

Bio of Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim

Anwar Ibrahim was elected Deputy President of UMNO in 1993 and appointed Deputy Prime Minister while he continued to serve as Finance Minister. He also chaired the Asean-Vietnam Study Group, which prepared the report *Shared Destiny: Southeast Asia in the 21st Century* recommending the entry of Vietnam into Asean. He was elected Chairman of the Development Committee of the IMF-World Bank annual meeting in 1997.

Anwar jointly chaired the Pacific Dialogue (1994-1997) with Senator William Cohen. The group was engaged in considering the challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region in the 21st Century and how it might attain lasting peace and prosperity. The assembly succeeded in formulating a "Pacific Charter" which sketched out a vision of a world in which there is not a clash of civilizations, but rather a "feast of civilizations," a world characterized by interdependence, democracy, cooperative solutions and a rising tide of economic growth that lifts all nations.

In 1996, his contribution in promoting inter-religious understanding honored him with the Presidential Medal by Georgetown University, Washington DC and honorary doctorate by the Ateneo de Manila University, the Philippines.

On September 2, 1998, Anwar was sacked by the government and later stripped of his party membership and incarcerated on 20 September on trumped-up charges. He regained his freedom in September 2, 2004 after acquittal by the Malaysian Federal Court.

He is currently member of the Executive Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo (FLM) in Naples. The major initiative launched recently is *Mediterranean, Europe and Islam: Actors in Dialogue*.

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