia's policies relating to regional development and whether any of these policies were extended to the development of ASEAN.

*Perdana Leadership Foundation's Research Awards was introduced in 2005 with the aim of stimulating research on the leadership of Malaysia's past Prime Ministers. The Foundation offers short-term and long-term grants to qualified scholars with academic administration provided by the Institute of Research, Development and Commercialisation (IRDC), Universiti Teknologi MARA. The objectives of the Research Fellowships are: to encourage the study of this country's history beyond facts and figures; to yield valuable insights for future Malaysian leaders via in-depth study of the nation's past leaders and how their leadership as well as policies affected national development; to increase awareness of, and boost interest in, Malaysia's rich intellectual heritage. The first fellows of the Research Awards are **Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohd Yusof Hasan, Dr. Suhaimi bin Shahnnon, Prof Madya Kamarudin bin Ngah, Assoc Prof Azhari Karim, Assoc Prof Sue Valquis Md. Mashhor and R. Sivaperegasam P Rajanthiran.***

## **ASEAN was established during the time of Tunku Abdul Rahman. Can you comment on each of our Prime Minister's involvement in ASEAN?**

ASEAN was established in 1967.

The Federation of Malaya obtained its independence from the British Government in 1957. Tunku Abdul Rahman as the first Prime Minister had taken efforts towards regional cooperation by forming the Association of Southeast Asia (ASA) in July 1960. Thailand, Malaya and Philippines were the founders. ASA however perished when Philippines made claims onto Sabah in early 1963. After the claims on Sabah subsided, Tunku, President Macapagal (Philippines) and President Sukarno (Indonesia) set up MAPHILINDO as a move to cooperation but it became stillborn when Malaysia had to face the Indonesian confrontation against the formation of Malaysia in 1963. The confrontation subsided with the downfall of President Sukarno at the hands of General Suharto who took over the presidency in September 1965. A peace accord was signed on 12 August 1966 between Malaysia and Indonesia with the initiatives of Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia and Robert Kennedy of United States. In 1968, the Malaysian government then called for the neutralisation of the Southeast Asia region and proposed the policy of co-existence.

Tunku's administration focused on a movement for peace, friendship and diplomacy among the member countries in the region. ASEAN was established in 1967 with five original founders namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The early aim of ASEAN was to stop the advancement of communism into South-East Asia.

**I feel that any matters arising [among the Southeast Asian countries] should be settled in the spirit of ASA, whereby the [Southeast Asian] countries pledge to work together in close association and cooperation to bolster the economic, social and cultural well-being of the region, and to put an end to the exploitation of man by man and of one nation by another.**

*- Tunku Abdul Rahman-  
27 October 1964*

Tun Abdul Razak had actively during his premiership (1970 – 1976) moved ASEAN into making the region a neutral area. In 1971 Tun Abdul Razak said: "The premise of the neutralisation proposal is regional and national resilience. Southeast Asia must stand on its own feet. We individual countries as well as the region as a whole must be self reliant if we wish to survive. If a country

or a people values its way of life, it must be prepared to defend it against any form of external encroachment..."

**Malaysia will continue with the concept of making the South East Asian region a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality. So, it is important for ASEAN to be strengthened to build a solid foundation for the territory.**

*- Tun Abdul Razak-  
1 Mac 1975*

Tun Hussein Onn was the Prime Minister of Malaysia in 1976 - 1981 and he signed the Declaration of ASEAN Concord and Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. The treaty laid down the fundamental principles of operation for ASEAN namely mutual respect, sovereignty of states, non interference of domestic matters, non use of force or threat and settlement by peaceful means. The 1977 ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur fortified the call for peace in the region. In 1979 ASEAN called for intra-regional cooperation and extra-regional activity.

**The region's political developments have been our main concern. That is why members of ASEAN hold firmly to our objectives, and strive to bring the concept of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality a reality for ASEAN. The stability and security of the region will guarantee success to all our efforts to develop ASEAN and bring prosperity to the people.**

*- Tun Hussein Onn-  
12 January 1981*

When Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad (1981-2003) became Prime Minister, ASEAN then was 14 years old. Dr. Mahathir assisted ASEAN by defining its role and identity in the international sphere. As a regional organisation, the member countries have to cooperate to achieve the objectives of the Association. Globalisation is at the doorsteps of ASEAN and it has to be tackled. Foreign investors will only be willing to come to Southeast Asia if the region is politically stable and technologically equipped. When Dr. Mahathir introduced the Look East policy in Malaysia and harped on K-economy, the other ASEAN members followed suit so that the region would be equipped with tools of modern technology.

**What were the policies introduced by Tun Dr. Mahathir during his 22 years of involvement in ASEAN?**

One main policy introduced by Tun was the Look East policy. Tun was most impressed by the exceptional work ethics of the Japanese and Koreans. The workforce also practiced standards that enhance fair competition in their marketing of goods.

A policy that Tun Dr. Mahathir proposed for ASEAN during the financial crisis of 1997 was Prosper Thy Neighbour. According to Tun, Malaysia should help its neighbours to develop their economy. Intra-ASEAN trade should be enhanced so that there is movement of trade and capital between the member countries.

**How can the approaches that Tun successfully implemented in Malaysia be applied in other ASEAN countries?**

Malaysia is a cosmopolitan country with many ethnic

groups. It is important for Malaysia to be politically stable. Democracy is practiced and previously it had been based on cooperation. But today the younger generation must understand the consociationalism\* that forms the basis of Malaysia's independence. Moderation and tolerance are the basis of unity. Secondly a country must be strong economically so that the livelihood of its people is improved.

ASEAN can learn from Malaysia's efforts to cultivate unity and build economic strength.

**ASEAN consists of a developed nation (Singapore), emerging markets (Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei) and developing countries. How can a balanced regional development be achieved?**

The concept of balanced development means the sharing of resources. The creation of Growth Triangles between Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia in the north and that of Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia in the South are forms of sub-regional cooperation. The resources developed are shared through joint-venture agreements between enterprises and the jobs created will help improve the standard of living of the people therein.

**Can ASEAN create a one-value system with so many different cultures and religions practiced in the region?**

When the Malaysian Government emphasises on values for development, the government wants the people to adopt positive attitudes towards work and life and take steps to make Malaysia a united, just, stable and progressive country. The need to achieve national unity requires Malaysia to uphold national interests above ethnic and communal interests. Over-concern for sectional and parochial interests will be detrimental to the long-term interests of the nation. Because of the need to maintain stability, Malaysians need to keep their racial and religious differences to the minimum. Values of moderation, tolerance, and appreciation of the sensitivities of each other are crucial in the building of a united, just, stable and progressive nation.

ASEAN too has to identify the values it wants the ASEAN Community to practice. The people must be proud of ASEAN. There should be less formal procedures to enter ASEAN countries and less stringent conditions in the employment of ASEAN people, with no discrimination of employees among ASEAN countries.

**Do you believe that ASEAN should strive towards supranationalism like the European Union?**

I believe that ASEAN countries should keep their overignty and work along the lines of Smart Partnerships and good neighbourliness rather than supranationalism like the European Union.

**In 1997, the ASEAN leaders adopted the ASEAN Vision 2020, which called for ASEAN Partnership in Dynamic Development aimed at forging closer economic integration within the region. The vision statement also resolved to create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN Economic Region, in which there is a free flow of goods, services, investments, capital, and equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities. The Hanoi Plan of Action, adopted in 1998, serves as the first in a series of plans of action leading up to the realisation of the ASEAN vision.**

*- Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad-  
22 October 2003*

\* Consociationalism is a form of government involving group representation by elites, and is suggested for deeply divided societies.



