

**Press
Release**

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Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim receives highest civilian award from Government of Australia
Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim, Chairman of the AmBank Group has received the appointment of Honorary Officer of the Order of Australia, for service to Australia-Malaysia bilateral relations, particularly the Malaysia-Australia Foundation and within the commercial environment. The distinction was conferred by The Honourable Kevin Rudd MP, Prime Minister of Australia in Kuala Lumpur at the Residence of Her Excellency Penny Williams, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia.

Tan Sri Dato' Azman said, "I am indeed very honoured to receive the title of Honorary Officer of the Order of Australia, and feel very fortunate that I have been in a position to contribute to the advancement of ties and relations between Malaysia and Australia through many business partnerships, ventures and foundations. On a personal note, Australia played a significant role in my formative years both as a student and as an individual. My time in Australia from age 16 to 21 provided many experiences and learning opportunities which I cherish and am grateful for."

Tan Sri Dato' Azman Hashim is one of Malaysia's most successful businessmen who has made a considerable contribution to the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and Australia.

Tan Sri Dato' Azman is one of the founders, and still the treasurer, of the Malaysia-Australia Foundation. The Foundation partnered the Malaysian Australian Alumni Council to establish a very significant scholarship programme for Malaysians to study in Australia and vice versa.

Under the Australian Government's Colombo Plan Scholarship, Tan Sri Dato' Azman studied Chartered Accountancy in Australia. Founder of the Arab-Malaysian Merchant Bank in 1975, Tan Sri Dato' Azman was the driving force behind the bank's phenomenal growth to become Malaysia's fifth largest banking group. Today the AmBank Group is a financial conglomerate with operations covering all the banking sectors including investment banking, retail and commercial banking, insurance and Islamic banking.

In recent years Tan Sri Dato' Azman negotiated with a number of major Australian companies to make investments in Malaysia. Of particular significance is Australia's biggest general insurer Insurance Australia Group Limited's (IAG's) acquisition of a stake in AmAssurance (AmBank Group's insurance subsidiary) and the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited's (ANZ's) strategic partnership with the AmBank Group.

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