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## Renowned academician left legacy in education

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tan Sri Dr Awang Had Salleh (pictured), who died of lung complications yesterday, left a legacy in the field of education, particularly in helping to shape the direction of five public universities.

During his illustrious career, he had held the positions of Universiti Malaya (UM) deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs) from 1975 to 1978, Institut Teknologi Mara (now UiTM) director (1978-1980), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) vice-chancellor (1980-1984), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) first vice-chancellor (1984-1989) and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Sultan Idris (UPSI) pro-chancellor (2000).

He had stints as Education Ministry special adviser in 1989, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) distinguished fellow (1990) and UPSI Board of Directors chairman (1997).

Born in Balik Pulau, Penang on June 26, 1939, Awang Had went to a primary school and Sultan Abdul Hamid College, both in Alor Setar, before pursuing his studies Sultan Idris Teachers' Training College (SITC), Tanjong Malim where he obtained a certificate in education in 1951 and later UM where he received a Bachelor in Education degree in 1962.

Awang Had married Puan Sri Salmah Abu Bakar and they were blessed with seven children, including two daughters.

He furthered his studies at Stanford University, California (1969-1972) under the UM-Asia Foundation programme where he acquired a PhD in education and sociology.

After getting a certificate in education, Awang Had worked

as a primary school teacher and upon getting a degree, he taught at a secondary school before being appointed education officer at the Language College in 1964.

He became a lecturer at UM Faculty of Education in 1969 and became its dean from April 1974 to May 1975.

In the private sector, Awang Had had served as Anakku Corporation Bhd chairman, Ikram College president, Fememo Sdn Bhd chairman and Limkokwing Institute of Creative Technology chairman.

He was also appointed Malaysian National Commission for Unesco secretary-general, Unesco (Paris) Executive Board member, Malaysian Film Academy head and consultant, Karyawan Foundation Council deputy chairman, and National Library Advisory Board member (2004-2006).

Among notable books on education, language and culture written by Awang Had were "Budi", "Warna-Warna Pengalaman Seorang Guru" and "Antara Dua Dunia".

He was named Kedah eminent teacher (1990) and UPSI's 'Tokoh Pujangga Alumni Suluh Budiman' (2002), and awarded the Annual Education Minister's Special Award for leadership.

Awang Had were awarded an honorary doctorate in law by Brock University, Ontario, Canada, an honorary doctorate in letters by UKM, and appointed emeritus professor by UUM (all in 1994), and another honorary doctorate in letters by UM in 1999.

He was bestowed the Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM) award which carries the title Tan Sri in 1982. - Bernama