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# University inaugurates its third pro-chancellor

**L**AST month, Universiti Utara Malaysia, during the special session of its 25th convocation ceremony, inaugurated Her Royal Highness Tunku Panglima Besar Kedah Datuk Seri DiRaja Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah as the university's third Pro-Chancellor. It was, indeed, a historic occasion as this was the first time a woman was appointed to the prestigious post of Pro-Chancellor of UUM.

Here is a short biography of HRH Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz, which gives a glimpse into her active role in and invaluable contributions to the academic and social welfare spheres at the regional and national levels.

Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz was born on 22 July 1966 in Alor Star, Kedah and is the youngest princess of Their Royal Highnesses Sultan Almu'tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, Sultan of Kedah Darul Aman and Almarhum Tuanku Sultanah Hajjah Bahiyah, the late Sultanah of Kedah.

She received her early education at St. Nicholas Convent, Alor Setar, and later at the Tunku Kurshiah College in Seremban. She then continued her education at the Cheltenham Ladies' College, for four years and, later, at the University of Sussex, both

in the UK, where she graduated with a BA (Hons) in Political Science in 1987.

After completing her studies, Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz joined Sime Darby Berhad as a trainee executive. She eventually served in various departments of the company, including the Department of Communication, the Department of Industrial Relations, and the Department of Corporate Planning.

After six years of serving at Sime Darby Berhad, she left the company to give her full attention and commitment to the charity and welfare work that was pioneered by both her grandmother and mother.

In 1996, Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz, together with several other volunteers, established a charity body that was named the Sultanah Bahiyah Foundation. The Sultanah Bahiyah Foundation is a non-profit organisation that functions as an agent of change in social work, community development, education, health, and adolescent issues and training initiatives.

Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz is also involved with other charitable bodies such as the Malaysian Red Crescent Society. She is the Chairperson of the Kedah Branch MRCS and the National Executive Council Member of the MRCS.

Additionally, she is the Honorary Advisor to the Persatuan Cahaya Harapan Negeri Kedah, a NGO under the auspices of the Malaysian AIDS Council, which spearheads efforts towards HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention in Kedah.

Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz has also played an active role in national education. Some of her roles include being appointed the first Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Pertahanan Malaysia (UPNM) by the Chancellor of UPNM, His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Yang DiPertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin in October 2010.

That same year she was conferred an Honorary PhD in Social Work Management by the Sultan of Kedah, the Chancellor of Universiti Utara Malaysia. She has also been conferred an Honorary PhD in Community Development by the Chancellor of the INSANIAH University College.

Amidst her busy schedule of myriad responsibilities, Tunku Puteri Intan Safinaz makes time for her hobbies such as reading and listening to music.

She also takes delight in the collection and appreciation of paintings, engravings, carvings, and greatly enjoys the outdoors and participates in outdoor sporting activities such as golf, hiking and cycling.

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Tunku Panglima  
Besar Kedah  
Datuk Seri  
DiRaja Tan Sri Tunku  
Puteri Intan  
Safinaz is  
Universiti Utara  
Malaysia's third  
Pro-Chancellor.***