

DR DATO' HAJI JAMALUDDIN BIN ABDUL HAMID

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*)

I present to you Dato' Haji Jamaluddin bin Abdul Hamid for admission to the degree Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*).

In doing so the University seeks to recognise a distinguished educator who has given a lifetime of remarkable public service to the people of Malaysia and with whom this University has built an important international relationship.

Jamal was born in Malaysia in October 1941, the eldest of ten children. After a childhood under Japanese occupation he was a secondary school student during the tumultuous years that his country faced the challenges and opportunities of seeking independence from colonial rule. Completing his Higher School Certificate in 1959, Jamal pursued a Certificate in Teaching at the Language Institute of the Ministry of Education in Kuala Lumpur, attaining the award in 1963. He subsequently completed a Bachelor of Arts with Honours at the University of Malaya in 1968 while teaching science and language at a Government secondary school in Johor. Thereafter he achieved a Certificate in Secondary School Administration from the Goldsmith College of London in 1971, and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Southern California in 1977.

On returning to Malaysia from London in the early 1970's he continued his teaching career as the Principal of the Government Secondary School in Segamat in the State of Johor Darul Takzim. In 1971 he began his long association with the MARA organisation through his appointment as the Founding Principal of the first Man Junior Science College in Seremban, where he served for six years. Thereafter he became the Deputy Director and later the Director of Education and Training and, in 1985, Senior Director of MARA.

Under his leadership the Junior Science College system grew from one institution with 150 students to a thriving secondary boarding school system for about 9,000 students, many of whom are from lower socio-economic backgrounds. Jamal became known affectionately as the "Father of the Junior Science Colleges" from which more than 30,000 students have completed their schooling, and over 10,000 have gone on to graduate from university.

MARA had been established in 1966 through legislation known as Majlis Amanah Rakyat as the Majlis Man which can be translated literally as "the Council of Trust for the Indigenous People". It is a Government instrumentality whose objectives are broadly to provide commercial viability, to facilitate participation in business and to provide educational opportunities for the Bumiputra people of Malaysia. Its activities include education and an extensive range of commercial and industrial activities

In 1986 Jamal was appointed Deputy Director General of MARA and concurrently the Executive Director of the MARA Education Foundation or Yayasan Pelajaran Mama. This Foundation had been established by separate legislation in 1969 to "provide and improve the educational opportunities and facilities for needy students in Malaysia". In 1991 he became the Foundation's Chief Executive Officer.

Under Jamal's leadership Yayasan Pelajaran Mara has expanded significantly the secondary and tertiary opportunities available to young Bumiputra people of Malaysia. In

collaboration with the parent MARA organisation many thousands of young Malaysians who might otherwise have faced limited opportunities, have benefited from a variety of twinning programs in which they have started their studies at a college in Malaysia before completing their degrees in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Japan and Australia.

These students owe much to the vision and energy of Dato' Jamaluddin. As the nation of Malaysia approaches the goals identified in its national plan, Vision 2020, it will depend significantly on the expertise and knowledge of the many young Malaysians sponsored and educated through MARA and its Education Foundation. Charles Sturt University is proud to have played a small part in this achievement and is grateful to Dato' Jamaluddin for the opportunity to do so.

Malaysia is entering a new phase in its educational history, and it is the work and vision of Jamal and his colleagues that will ensure that the people of Malaysia will have greater opportunities for tertiary study in their homeland. He has had a significant role in positioning the Man Education Foundation to become a university in its own right in this new environment.

In the wider community, Dato' Jamaluddin has served on a number of Boards and Associations and still serves on the Boards of YPM Realties, Edunet Malaysia and the Drivers Education Academy. He initiated and developed the German Malaysian Institute in 1992 and fostered the establishment of the French Malaysian Institute in 1995.

Jamal is a deeply religious man who has sought to serve his people through an organisation committed to the ideals of the Islamic faith.

The MARA Education Foundation reflects the commitment of this man to his faith and to his people. This is reflected in a number of awards bestowed by the Agong of Malaysia and the Sultan of Negeri Sembilan. They include the Ahli Mangku Negara (AMN) in 1982, the Pingat Cemerlang Masyarakat (PMC) in 1987, the Pingat Pekerti Terpilih (P71) in 1989, the Johan Setia Mahkota (JSM) in 1991 and the Darjah Setia Negeri Sembilan (DSNS) in 1994.

And so, Mr Chancellor, I present to you Dato' Haji Jamaluddin bin Abdul Hamid, educator, administrator, leader in his community, Haji, distinguished citizen of Malaysia and friend of Charles Sturt University for admission to the degree Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Eighteenth Day of April One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six