## In their own words: History from a personal perspective The Perdana Leadership Foundation Oral History Project

A veteran politician, three academics, three video cameras and a transcriber. These are the ingredients for the first of Perdana Leadership Foundation's Oral History Series, a joint project with Institute of Tun Dr. Mahathir's Thoughts (IPDM) of Universiti Utara Malaysia, that seeks to preserve historical information and complement written records via interviews with key players of the country's history.

Our first Oral History interview was with our Honorary President, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister, a man who Jacques Chirac described as a "master of surprises" and Margaret Thatcher speculated would have been "lethal with a handbag". Tun Dr Mahathir generously granted the project team three hour-long sessions at his offices in Perdana Leadership Foundation and Petronas.

During these sessions, the interviewers elicited his opinions, ideas, viewpoints and reflections of events that marked the country's development, peppering Tun Dr Mahathir with questions on the Malay Dilemma, the New Economic Policy, education, politics, corruption and Islam, all of which were answered frankly, some at great length. We believe the answers to the questions will be a valuable resource for present and future students of Malaysian politics and history, as well as for the general Malaysian public eager for the statesman's own account of the country's turning points.

The project team has identified other key players to be interviewed as part of this Series as the project aims to give different personal perspectives to key events and decisions in Malaysia's leadership history.

The interviews and their transcripts will be published in book form and DVD.

### The Interviewers :-

Assoc. Prof Dr. Mustapa Kassim  
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Director of Institute of Tun Dr. Mahathir's Thoughts (IPDM), Universiti Utara Malaysia

Assoc. Prof Dr. Abdul Rahman Abdul Aziz  
Ph.D (London)  
Deputy Director of Institute of Tun Dr. Mahathir's Thoughts (IPDM),  
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Mr. R. Sivaperegasam P Rajanthiran  
PLF Research Fellow & Senior Lecturer,  
Centre of Language & Malaysian Studies,  
International University College Technology (TWINTECH)



## Perdana Leadership Foundation Oral History Project with Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad – Excerpts

### On the New Economy Policy:

"It's quite obvious that we (the Malays) never reached the figure of 30 percent. But try to think about the huge difference between going from 2 percent to 30 percent for the Malays and for the Chinese community, of going from 30 percent to 40 percent. Now, from 2 percent to 30 percent requires an increase of 1,500 percent. That's very difficult to achieve. On the other hand, going from 30 percent to 40 percent is just an increase of 33 percent. So, the fact that we managed to reach about 20 percent by the end of the term, of the twenty years, was quite a remarkable achievement. In many ways, the NEP was not very realistic. Nevertheless, in terms of social engineering, it was a great achievement. Because even if the Malay shares went up from 2 percent to 20 percent, it is a 1,000 percent increase. That is a very remarkable achievement.

"I always give this analogy of American football played between an American football team and a Malaysian football team. We don't know the rules in the first place. We are about one third

their size. Each one of them will be weighing around 240 pounds. And then you ask us to compete. You can see well that the field is level. You can compete. But although the field may be level, yet the players are not, you see. That is what I meant by how you have to take into consideration handicaps in any competition. You have to give way for handicaps."

### On Malaysia as an Islamic state:

"In an Islamic state there are always non-Muslims. And in the Quran, it was stated, "To you your religion, to me my religion." You pray in your own way, I pray in my own way. So, we can accept that DAP is not a Muslim party. Islam tolerates that. But don't say that we cannot practice our own religion, you see. If we tolerate you, you must tolerate us also."

"If you start asking questions on Islam, then others would ask questions about other religions and things like that and there will be confrontation. It's not going to be good for anybody. What harm has Islam done to other people? We are not applying Islamic law on non-Muslims."

**On Independence:**

"Now, of course, we are independent. But don't think that our independence is a permanent thing. If you don't defend your independence, you will be colonised. Maybe not in the same way. Maybe you'll be colonised economically. So, please don't forget the past. The past is a very good teacher. George Santayana would say that, "Those who forget the lessons of history are condemned to repeat the mistakes over and over again." That for me is a very good guide."

**On the Look East Policy:**

"It is obvious that among the countries which have done very well was Japan. And if you want to learn something, you must learn from the people who have managed to change. If you look at Europe, they achieved their change 200 years ago during the Industrial Revolution. And they have forgotten the difficulties that they faced. So you ask them, can we do this? Can we do that? How did you do this? They don't really know. They have forgotten. And not only have they forgotten, but they have adopted ideas which are very damaging."

"I am not anti-West as such. But I believe that if people do something wrong, even if they are your friends, you should be able to criticise and correct them."

**On Education:**

"Whenever I talk to Malays, I stress the need for them to upgrade their capacity through acquiring knowledge and skills. And not only that, I tell them that what you acquire will be passed on to your children. We noticed of course that the children are always much more knowledgeable, much more skilful than the parents. Otherwise, how do we explain that the ancient people were so very backward and through generations we have improved our capacity, our knowledge and our skills?"

"Through the Vision School (Sekolah Wawasan) concept, we will combine a few schools in one centralised campus environment. The campus will consist of an ordinary

national school and vernacular schools like Chinese schools and Tamil schools. There are certain activities for example assemblies that should combine all three schools together where students are encouraged to mix and mingle even though they would return to their respective schools to continue with their daily lessons afterwards. We should not limit the participation in sports activities to teams according to their races or schools. Instead, they should be allowed to blend in with others and form a more diversified team to compete against each other."

**On UMNO and Politics:**

"In my opinion, a political party can be the platform to revamp the country's status in general. But many people think that they can use the party for their own benefit, not for the sake of the people and the country. I've tried to explain the main objective of the party and what should be its main priority. The party does not belong to only one person, it belongs to the people. So, we must work for the people so that every time we manage to develop the nation, it will benefit the people."

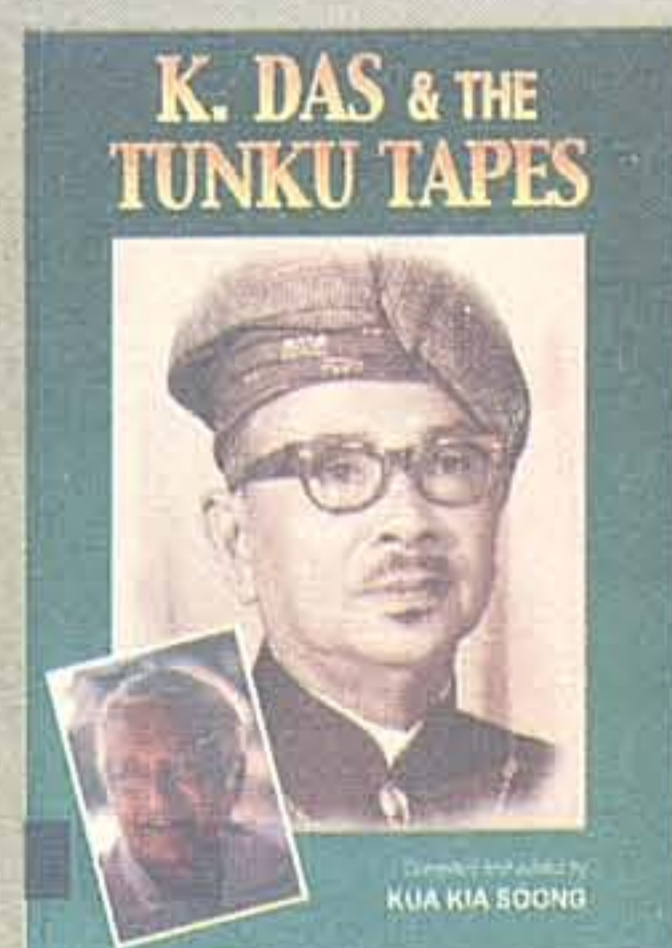
**On Malaysia's Development:**

"If this country can afford to build Putrajaya, why not? And you must build it not just for your pleasure, but for the future. It must be useful, you see. When we built Putrajaya, it was designed for the long-term, for the future, for hundreds of years. If you look at the European countries for example, the Prime Minister of Britain lives in No. 10, Downing Street. All the Prime Ministers have been living there. If you look at France, the President lives in the Elysee Palace and all the Presidents for hundreds of years have been living there. I think if we want to do something we must do it well and we must do it for the future. Not for the present alone."

