



The Chancellory



UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA  
 جَامِعَةُ الْعُلُومِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ الْمَالِيزِيَّةِ  
 ISLAMIC SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA

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## MORE NEWS FROM USIM'S SPECIAL CONVOCATION CEREMONY EXCERPT FROM THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S SPEECH

USIM held a Special Convocation ceremony on 16 February 2008 to award an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree in Da'wah and Islamic Management to Fadhilah Al-Imam Al-Akbar Professor Dr. Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar (see **Learning Curve** 17.2.08). Sheikh Al-Azhar received the award from USIM's Chancellor, HRH Tuanku Najihah binti Almarhum Tunku Besar Burhanuddin, Tunku Ampuan Negeri Sembilan.

Honorable Dato' Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of Higher Education attended the Special Convocation ceremony and delivered a speech. Below is translation of part of the speech delivered by the Honorable Minister.

### "SHEIKH TANTAWI, A GREAT PERSONALITY..."

DATO' MUSTAPA MOHAMED

"Sahibul Fadilah Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi Sheikh Al Azhar is an outstanding personality. He is also highly regarded as a Muslim scholar within the Islamic world as well as among academics the world over. It is hoped that the conferment of the honorary degree will firmly establish USIM within the international arena. It will also be our source of inspiration in our quest to elevate the *Islam Hadhari* approach as a development tool and as a way of life.

The conferment of the degree is also a continuation of the nations' ongoing effort to bring Islamic Studies to the mainstream of education in the country.

It also reinforces the government's efforts in symbolizing the maturity of knowledge and skills, the purity of ethics and morality as Sheikh Al Azhar is a great personality who has strictly adhered to Islamic teachings.

His involvement in education, planning and administration in and outside the country plays a significant role in the government policies such as the New Economic Policy (NEP) and the National Development Policy (NDP). His inspiring contributions have been adopted as the foundation for the government policies in developing human resource quality in Malaysia.



From right to left, Y.B. Dato' Mustapa Mohamed, Fadilah al-Imam al-Akbar Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi and Prof. Dato' Dr. Abdul Shukur Hj. Husin, Vice Chancellor USIM.

Malaysia is committed to developing its higher learning institutions to be more competitive at the international level. Thus, the Ministry of Higher Education recognizes the conferment as a path to promote its public higher education to the world and as a way to build a strong relationship with the outstanding university. I believe this is achievable due to the multi ethnicity in Malaysia, its moderate practice of Islamic teachings together with the first class facilities of its universities. In addition, we have also proven our undivided commitment to the development of education in Malaysia.

I have great confidence that USIM will continue its efforts and move actively forward to raise USIM as a well known Islamic higher learning institution at the national and international level. I understand that the concept of *Islam Hadhari* is part of USIM's five year strategic planning. It can be viewed as an attempt to support the growth of an educated generation of people who are equipped with commendable moral values. It is also the expectation of the Ministry that this effort will produce an intellectual and creative generation who have internalized the Islamic teachings. The anticipated success will globally enhance the position of Malaysia as an Islamic and progressive country as well as the concept of *Islam Hadhari* which emphasizes the mastery of knowledge".



Y.B. Dato' Mustapa receiving a memento from Sheikh Tantawi.