



PROFESSOR DATUK DR. ASMA ISMAIL, FASc.

**PJN, DPMP, DSDK, PSK, SMP, BCN
B.Sc. (Distinction), Biology (Nevada, USA),
M.A. Microbiology (Indiana, USA),
Ph.D Cellular and Molecular Biology (Nevada, USA),
Doctor of Science (Hon) (Glasgow, UK),
Doctor of the University (Hon) (Keele, UK)
Doctor of Literature (Hon) (Kyoto, Japan)**

Name : Professor Datuk Dr. Asma Ismail (Ph.D)
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Media interview (please refer):

<https://twas.org/article/ismail-vision-malaysias-future>

Prof. Datuk Dr. Asma Ismail is a woman of many firsts. She was the first female Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) in 2012, and the first female Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) (2016-2019) making her the first woman to be appointed twice as the Vice-Chancellor of a public university. She had served as the country's first female Director-General of Higher Education (2014-2016) and is currently the first female President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (2016-2022).

She also serves as the first female to be Chairperson of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) (1st Jan 2019 – 31st Dec 2021). Her current position is as the Ibn Sina Chair for Medicine at UIAM (2020 -2022). She also serves as an honorary Professor at the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine, USM and Associate Research fellow at the Biotechnology Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia, Sabah.

Her educational background includes having a BSc (Biology) from the University of Nevada, USA, M.A. (Microbiology) from Indiana University, USA and a Ph.D (Cellular and Molecular Biology) from UNR. Asma has initiated scientific discoveries that have led to the attainment of 14 patents and commercialization of the rapid diagnostic test for typhoid called *TYPHIDOT* which was advocated by WHO. As a researcher, she has published 131 papers, received more than 213 awards and recognitions, presented more than 425 papers including 376 invited talks/plenaries and 48 keynotes both at the national and international levels. She was elected to the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2003, The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) in 2010 and The Islamic World Academy of Sciences in 2016. She was elected as Honorary Member of the Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences in 2017, and in the following year as a Member of the College of Fellows, Keele University and as a Governing Advisory Board Member for Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan. In recognition of her leadership in lifelong learning in the Commonwealth, especially for women, and her outstanding service to the advancement of higher education and science in Malaysia, she was conferred as Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning in Sept. 2019 and Hon Scholar for IIASA (Institute for Applied System Analysis) Vienna, Austria in Nov 2019. She currently serves on the selection panel for the Merdeka Award and Rhodes Scholarship to select Malaysians to Oxford Univ. In 2020 she was elected to be a board member of Commonwealth of Learning based in Vancouver, Canada.

Her landmark contributions to Malaysia's higher education system include the establishment of the prestigious National Academic Award (Anugerah Akademik Negara), the establishment of Research Universities in Malaysia and also in co-helming the development and implementation of The Malaysian Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2013-2025.

For these and other achievements, she received an Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Glasgow in 2013; Indiana University's Thomas Hart Benton Mural Medallion in 2015; Honorary Degree Doctor of the University, Keele University and Honorary Doctorate in Literature from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies (KUFS) in 2017 respectively. In 2018, she was awarded the 'Tokoh Srikandi' National Award (Academic) and Tokoh Maulidul Rasul (national level) in 2019 for her outstanding contributions and being an exemplary figure in the field of higher education, research and innovation and policy on Science and Technology locally and abroad.