



TOP IEM AWARD FOR TUN MAHATHIR

By: A Special Correspondent

FOURTH PM CONFERRED FELLOWSHIP AT IEM 45TH ANNUAL DINNER & AWARD NIGHT

It was a moment of celebration when our 4th Prime Minister, Y. A. Bhg Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was conferred the IEM Distinguished Honorary Fellowship by our President Ir. Prof Abang Abdullah Abang Ali. The annual event which was organised by the Standing Committee of Activities was held at the Grand Ballroom, Palace of the Golden Horses, Seri Kembangan, on Saturday, 17 April 2004.

The Organising Committee under the Chairmanship of Ir. Ti Lian Keong had worked hard in the weeks prior to

the event to ensure that the whole show would proceed well and be enjoyable and entertaining as well.

The 650-odd IEM members, guests and friends had filled up their seats in the hotel ballroom from about 7.00 p.m. At 8.30 p.m. our special guest, Y. A. Bhg Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was ushered into the hall by our President, accompanied by Council Members and other prominent figures of the government. As soon as the guests took their seats, a fabulous opening number was presented by a group called the "Malaysian Dancers". The ten-minute performance depicted the main cultural groups in Malaysia with a futuristic theme. This was then

followed by a formal element for the evening which was the speech by the IEM President.

In his message, Ir. Prof Abang Abdullah Abang Ali called IEM members to "recommit their pledge as members to promote the art, science and practice of engineering – and





continue to fulfil the dream of our founders, to meet our obligation to society and to our profession – a truly noble purpose.”

He said, “Since Malaysia has world capability in many areas of technology, engineers can play to its strengths by having a guiding vision for innovation. The research effort should be more focused in these areas of strength. This actually lowers risks to business and a need to lift the game in commercialising this research. A culture change is crucial in achieving good commercial outcomes. Engineers should be at the core of commercialisation activities.”

The guests were then treated to a sumptuous eight-course Chinese dinner while the presentation of awards commenced. The highlight of the evening was the conferment of the IEM Distinguished Honorary Fellow Award to Tun Dr Mahathir. Our Past President Y. Bhg. Datuk Ir. (Dr) Hj. Ahmad Zaidee Laidin read the Citation about our 4th Prime Minister. He said,



Tun Dr Mahathir served four terms as the Prime Minister of Malaysia over a span of 22 years – the longest continuous premiership in Malaysian history. Throughout his premiership, Tun Dr Mahathir represented a fascinating combination of extraordinary combativeness and eloquence, reaching out to people from all walks of life. The engineering profession was perhaps the greatest beneficiary of his determination and zeal to propel Malaysia into a modern, developed state.

The pace that Tun Dr Mahathir set was exuberant, exhilarating and above all exciting with a myriad of possibilities. He was determined to take Malaysia out of a ‘rubber and tin economy’ and into a brave new world of expanded horizons and wealth creation driven by Science, Engineering and Technology initiatives. Tun Dr Mahathir has achieved what we as engineers collectively never envisioned. He is one of us, for in the broadest sense, he engineered the scientific and technology base of this nation through strategic advice and rare insight into the vast potential of Science, Engineering and Technology for the progress of the nation.

The Award was then conferred to Tun Dr Mahathir by Ir. Prof Abang Abdullah amidst a rousing musical

fanfare with members of the media clicking their cameras away. Upon receiving the award, Tun Dr Mahathir went to rostrum to express his appreciation to IEM for the award and made come light-hearted “comments” about engineering projects and

engineers. Before the end of the evening, Tun Dr Mahathir and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah were approached by “autograph hunters” and the couple happily obliged to their demands. Shortly before eleven, the emcees made an announcement and the special guests left the hall. IEM members and guests to the dinner lined the corridor to say goodbye to our new Distinguished Honorary Fellow and wife.

It was indeed an eventful and successful event for IEM! ■