Honorary Degree to Distinguished Malaysian Leader

Indiana University and the Center on Southeast Asia Strengthen Commitment to Training Institute

Tan Sri Dato’ Haji (Dr.) Ani bin Arope, one of Indiana University’s staunchest supporters in Southeast Asia and a charter member of the IU International Council, was recognized with an honorary Doctor of Laws, conferred by Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis at the May 14 commencement ceremonies. He earned a Bachelor in Agricultural Science in 1960 from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and came to the U.S. as a Fulbright scholar to earn his Master of Science degree at the University of Vermont in 1966. He is the recipient of four honorary degrees.

As one of Malaysia’s exceptional business leaders in agriculture, banking, and engineering, Tan Sri Ani Arope has devoted his life to providing bridges between institutions, universities, and communities, and in tying education to national economic development. His commitment to education has resulted in the establishment of long-standing ties to IU, first as chairman of the board of the Institut Teknologi MARA, for which IU provided a two-year undergraduate program from 1985–95. More recently, he was chosen to serve as CEO of Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), whose engineering training institute is currently being assisted by IUPUI’s School of Engineering and Technology in the development of an academic program aimed at becoming one of the best in Southeast Asia. Under Tan Sri Ani Arope’s vision and leadership, TNB, Malaysia’s national electricity corporation, made the successful transition to privatization and has come to symbolize that country’s remarkable economic success.

On the occasion of Tan Sri Ani Arope’s visit to Indiana, IUPUI’s Center on Southeast Asia honored him with a special luncheon, co-hosted by IU’s Office of International Programs. Presided over by Center Director Marjorie Lyles, the luncheon was attended by prominent members of the business community, trade representatives of the State of Indiana, and faculty members of the School of Business. During his visit, Tan Sri Ani Arope was also able to meet with two business professors from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Dain Ibrahim and Muhamad Jantan, who were visiting IUPUI under the sponsorship of a USIA grant on joint ventures. He also spent some time with Tenaga-sponsored students studying at the Bloomington and Indianapolis campuses.