

The Twelve and Thirteen Malaysian National Laureate

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Dato' Dr. Baharuddin Zainal or Baha Zain was born on May 22, 1939 in Hutan Melintang, Perak, Malaysia. He is a famous writer, poet and intellectual figure. He was awarded the 12th Malaysian National Laureate in 2013. His poetry works have been translated into English, Korean, German, Russian, Mandarin and Spanish. His early education at Sabak Bernam before entering Anglo-Chinese School, Teluk Anson, Perak. Then entered the form six at Anderson School, Ipoh. He continued studies at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur (1960-1963) and the Faculty of Arts, University of Indonesia, Jakarta (1970-72). His interest in the field of writing began in high school (1956-1959). He attended several overseas courses such as the Faculty of Arts, University of Indonesia, Jakarta (Courses & Research) (1963), Asian Cultural Center Unesco, Tokyo (Publishing Production Course), International Writing Program, University of Iowa, Iowa City (Working Tours) and Asian Institute of Management, Makati, Manila (Management Course).

Among his writings are Hikayat Cekel Waneng Pati (1967), Perempuan dan Bayang-Bayang (1974), Esei Sastera Baharuddin Zainal (1979), Dari Kertas Catatan Tengah Malam (1978), Tiga Catatan Perjalanan (1980), Jalan Desa Ke Kota (1994), Esei dan Puisi Baha Zain (2000), Berguru Pada Binatang (2000), Setaman Pantun (2002), Topeng-Topeng (Puisi-puisi Baha Zain) (2003), Memartabatkan Persuratan Melayu (2006), Postponing Truth and Other Poems (2009), Baha Zain. Posponiendo La Verdad Y Otros Poemas. Translated by Patricia Vazquez Marin (2010), Esei dan puisi Baha Zain tentang penulis dan persekitarannya (2000), Mencari imej Malaysia : dialog sastera, seni rupa, seni bina (1998), Hikayat Umar Umayyah (1988), A biography of Malaysian writers (1985), Sirih Pinang : kumpulan esei budaya (1983), Wajah : biografi seratus penulis (1981) and Mendekati kesusasteraan (1979).

Datuk Dr. Zurinah Hassan (June 13, 1949 -) is one of the poets and figures of the Malaysian National Laureate. She was born in Bakar Bata, Alor Setar, Kedah, and has produced a total of 19 poetry anthology books, poetry anthologies, literary studies, autobiographies, memoir, anthology novels and novels. Zurinah Hassan initially composed poetry on a part-time basis, before deciding to resign to fulfill the full-time desire for work that has been disturbed due to workload.

Zurinah Hassan works and appreciates the beauty of nature in the form of writing since the age of 12 years. Zurinah also tried to highlight the universal question in his writings including poetry about hanging out among teens in the 1990s. Zurinah also produced a book titled Memoir Zurinah Hassan: Menjejak Puisi, the publication of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

She pursued his studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia until earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1974. Her studies were extended to the Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and obtained her Master of Arts in 2001. She then continued her studies for Doctor of Philosophy at the Malay Studies Academy, University of Malaya and obtained it in 2008.

She was announced as the 13th Malaysia National Laureate on October 13, 2015. Zurinah's election was made based on her great contribution through her work and her thoughts on the development of literature as well as the impact on the dissemination of knowledge. She was the first woman to be crowned as the Malaysian National Laureate.

Among her works are Keputusan (Sajak) Sesekali Aku Menjauhkan Diri Dari Puisi, Tanjung Dawai, Sungai Tiang, Dari Gunung Jerai ke Pekan Rabu, Kuala Lumpur, Pantai Remis and Bas Stand Kelang. Among her writings are Sasterawan negara Usman Awang

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(2006), Salasilah: kumpulan puisi (2005), bernama (1994), Oh, bulan! Oh, bintang!
Menjelang pemilihan (2004), Memoir Zurinah (1992), Meneruskan perjalanan (1987) dan
Hassan: menjejak puisi (2003), Pujangga tidak Keberangkatan (1985).

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