**On initiating the Global Peace Movement:**

"In the words of Confucius, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step". We have to make the first step, because this is an approach to change the mindset of the citizens of the world that war is not an option to resolve conflicts between nations. War means killing human beings to solve disputes. But we know that killing is a terrible crime. If we don't allow such crimes to happen in our country, why must we accept such methods in solving disputes?"

## Featured Publication



### K. Das & The Tunku Tapes

(From the book's synopsis)

K.Das & The Tunku Tapes is the closest we will ever get to reading Malaysia's first Prime Minister's memoirs or his authorised biography. These tapes contain interviews with the Tunku by his authorised biographer, K.Das, in 1988. The Tunku speaks his mind on the personalities of the day as well as on politicians of the past with a candour and directness that will make many blush. He provides hitherto undisclosed perspectives of historical episodes, for example, the hatchetmen behind the May 13 racial riots of 1969. This will interest historians and ordinary Malaysians alike.

Covering a broad spectrum of incidents in his colourful life from childhood to his retirement, K.Das & The Tunku Tapes gives Malaysians an intimate potrait of Bapa Malaysia as the charming prince with the commoner's touch, caught in the changing times.

This publication is above all, a tribute to K.Das, one of Malaysia's best writers and fighters for justice. He is best known as the former Bureau Chief of the Far Eastern Review and author of political best sellers including May Day For Justice, Questionable Conduct and The Musa Dilemma.

Compiled and edited by  
Kua Kia Soong,  
Strategic Info Research  
Development, 2002.

Available in the Perdana  
Library

# First Ladies of Malaysia

## Tun Sharifah Rodziah binti Syed Alwi Barakbah (1919-1997)



In 1940s, after her marriage with Tunku

Sweet and demure is how she appears in photographs. And when the tall and handsome Tunku is next to her, Tun Sharifah Rodziah binti Syed Alwi Barakbah, the nation's first First lady, appears diminutive. But this charming soft-spoken lady was an important force behind Tunku's fight for independence, and during general elections, campaigned along with

her husband to marshal people's support, helping to win over women's votes. As First Lady, Tun Sharifah Rodziah made the welfare of women and children's education her top priorities. In particular, she urged Malay women to develop a more progressive outlook and take a more active part in civic affairs.

This is a surprisingly modern streak in an otherwise very traditional woman. Tun Sharifah Rodziah was born in 1919, in Alor Setar to government officer, Syed Alwi Barakbah, and wife. More affectionately known as "Pah Tam" by her family because of her tanned skin, Tun Sharifah Rodziah attended a Malay school in Alor Setar until she was sixteen. At the tender age of 19, she was engaged to Yang Mulia Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj, a prince who was then a government officer who she had never met before. Apparently, Tunku studied in the same class as her brother, Syed Omar Barakbah, in London.

Tun Sharifah Rodziah and Tunku Abdul Rahman were married in 1939, and the marriage lasted for more than 50 years. It was her first, and Tunku's third, marriage. Blessed with two children from Tunku's first marriage, the couple would adopt four more over the course of their union.

Despite her modest reserve, Tun Sharifah Rodziah was active in cultural and sports activities. She was the leader of the Royale Dance Troup which performed internationally and was appointed the President of the Women's Football Association of Malaysia.

On the 31st of August 1970, Tun Sharifah Rodziah was bestowed the award Darjah Kebesaran Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara (SMN) which carried the highest honour with the title 'Tun', making her the first Malaysian lady to receive such an award. In 1974, she was chosen by the National Council of Women's Organisation (NCWO) as the most outstanding woman personality of Malaysia and was later conferred 'The First Order of Ratnaphore', an award given by King Bhumipol in Thailand, making her its first recipient from Malaysia.



At a banquet in honour of the Shah of Iran in January 1968

**"I walk so slowly that it is not always possible"**

- Tun Sharifah Rodziah on Tunku's preference for her to precede him in European style at official functions.

## Tun Hajah Rahah Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Noah Omar (1933 - .....)



Tun Razak & Tun Rahah's wedding (1952)

Tun Hajah Rahah Tan Sri Haji Noah was born on June 11, 1933 in Batu Pahat, Johor. She was the daughter of a Senior Officer in the Johor Bahru Islamic Religious Department who later became Speaker of both Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

As a young girl, Tun Hajah Rahah was known for her beauty, wit and sophistication. It was these qualities that attracted Tun Abdul Razak and they were married on September 4, 1952 when Tun Rahah was 19 and Tun Abdul Razak, 30. Their union was blessed with five sons and they adopted three daughters.

Tun Rahah was brought up in a strictly religious family and becoming the wife of a prominent civil servant with social obligations was a big transition. Nonetheless, she adapted to new responsibilities well and when Tun Abdul Razak was appointed the nation's second Prime Minister, Tun Hajah Rahah actively engaged herself in public activities.

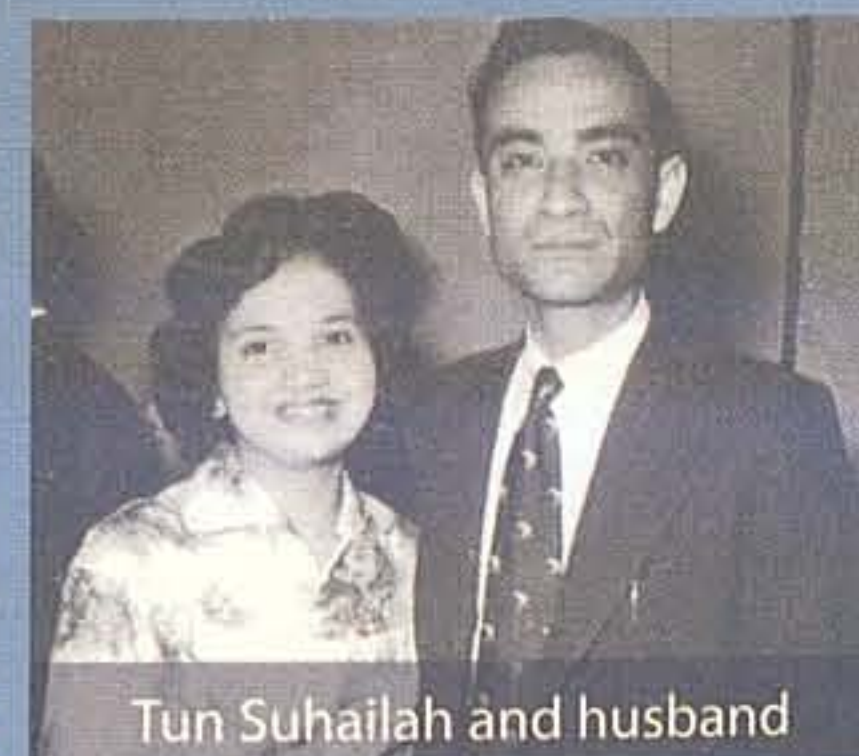
She was the President of the National Ladies Hockey Federation, President of the Speakers Club and Chairman of Restoran Rakyat (People's Restaurant). As recognition for her contributions to the Girl Guides Association, Tun Suhailah (her sister and the third First Lady of Malaysia) had a hall named after Tun Rahah by the Association.

Tun Hajah Rahah was only in her forties when Tun Abdul Razak passed away in 1976, after which she devoted her time to various religious activities and to her family.

