The award of Honorary Doctorate of Technology is the highest form of recognition offered by Curtin University of Technology. Past recipients include renowned Australian author Elizabeth Jolley, Australia’s current Governor-General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery, and eminent scientist Emeritus Professor John de Laeter. We are delighted that today the Honourable Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, will also accept this award.

Dr Eric Tan, Chancellor, and Professor Lance Twomey, Vice-Chancellor
CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Citation
The Honourable Abdullah Ahmad Badawi

The conferral of an Honorary Doctorate of Technology upon the Honourable Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, recognises Prime Minister Badawi’s commitment to education; his personal attributes and Curtin’s long-standing and highly valued relationship with Malaysia.

Since becoming Prime Minister in 2003, and previously as Education Minister, the Honourable Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has worked tirelessly to promote higher education in Malaysia, with a particular focus on regional education. His commitment to nurturing and developing education has given Malaysians greatly increased educational opportunities and enhanced Malaysia’s standing in higher education in the region. The Prime Minister seeks to position Malaysia positively in an increasingly competitive knowledge based global economy, a far-sighted policy that will benefit the country into the future.

Curtin University of Technology has been a pioneer of international education in Australia. Malaysian students comprise the University’s largest cohort of international students, studying both onshore and offshore. These students, like others from overseas, have enriched the cultural life on Curtin’s campuses, adding new dimensions to study and social activities and offering all students the opportunity to develop lifelong personal and professional relationships with their counterparts from other countries.

The establishment of Curtin’s campus in Sarawak in 2002 further strengthened the University’s relationship with Malaysia by making it both an Australian and a Malaysian university. The relationships between the University, the State Government of Sarawak, the Malaysian national education authorities and the city of Miri represent an outstanding example of international collaboration.

Prime Minister Badawi’s support for the development of his country’s relationship with Australia, and for Curtin’s campus in Sarawak, means the University can look forward to a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership with Malaysia.

The Honorary Doctorate of Technology especially recognises the Honourable Abdullah Ahmad Badawi’s much admired personal attributes and actions, particularly as they relate to social justice, religious tolerance, environmental conservation and good governance. These attributes reflect the values contained in Curtin’s Guiding Ethical Principles, which, in turn, uphold those of the University’s namesake, former Prime Minister of Australia, John Curtin.