

# *citation*

## *Honorary Fellow of COL*

*Professor Anuwar Ali is a visionary academic leader with over 30 years experience in education. His invaluable contributions in leveraging higher education for Malaysia's strategy to become a knowledge-rich society have been widely acknowledged. His foresight and contributions while at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) catapulted that University into world-class status. The distinction of Tan Sri was bestowed on him in 2003 for his contributions to Malaysia in technology development and higher education.*

*Professor Ali, an Economist, started his career as an Assistant Director at the Malaysian Ministry of Trade and Industry before joining UKM in 1973 as a Tutor in the Faculty of Economics and Business. Since then, he has progressively held higher positions – becoming Faculty Dean in 1993. Two years later, he was appointed Director of Higher Education in the Government of Malaysia until 1998 when he assumed UKM's Vice-Chancellorship. From 2001-2003, he served as Chairman of the Malaysian Examinations Council. In 2004, he became President & Vice-Chancellor of the Open University of Malaysia (OUM).*

*At OUM, Professor Ali has been able to position the University as one of the most dynamic and progressive of its kind in the*

*Commonwealth with a unique governance structure. OUM maintains its autonomy; yet there is a buy-in by the wider university system of Malaysia – a feat that other jurisdictions find remarkable. Under his leadership, OUM has obtained ISO certifications of the University's Registry, Centre for Instructional Design and Technology, and Digital Library. With enrolments now at tens of thousands, OUM is poised to become a mega university; Professor Ali plans to enroll 100,000 students within the next six years. Clearly in the forefront of the drive for the democratisation of education, he has also created a School of Lifelong Learning and is reaching out to the outside world in providing postgraduate degrees to students in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. He is working to peg the attrition rate at OUM at less than half of the industry rate, which can be as high as 40%. Importantly also, he has opened OUM's doors to physically-challenged students by substantially reducing fees for them.*

*Mr. President and Acting Chairman, for his exemplary leadership and steadfast contributions and efforts in massifying quality higher education, I request you to confer upon Professor Anuwar Ali, the title of Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning.*