Source: *The Perdana Library, Zainuddin Maidin's "Tun Razak: Profile of a Patriot", Paridah Abd Samad's "Tun Abdul Razak: A Phenomenon in Malaysian Politics" and Memorial Tun Abdul Razak.*

## Tun Suhailah Tan Sri Haji Mohamed Noah Omar (1931 - .....)

Tun Suhailah Tan Sri Haji Noah was born on 26 October 1931 in Batu Pahat, Johor. She was the fourth of five siblings and is the older sister of Tun Hajah Rahah.



Tun Suhailah and husband

Tun Suhailah was married to Tun Hussein Onn on the 12th February, 1948, and they were blessed with four daughters and two sons. It was a partnership that lasted 42 years, ending only with the death of Tun Hussein Onn in 1990.

Tun Suhailah received her early schooling at Sekolah Melayu, Mersing, and continued her studies in Muar, Batu Pahat, and finally at the Sekolah Inggeris Convent, Malacca. Although prepared for a career as a wife and mother, she participated in politics briefly and was Secretary of the UMNO women's branch in Johore Bahru. She retired from active politics a few years later to focus on her family.

A genteel refined Malay lady, Tun Suhailah was nonetheless insistent in her calls for women to move up to the forefront of nation-building. It was Tun Suhailah who mooted the idea of an organisation for the wives of government ministers and deputy ministers, Badan Amal Kebajikan Tenaga Isteri-isteri (BAKTI) which was successfully formed in 1977.

Tun Suhailah was BAKTI's first chairperson until 10 July 1981

when Tun Hussein Onn resigned from his post as Prime Minister. During her term as chairperson, she managed to organize BAKTI's first fund-raising event at the Sekolah Hisamuddin near Bank Negara Malaysia and persuaded Tun Hussein's Cabinet members to participate in a walkathon in Taman Tasik Perdana in BAKTI's second year. She was also involved in the Malaysian Association of the Blind, the Girl Guides and was part of the team that formed the National Children's Library.

After Tun Hussein Onn passed away in 1990, Tun Suhailah remained active in charity events and social activities.

Source: Memorial Tun Hussein Onn, Arkib Negara's "Tun Hussein Onn: Bapa Perpaduan / Father of Unity" and J. Victor Morais's "Hussein Onn: A Tryst with Destiny".

## Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali (1926 - .....)



Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali is the only Malay woman to be accepted into the medical course at the King Edward 7th College of Medicine, Singapore, in 1947. She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University Malaya, Singapore, in 1955 and returned to General Hospital, Kuala Lumpur to do her housemanship.

Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah married Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in 1956 and continued working as a Government Officer in Kedah until her retirement in 1979 in Kuala Lumpur. The couple has 7 children and currently 16 grandchildren ranging from 20 years to 5 months. In 1981, Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah became the 4th First Lady of Malaysia when her husband resumed the office of Prime Minister until October 2003.

While in Kedah (1956 – 1974), Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah became the first Acting Medical Superintendent, General Hospital, Alor Star in 1963; in 1964, she was Medical Officer of Health, Kedah Utara; 1966 – 1972, Medical Officer of Health, Langkawi & Kubang Pasu concurrently Head of the Rural Health Training School, Jitra, until 1974, when Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah was appointed as the first State Maternal & Child Health & Family Planning Officer, Kedah. On her transfer to Kuala Lumpur, she was appointed Maternal & Child Health Officer at the Public Health Institute, 1974 – 1979, and lectured final year Dental Undergraduates at the University Malaya, until 1981.

Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah has written articles on family medicine and contributed a chapter entitled "50 Years of Maternal & Child Health Services in Kedah" in a book titled "Darul Aman" by Prof. Dr. Asmah Omar. Her service to public health, especially to women's health, gained recognition internationally when she was awarded the Kazue McLaren Award by the Asia Pacific Consortium for Public Health in 1988, UNIFEM Award in Beijing in 1995 and Recognition Award for Women's Health by the Federation of International Gynaecologists & Obstetrics (FIGO) Congress in 2006.

Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from 10 local and 4 foreign universities and appointed Patron to several medical and health organisations in the country. She is currently the 1st Chancellor of the private Multimedia University established in 1969 with campuses in Melaka and Cyberjaya. Among the many welfare and social organizations, local and foreign, Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah has led BAKTI from 1981 – 2003 and is currently the Chairperson of the Board of Administration, Bangunan BAKTI Siti Hasmah.

Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah was invested with six State awards. On the last day of her husband's retirement as the 4th Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Yang DiPertuan Agong conferred upon them the highest award of the Nation – the Seri Maharaja Mangku Negara (SMN) and the Seri Setia Makhota Malaysia (SSM) which carries the title of "Tun".

The conferment was historically special and unique for Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah because in the past, no First Ladies were awarded the SSM simultaneously with their husbands. They were "Toh Puan"s until the demise of their husbands after which the Federal Government appropriately conferred upon them the SSM.

Source: Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah's office

## Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood (1940 – 2005)



Datin Seri Endon was one of a set of twins born to a Malay father (Dato' Mahmood Ambak) and a Japanese mother (Datin Mariam Abdullah) on 24 December 1940. She had her early education at Tapah in Perak, and went on to complete her secondary education at St. Mary's Secondary School in Kuala Lumpur.

Charming, demure and stylish, Datin Seri Endon unreservedly attributed her poise

and meticulous fashion sense to her parents. For a career, she joined the civil service, and it was when she was working in the Federal Establishment Office (now the Public Services Department) that she met Datuk Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi. They married in 1965 and their first-born is Kamaluddin. In 1976 when Nori, their second child, was born Datin Seri Endon opted out of government service to dedicate herself to raising her two children and to caring for the home.

Datin Seri Endon initiated the "Semai Bakti" project during her tenure as the Chairperson of BAKTI. Through this project she envisaged the possibility of engaging the members of BAKTI actively, in caring for special children through the Pusat Dalam Komuniti (PDK) on selected FELDA Schemes.

She was the Chairman of Yayasan Budi Penyayang Malaysia (PENYAYANG), a charity body with programmes focusing on family, arts, culture and heritage, and cancer support. Her empathy for the declining batik industry prompted her to launch the Malaysia Batik: Crafted for the World Movement in 2003. She put in place the prestigious Piala Seri Endon (Seri Endon Trophy) batik competition which sees the country's best batik producers and artists competing in three (3) categories i.e. apparel, soft furnishing and handicraft. It was through her suggestion that the world's first batik convention i.e. The Kuala Lumpur International Batik Convention 2005 (KLIB 2005) was hosted by Malaysia.

Datin Seri Endon's passion for the collection of the exquisite Nyonya Kebaya led to the publishing of a beautiful coffee table book entitled "Nyonya Kebaya – A Showcase of Nyonya Kebayas from the collection of Datin Seri Endon Mahmood". This was followed closely by the publication of a second book entitled "Nyonya Kebaya : A Century of Straits Chinese Costume". Being the wife of the Prime Minister necessitated Datin Seri Endon to be patron of some NGO's, including The Girl Guides Association and The Child-Friendly Hospital. She executed all these roles effectively and efficiently.

As a patient of breast cancer, she had no qualms going public about her illness. This contributed to open discussion of the disease, and enhanced public understanding for early detection and the probability of survival. She worked with Putrajaya Hospital to set up Penyayang Pesakit Kanser (PPK) – a hospital-based cancer support group. It was her empathy for cancer victims and their families which prompted her to set up a lymphadema massage center and "Positive Image" to address their needs and wants.

As the wife to Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister, she endeared herself to the people of Malaysia. This was reflected in the public outpouring of grief in response to the heartbreaking news of her death on the morning of 20 October 2005 when she succumbed to breast cancer.

Source: The Prime Minister's office



*Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, our former First Lady and one of the country's first Malay female doctors, standing by her favourite painting.*

## An Exclusive Interview with Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali

The Perdana Quarterly's editors, Zarina Abu Bakar and Nurol Akma Latif, had the unique opportunity to catch up with Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and gained some surprising insights into the life of the country's former First Lady.

