

**PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
1997/1417H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
FOR
SERVICE TO ISLAM**

The Selection Committee of the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has awarded the 1997 Prize to:

The Honorable Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohammad

Prime Minister of Malaysia, in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Mohammad is a widely respected Muslim statesman whose wisdom and moderation during his 16 years of premiership have reflected the magnanimity and forbearance of Islam. His policies have fostered rapport and cooperation between Malaysian Muslims and non-Muslims, thereby enabling him to lead his country toward modernization and economic prosperity.

Dr. Mohammad has played an important role in establishing several Islamic cultural and economic institutions in Malaysia. These include the International Islamic University, the Islamic Center, the Islamic Bank, and the Islamic Economic Development Foundation of Malaysia. Through his efforts within various Islamic organizations he also played a key role in solving disputes in Muslim countries and in supporting the rights of Muslim minorities, especially in south-east Asia.