

## SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF CONFERRING THE HONORARY DOCTORATE TO

H. E. TUN DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

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The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Sarajevo started an initiative of the conferment of the University of Sarajevo's Honorary Doctorate to H.E Tun Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad.

The Teaching and Scientific Councils of the following faculties: Faculty of Architecture, Faculty of Civic Engineering and Faculty of Electric Engineering supported the initiative started by the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

Mahathir Bin Mohamad was born in Alor Star, Kedah Malaysia, in 1925. He ended the Faculty of Medicine in Singapore in 1953 (King Edward VII Medical College). In 2003, he received the highest civil grade in Malaysia **TUN** that only 35 living citizens of Malaysia can have.

Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad spent most of his lifework by actively participating in Malaysian political scene and he was a Prime Minister for 22 years. Among offices he was elected into, one must single out his terms as a Minister of Education and Minister of Trade and Industry. Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad has been one of the most prominent political figures in Asia and in the world, who still has influence. In his political actions, he is known for his feeling of honesty, bravery, fighting against discrimination and double standards that are unfortunately quite commonplace in modern politics.

During his term in the office as Malaysian Prime Minister, H.E. Tun Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamad led his country on the path of prosperity, particularly in the areas of economy and industry; ethnic and religious tensions completely vanished, and the constitutional changes, along with reforms in the sector of higher education, were made. At the present moment, Malaysia does not lag behind the most developed world countries in income per capita, structure of higher education and in decrease in infant mortality rate.

Mr. Mahathir proved, in his international activities, his sympathies for Bosnia and Herzegovina and peoples living there, by taking an active role as the "Ambassador of Peace" in settling down war conflicts, and later, by helping reconstruction and development of our country. He was trying to transpose his positive experience that correct interethnic relations can be achieved only by justice, consistency and economic prosperity, even to the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In order with that, his role has been very active in connecting economy and universities of both countries via

international projects. The University of Sarajevo has a very considerable cooperation with universities in Malaysia and with Malaysian companies as well. The cooperation reflects in mutual realization of teaching and scientific projects.

Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad is the president of GAPID (Global Alliance for Partnership in International Development), an organization known by its initiatives for investing in the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The GAPID will co-organize the First International Investment Conference "Sarajevo Business Forum", that is being held these days. The focus of the Conference will be on investing in four major branches of economy: infrastructure, agriculture tourism and energy. In the context of giving importance to the Conference Dr Mahathir held a business dinner on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, attended by thirty prominent men from large Malaysian companies, and several eminent businessmen from Australia, Albania and Russia.

Aware of his positive political and economical role for welfare of Bosnia and Herzegovina, four non-governmental organizations nominated Mr. Mahathir for Nobel Peace Prize in early 2007.

Considering Dr Mahathir's exceptional contribution for political stability and economic development of our country, the Teaching and Scientific Council of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering had started a procedure of awarding an honorary doctorate of the University of Sarajevo to Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad. Based on support provided by Teaching and Scientific Councils of following faculties the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Civic Engineering, Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad was nominated as the candidate for awarding of an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Sarajevo.

In terms with already noted, the Senate of the University of Sarajevo has decided to confer H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad with University of Sarajevo's Honorary Doctorate.

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