**You have an extensive academic background and was one of Malaysia's first female doctors. Was your family strict on education when you were young?**

Absolutely, and I am fortunate to have married into a family who has the same principles on education. This helped us to follow the same strictness and discipline through to our own children.

I come from a conservative family. My father was a strict and religious Malay but this did not deter him from treating his sons and daughters equally and to send them to school because of his belief in education, especially for his three daughters. He was determined to give us a complete education because of his belief that educating a girl is the same as educating a nation.

Although a devout Muslim, my father was not afraid to send his three daughters to be educated in a Christian Missionary school. Muslim parents were afraid that Christian Missionary schools would convert their children into Christianity but not my father. He sent us also to Sunday school and for a number of years we were attending Morning Assemblies in our school, St Mary's Girls' School, where hymns were sung and prayers said. Scripture was a subject that we learnt. It was when I was in Std. 3 that Malay students were not required to attend Morning Assemblies nor take scripture as a subject anymore. But my eldest sister Saleha took Scripture as one of her subjects in Senior Cambridge and passed it in her examination. She has the advantage of understanding both the Al Quran and the Bible, especially about the Prophets who came before Prophet Muhammad S.A.W

To ensure that we have a strong understanding of our own religion, my father sent us to Tok Imam of the Kg. Bharu Mosque for religious teachings and Quran reading every afternoon from Monday to Thursday. He was confident that proper religious training would be the basis of good values and good lifestyles that would deter anyone from doing wrong. From these informal religious training, we knew how to pray and read the Quran.

My mother only knew the Malay language in the Jawi script. My father made sure that his children are proficient in these too. So he sent my elder sister Jameah and I to the Kg. Bharu Malay Girls' School on weekends to learn subjects in Malay and to learn how to write in both Jawi and Romanised Malay. We used slates (papan batu) and qalam instead of exercise books. We sharpened our qalams by rubbing it against the rough concrete edge of the drain. We cleaned our slates with a wet cloth but if it was a small mistake, we used a finger wet with saliva!

Going to a Malay school pre-war taught us many other things apart from the subjects given. Children had to sweep the floor of their classrooms, the drains around the school, the sandy compound and even clean the toilets. These were part of the school activities and no student was exempted. My sister and I were registered in the school as "special students from English Schools" to learn Malay but no special privileges were given. We did what other students did and were punished with the others if we were found to misbehave. We attended the Malay school only up to Std. 3 and despite the fact that we were there only over the weekends, I personally enjoyed it.

I am grateful to my parents, especially my father who sent us girls personally to and from school everyday during school terms : to St. Mary's every morning from Monday to Friday, to Kg. Bharu Malay School every Saturday and Sunday mornings and to Tok Imam's house every afternoon except Fridays and weekends. Because of my father's strict rules in education, I was able to communicate with my mother in Jawi when I went to Singapore to study medicine. Because of my family, I am what I am today.



Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah (left) with her two sisters, Puan Jameah (center) and Dato' Paduka Saleha (right)

**"(My father) was determined to give us a complete education because of his belief that educating a girl is the same as educating a nation."**

**- Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah -**

## What was the toughest challenge of being the First Lady of Malaysia?

Being the wife of a Prime Minister was already one big challenge for me and I had no choice but to go along and be the First Lady for the next 22 years! Tough? Yes, but not all the time depending on your attitude towards that position and how you handle it publicly without forgetting that you are as normal as everyone else. Being a politician's wife, Prime Minister's wife at that, the toughest challenge for the First Lady is to keep the balance of being respected by the people and to be humble when meeting with them. Good interpersonal skills that will create good rapport between the First Lady and the people are crucial.

Again, I am fortunate to have had the professional experience of handling urban and rural dwellers, the sick and healthy during my 23 years of medical and health services with the Government. They taught me to be more sensitive to their feelings, to empathise and sympathise with them and their needs. Visiting foreign countries officially either with or without the Prime Minister brings another challenge to First Ladies. Invitations to Conferences and Dialogues and making speeches are expected.

Another tough challenge for any First Lady is how to be always on guard to uphold your image, your husband's and the nation's within or outside of the country. With national and global eyes focused on us most times, I was careful about the way I dress, conduct myself in public and select the places to visit. Being a simple person, I had no problems in this aspect and I avoided canceling programs already set for me by organisers who I knew had made so much effort organising it. First Ladies must be above all problems and be impartial.

**"Visiting foreign countries officially either with or without the Prime Minister brings another challenge to First Ladies. Invitations to Conferences and Dialogues and making speeches are expected."**

Malaysia has always been highly respected as the most developed among the underdeveloped countries. We were able to showcase our success. Many of the African and Island nations would like to know about us. Therefore, before leaving for foreign countries, I prepared myself to give briefings about the main topics which invariably they would want to know i.e. women in development, health system, education and the microcredit system to reduce poverty among rural women.

I had the privilege and honour as First Lady to be present in Washington 3 times to talk about our Preventive Drug Program, to showcase our Safe Motherhood Initiative Success Story and to the World Bank to talk about our successful Microcredit System – Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia. It was tough but a challenge worth taking for the sake of our country's image and standing.

## What is Tun Dr. Mahathir like at home, as a husband and a father?

Tun Mahathir is like any normal husband pre and post retirement. Even during his tenure as Prime Minister it never occurred to me that the man who was with me

day and night those 22 years, sleeping, eating, talking, scolding, sulking, crying with me was the country's Prime Minister!



Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah (sitting on the right) having drinks with her collegemates and Tun Dr. Mahathir (left)

Even when I rushed him to General Hospital Kuala Lumpur past midnight in 1989 after his first heart attack, it took a while for me to realize that I was taking the Prime Minister of Malaysia to hospital! It took Dato Dr. Robaayah to shake me up.

At home, he has always been a very dear husband, dividing his time between his official duties, day and evening, his leisure time reading, writing, horse-riding and driving around town, and time with me and our family. During the 22 years, he worked very hard and this has not abated after he stepped down.

He expects me, even now, to be healthy and active like him. He cares how I dress and look and never hesitates to criticise my appearance if he thinks I look shoddy!

Tun as a husband trusted me and knows that I would do a job well. I was and am thankful to have such a husband.

One day he requested me to go to Iraq to validate the very sad situation there and for him to report to the Cabinet after my NGO group came back. It was a risky task but he placed all confidence in me to lead an all-ladies NGO group. His instructions were specific: to visit the hospitals, schools, welfare homes and orphanages. We were to meet Dr. Hans Sponeck, the UN official who resigned because of his dissatisfaction with the UN Sanction Committee's handling of the money from the Oil for Food Exchange Program due to the Iraqis. Tun did not want us to call on the President unless he requested to see us. I am probably the only Asian and Muslim woman to shake the hand of this controversial Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, whom Bush, Blair and Howard sent to the gallows in the morning of Aidil Adha last year. The late President thanked the Government and the Prime Minister then for our support against the sanctions against his country. We could have demonstrated more sympathy towards him and condemn the unfair and prejudiced trial that he went through. The NGO humanitarian visit gave members of the Group 11 pride and satisfaction that the Prime Minister had much confidence in them.

Yes, Tun M has all the confidence and trust in his wife whether in times of gladness, sadness and sorrow. He is independent of me while working but seeks help when at

**"He (Tun M) loves cooking and puts me to shame when he cooks Mee Bandong. Coming from a family of good cooks, he can instruct our cook what and how to prepare dishes which he saw his mother or sister prepare when he was young."**

home. He is yet to learn how to handle phone calls especially the mobile phone! He loves cooking and puts me to shame when he cooks Mee Bandong. Coming from a family of good cooks, he can instruct our cook what and how to prepare dishes which he saw his mother or sister prepare when he was young.

As a father, Tun M loves his children and now his 16 grandchildren. Like his father, who was the first Headmaster of the English school in Alor Star, Tun is a strict disciplinarian. He saw to the full education of our sons and daughters up till tertiary education. They all had religious classes while they were in Primary School.

Before moving to Kuala Lumpur to take up his appointment as Minister of Education, he never failed to take his young family for vacations within the country, driving us all in the big blue Pontiac, from Alor Star to Kuala Lumpur, Penang or to Cameron Highlands.

As the children grew up and Tun M moved up the political scale after 7 years in Kuala Lumpur to become the Prime Minister, the children had graduated from their foreign universities except for Mukhriz who was sent to Japan under the Look East Policy for 5 years. He attended their convocation as a proud parent in Brighton, Tulsa and Boston for the boys. He couldn't make it for our eldest daughter Marina at Sussex University as he was busy in Parliament dealing with the Cuepacs crisis then.

The only vacation we had with the family was before he became the Prime Minister. In 1975, we took 3 of the younger ones to Indonesia to tour Java by car from Jakarta to Surabaya and Bali. As one of the privileged vacations with the family, the children were with us for a tour of the USA, from Hawaii to Los Angeles, Houston to Florida to Disney World. The children were young then and we were much younger. It was fun to be together and we know that such holidays together would be more difficult as years go by for us and for them. The children accepted the fact that we would not be always with them because of his position. They felt that it was NOT great at all to be the children of a Prime Minister. They missed their father especially and when they all came back to settle down, they were already mature adults with their own commitments and friends.

As a father, he is protective of his children but encourages them to stand on their own two feet. He enjoys talking to them but often they disagree to the point of arguing and not talking to one another later! Both father and family now try to avoid controversial issues. Whatever the situation, eventually Tun as a father supports his family and they give him in return their love and affection. It is always a joy when the whole family gathers over dinner or a meal where there is always camaraderie amongst us.

**You seem very healthy and energetic despite your age. As a medical practitioner, could you share with us some tips on staying healthy?**



Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah (standing far left) with her college teammates

Being a medical practitioner does not guarantee you a healthy and energetic life. It just helps you to understand diseases and its peculiarities as we age and also how to prevent yourself from being unhealthy.

People have remarked that I have a good complexion. Maybe I am just lucky because among the three

girls in the family, I didn't have any pimples nor acne during my adolescent growing period. My hormones may be balanced from the start! I never use make-up until I went to study medicine in Singapore. I was already 21, fresh and ignorant. There, you have friends who looked pretty and elegantly dressed. They used make-up and soon I followed! At that time, the most popular cream was Ponds and Max Factor.

Nowadays, there is a whole range of facial creams to make you look young and beautiful. Maybe if I were to try some of them I would look much younger than now. But I don't because I am comfortable with what I have been using for years! My morning routine is to have a good shower before Subuh prayers. If my face doesn't look good, I use a facial scrub that leaves my skin clean and smooth. I use only one brand of make-up - Estee Lauder - and I don't think I'll change as I've been using the brand for more than 25 years. What about facial surgery and other aids? No, not that I don't need it, but I personally won't want to. So forget about Botox, face lifts and the like.

**“Read books, the Quran, write and memorise your favourite songs and sing! That's the way to keep young and healthy. One good advice to keep those worried lines away from your face is to SMILE, not only for Visit Malaysia Year 2007 but for all times.”**

Staying healthy is simple for everybody. Frankly I was tempted to visit one of those slimming outlets that produce beautiful models but maintaining that size 8 waist and abdomen and falcon legs would be another gigantic task. I remember trying out a program to slim by reducing your appetite using a medical patch and a special biscuit. A dear friend diligently used it and recommended it to me. At first, I used the wrong side of the patch of this special medication or whatever, which you are supposed to stick on your thigh, arm or buttock. Having got that right, I tried it for a month, then spurred by encouragements from friends tried it for another month. There was no apparent result and my appetite was worse than before! Finally I gave up and told my husband so. He gave me a very logical reason why it didn't work on me. The patch was definitely on the wrong place, he said. It should have been across my lips as that was where food gets into the body, not through the skin of legs, arms or buttocks! What are husbands for but for being watchful of your beauty, weight and diet? Be thankful, ladies, when he vocally expresses it!

Other than careful dieting and ample rest, exercising your body is vital. It helps to tone up the muscles, limber the joints, encourages bone cells to continue producing, increases your good cholesterol, helps in the circulation of blood and keeps your heart and lungs healthy, not forgetting that the brain will be nourished by oxygenated blood and a host of positive benefits from just walking 10,000 steps each day or by doing a simple exercise which you have been familiar with. The main thing is to do something to keep you mobile and active.

I used to swim occasionally and play badminton for exercise. I played badminton from 1985 - 1999 until I tore my shoulder ligament and had to retire completely at the age of 73! At what age did you say Misbun and the other national player retire? Earlier in the 1980s, BAKTI ladies went through Jane Fonda types of aerobics and as years went by we switched to the less strenuous yoga.

Read books, the Quran, write and memorise your favourite

songs and sing! That's the way to keep young and healthy. One good advice to keep those worried lines away from your face is to SMILE, not only for Visit Malaysia Year 2007 but for all times.

I thank my daughter Melinda for urging me to start yoga classes. BAKTI members joined us every week at Sri Perdana Damansara for 3 hours of yoga, ending with total relaxation of mind and body. At that time, my body was very supple and could also do the plough but not the head stand as my tummy was too much in the way.

Now BAKTI members have gone to a slower pace of exercise – taichi. It is an effort to be so slow. But in Bangunan BAKTI Siti Hasmah (BBSH), there's also the conventional gymnasium with all the equipments to build your body and strength. Choose your form of exercise wisely. I go for the simple ones and at 80, I do stretching and occasionally walk the treadmill. Whatever it is, you must do some form of exercise to keep your engines and limbs going, especially your brain. Don't let it stagnate. Think of funny incidents, amusing anecdotes in your life or your family's and laugh about them. Read books on jokes – good and clean ones.

Finally, do I go for injections of foetal cells, serum or whatever, to keep my "youth"? No, and a big NO. The Almighty has blessed you by bringing you out into this world. Be grateful. He is a master architect, designer and engineer. He sees that you are perfectly formed before birth with a soul. Life is temporary on Earth and determined by HIM alone when you would eventually leave it. Why then should we interfere with what we have been blessed with? Can't we accept that fact that we shall one day die and can't we leave gracefully without artifacts in our bodies?

Okay, don't I have any illnesses to worry about? Yes, I have raised blood pressure which fortunately comes down to normal everytime we set foot on a boat and sail! I also suffer from acid reflux when I am hungry or eat spicy and acidic foods. My vision is poor and my bones and joints need taking care of. At my age, you cannot be 100% healthy but you can prevent the conditions from getting worse by having frequent check-ups.

Women, doctors included, must have regular medical examinations once they reach age 35. As age increases it is MANDATORY as it can be life-saving. Wanting female doctors only to attend to you, too busy to go for a check-up and fear of finding something wrong with you should no longer be excuses for not having annual checkups. The key objective is to detect any disease early so that its management can be initiated early by whatever means and the quality of life of the person can be maintained.

The fear of the unknown is what everybody is afraid of. For instance, if a woman feels a lump in her breast, she is too afraid to go instantly to the doctor for examination to diagnose what the lump actually is. It may not be cancerous but just a cyst which can be removed. The mind would immediately be relieved once a confirmation of what the lump actually is. If it is cancer, immediate action would be taken to remove it. Hiding it would only deny yourself the opportunity to save your own life.

**"Women, doctors included, must have regular medical examinations once they reach age 35. As age increases it is MANDATORY as it can be life-saving. Wanting female doctors only to attend to you, too busy to go for check-up and fear of finding something wrong with you should no longer be excuses for not having annual checkups."**



Tun Dr. Siti in her office (2007)

**"Selflessness and sacrifices will be the end game if a woman is to lead the Government in the future for the people and country in peace, goodwill and harmony."**

I personally take supplements to take care of my bones, joints and nerves. Calcium and Vitamin D, for strengthening of bones and prevention of osteoporosis. I drink Anlene milk which has high calcium content. Vitamin E, for anti-aging. Neurobione, for healthy nerves. Pristine capsules to prevent heart disease. There are so many in the market of all these supplements and you can ask your family doctor for advice on which to take.

To sum it all up, I appear to be healthy and active because I enjoy life with my husband and family. I eat, sleep and rest sufficiently well, exercise my body in the mornings and most importantly, keep reminding myself that I should be grateful to the Almighty for all the blessings He had given me through the love and affection that I get from my husband and family, and the memorable 22 years of serving the people in the land of my birth as their First Lady with all the honour and privileges that came with it. Syukur Alhamdulillah, Ya Allah!

**What does the future hold for women in Malaysia? Do you think Malaysians can accept a female Prime Minister by 2020?**

The future is definitely bright for Malaysian women. They are now more educated, adventurous, highly professional, demanding and determined. The global trend that finds more female undergraduates in colleges and universities augurs well for the nation (Remember the phrase: educating women means educating the nation) but the woman who finally reaches the very top in the Government must have special qualities to lead men and women in the Government. She must have vision and commitment to further develop the nation, empower women to express their rights for fairness and justice, and, being mothers, to strongly advocate for world peace and harmony among nations.

The challenge for women in the future will not only come from the men but from the women themselves. Competition is inevitable, especially in politics. There must be sacrifices made by the experienced seniors who have had their turn, to allow the new ones to come up. Selflessness and sacrifices will be the end game if a woman is to lead the Government in the future for the people and country in peace, goodwill and harmony.

# Thirteen Ways of Looking at... Digital Preservation

by Azahar Mohd Noor

The long-term future of digital resources must be assured, in order to protect investments in digital collections, and to ensure that the scholarly and cultural record is maintained in both its historical continuity and media diversity. In short, we must look at digital preservation in many different ways. This article suggests thirteen ways of looking at digital preservation:

## **Digital preservation as...an ongoing activity**

In the case of digital materials, mechanisms to ensure long-term persistence should operate harmoniously with mechanisms supporting dissemination and use.

## **Digital preservation as...a set of agreed outcomes**

The choice of preservation strategy will need to reflect a consensus of all stakeholders associated with the archived digital materials

## **Digital preservation as...an understood responsibility**

Since the value of certain digital materials can persist indefinitely, those who have custody of these materials during the various stages of the information lifecycle must recognize and act upon the need to manage them in ways compatible with long-term preservation.

## **Digital preservation as...a selection process**

The choice of which materials to preserve is a difficult one, and will depend on a number of factors, including institutional mission, cultural preferences, economic practicality, and risk management policies.

## **Digital preservation as...an economically sustainable activity**

As projects mature, empirical descriptions of digital preservation's complete cost trajectory will emerge. This data must be consolidated and synthesized to produce reasonable benchmark estimates of the cost requirements associated with various forms of digital preservation.

## **Digital preservation as...a cooperative effort**

Cooperation can enhance the productive capacity of a limited supply of digital preservation funds, by building shared resources, eliminating redundancies, and exploiting economies of scale.

## **Digital preservation as...an innocuous activity**

Publishers are reluctant to distribute digital copies of their revenue-generating assets, even for preservation purposes, to individual licensees or subscribers; few institutions would have the resources to preserve the materials even if they did.

## **Digital preservation as...an aggregated or disaggregated service?**

For the most part, digital preservation systems have been designed by combining raw storage capacity, ingest functions, metadata collection and management, preservation strategies, and dissemination of archived content into a physically integrated, centrally administered system. But other organizational structures are also possible: for example, digital preservation activities might adopt a "disaggregated" approach, where the various components of the preservation process are broken apart into separate services distributed over multiple organizations, each specialising in a focused segment of the overall process.

## **Digital preservation as...a complement to other library services**

Preservation should not impede access or reduce the scope for sharing information. Careful records of the outcome of preservation processes must be kept: for example, in cases where material is migrated to new formats, users must understand which versions of a particular digital resource are available for access, and what alterations, if any, have been made to these versions as a consequence of preservation.

## **Digital preservation as...a well-understood process**

How can decision-makers be assured that investments to preserve digital collections are producing tangible results? It would be useful to devise a widely accepted set of evaluative procedures, similar to a quality assurance audit and based on measurable aspects of the preservation process, that would serve as a reliable indicator of how well preservation activities are progressing toward meeting preservation objectives.

## **Digital preservation as...an arm's length transaction**

The more rapid the pace of technological change, the costlier it will be to ensure that archived digital objects remain usable. Given the uncertainty over the pace and direction of technological change, it is difficult to estimate future preservation costs, and therefore, suitable pricing scales.

## **Digital preservation as...one of many options**

If one institution collects the analog version, while another collects the digital version, which institution holds the official "copy of record"? Should both versions be preserved, or just one? Who decides?

## **Digital preservation as...a public good**

Digital materials are also more easily shared than analog materials. Resources can be made available online and accessed from all over the world, making an institution's user community potentially limitless.

## **Conclusion**

Preserving our digital heritage is more than just a technical process of perpetuating digital signals over long periods of time. It is also a social and cultural process, in the sense of selecting what materials should be preserved, and in what form; it is an economic process, in the sense of matching limited means with ambitious objectives; it is a legal process, in the sense of defining what rights and privileges are needed to support maintenance of a permanent scholarly and cultural record. It is a question of responsibilities and incentives, and of articulating and organizing new forms of curatorial practice. And perhaps most importantly, it is an ongoing, long-term commitment, often shared, and cooperatively met, by many stakeholders.

*Azahar Mohd Noor is the Chief Librarian of the Perdana Library*

## The Perdana Bookstore

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 (+6) 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.

1. Globalisation & The New Realities
2. Islam & The Muslim Ummah
3. The Malaysian Currency Crisis
4. Melayu Mudah Lupa / Malays Forget Easily
5. The New Deal for Asia
6. Reflection on Asia
7. The Role of Islam
8. Terrorism & The Real Issues
9. The Way Forward
10. Islam, Knowledge & Other Affairs
11. Selected Speeches by Dr Mahathir Vol.1
12. Selected Speeches by Dr Mahathir Vol. II

### Others

13. Monograph Perdana Discourse Series No.1/2004 - National Unity
14. Monograph Perdana Discourse Series No.4/2006 - Political Stability and Sustainability as key Success Factors in Developing Malaysia
15. Final Judgement by Michael Collins Piper
16. The High Priest of War by Michael Collins Piper
17. The New Nuclear Danger by Dr. Helen Caldicott
18. Perdana Global Peace Forum 2005 DVD (Set of 5)

## Event Highlight: Visit from Yayasan TNB scholars

On the 24th of October 2006, 140 students from Yayasan TNB with 30 assisting teachers visited the Perdana Leadership Foundation. These students were selected for Yayasan TNB's "Jejak Kegemilangan" programme based on their academic achievement. The students were from various schools from rural areas around Malaysia. At the Foundation, the students were briefed on PLF's objectives and were taken on a tour of the premise.

*The Perdana Leadership Foundation welcomes visitors on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To arrange a group tour, please contact En. Adnan Haris (Tel: 03-88858940 / email: adnan@perdana.org.my)*



There were 140 selected students from schools around Malaysia.



Thumbs up all around!

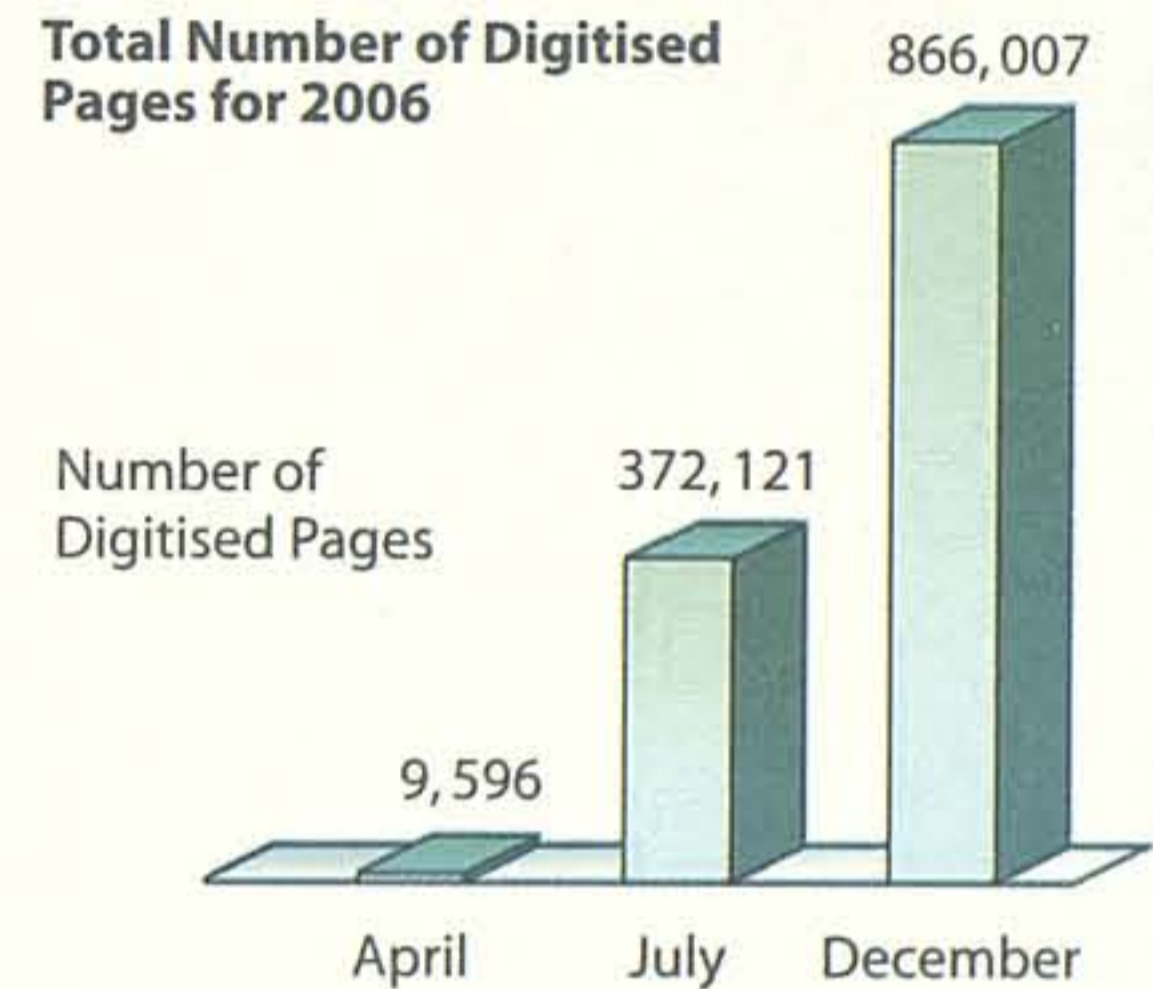


Our librarian Munawar briefed the students on how to access PLF resources from the Internet.

## In Brief: Perdana Leadership Foundation's Digitisation Project

The Perdana Library's digitised resources have shown tremendous growth since January 2006. As of December 2006, the accumulated number is 866,007 digital pages including news clippings, articles, speeches, monographs and poems of our past Prime Ministers. The resources can be accessed over the Internet, via our website [www.perdana.org.my](http://www.perdana.org.my)

Total Number of Digitised Pages for 2006

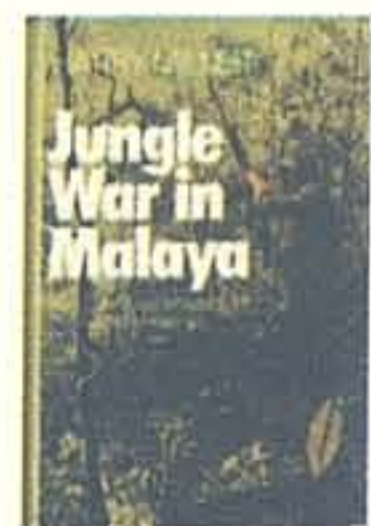


## In Brief: Selected Titles from the Perdana Library's Rare Book Collection



### Razak's China Triumph. The Asia Magazine. 4 (37/38); 22 Sep. 1974.

The Asia Magazine was Asia's leading magazine and also the largest magazine in 8 Asian countries such as Singapore, Thailand, China, Brunei, South of Korea and Laos. In this issue, Tun Abdul Razak's diplomatic achievement with China is highlighted. The establishment of Malaysia-China relations was formally proclaimed during Tun Abdul Razak's six-day visit to China in May and June 1974.



### Miller, Harry. Jungle War in Malaya: The Campaign Against Communism 1948-60. London: Arthur Barker Limited, 1972.

This book encapsulates the war against the Communist in Malaya from 1948 to 1960 and looks at the 'state of play' in 1972, just over ten years after the formal termination of the state of emergency in Malaya. It is the author's report of the course of the war and its dramatic highlights, depressing failures and eventual victory.



### Chan, Heng Chee. Singapore: The Politics of Survival 1965-1967. London: Oxford University Press, 1971.

In this book, the People Action Party's course of action with regard to separation from Malaysia is described and analysed with a view to explaining the major events that have taken place since August 1965. The book assesses the prospects of survival for this island city-state

# Thank You

Perdana Leadership Foundation thanks the following major contributors to the Foundation:

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

## On Going



### Malaysian Anecdotes

The Perdana Leadership Foundation and MPH Bookstroses, supported by 95% The Writers Academy, has recently launched a project to compile Malaysian Anecdotes that reflect the often humorous essence of Malaysian life. Members of the public have responded to our call by writing and submitting their lighter moments and the Foundation is adding to the collection by interviewing various personalities from the corporate, government, sports & entertainment industry. If you have amusing tales of life in Malaysia, please share them with us, and contact Nurol, 03 8885 8953.

### Essay Contest

The Perdana Leadership Foundation Essay Contest "Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders" has received encouraging support from students, many of whom visited the Perdana Library to do their research up to the final hour of 31st December 2006. The essay entries are now being assessed and shortlisted and winners will be notified as soon as the panel of judges finalise their decision. The Foundation would like to thank all the participants and supporters for making the project a success.

## Event



### Perdana Global Peace Conference & Exhibition "Expose War Crimes: Criminalise War"

The Perdana Global Peace Organisation (PGPO) organised the Perdana Global Peace Conference and Exhibition "Expose War Crimes: Criminalise War" from 5th to 7th February at the Putra World Trade Center, Kuala Lumpur. The Conference and Exhibition was the continuation of efforts to support the Kuala Lumpur Initiative to Criminalise War launched by Tun Dr. Mahathir in 2005.

The Conference and Exhibition featured an appearance from a victim of the infamous tortures at Abu Ghraib prison, survivors of the Hiroshima bombing and witnesses of the war and cruelties in Iraq. Tun Dr. Mahathir delivered the keynote address for the Conference, joined by an assembly of internationally renowned speakers who shared their views on war and war crimes. Proceedings and videoclips of the Conference can be accessed via [www.perdana4peace.org](http://www.perdana4peace.org). The next issue of Perdana Quarterly will feature a write-up and photos from the Conference.