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MAHATHIR-ISLAM

BM

ALOR STAR, OCT 19 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAYS THE CHALLENGES FACING THE ISLAMIC WORLD CAN BE OVERCOME EFFECTIVELY IF THERE IS A CONCERTED EFFORT BY THE ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THIS IN HIS MESSAGE IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME FOR THE THREE-DAY SECOND CONGRESS OF MUSLIM LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SCIENTISTS (COMLIS) STARTING AT UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA (UUM) AT BANDAR DARULAMAN NEAR HERE TOMORROW.

HE SAYS THE FORUM IS INDEED A POSITIVE AND WELCOME STEP FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD TODAY WHICH IS FRAUGHT WITH CHALLENGES.

+THE CONGRESS IS A SIGNIFICANT FORUM AS IT MARKS YET ANOTHER AREA OF COOPERATION AMONG MEMBERS OF A PROFESSIONAL GROUP IN THE MUSLIM UMMAH,+ HE SAYS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAYS THE THEME OF THE FORUM, +ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN THE MUSLIM WORLD,+ IS A CLEAR RECOGNITION OF THE POWERFUL POSITION INFORMATION RESOURCE OCCUPIES IN THE PRESENT INFORMATION AGE, AND THE NEED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO HARNESS IT FOR PRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD. -- MORE
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-THIS IS ALSO IN COMPLETE HARMONY WITH THE HALLOWED ISLAMIC TRADITION OF ACCORDING A SUPREME POSITION TO THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE, LEARNING AND ENLIGHTENMENT,+ THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS.

EDUCATION MINISTER ENCIK ANWAR, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN THE FORUM, IN HIS MESSAGE, SAYS HE BELIEVES SUCH FORA HAVE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS SOCIO-ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMES IN THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES.

HE SAYS IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES TO SHARE AVAILABLE HUMAN RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCE ACROSS NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BOUNDARIES FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF MUSLIM UMMAH AT LARGE.

NOTING THAT THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FACED FRUSTRATING MOMENTS IN OBTAINING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND COOPERATION FROM ISLAMIC AGENCIES AND NATIONS IN MAKING COMLIS A SUCCESS, ENCIK ANWAR EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FUTURE COMLIS MEETINGS WILL RECEIVE BETTER SUPPORT.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR POLICY AND STUDIES OF THE EAST-WEST UNIVERSITY, CHICAGO, DR ZIAUDDIN SARDAR, WILL DELIVER HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE FORUM IN WHICH MORE THAN 150 LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SCIENTISTS FROM 22 MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM COUNTRIES WILL PARTICIPATE. -- MORE
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COMLIS ORGANISING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DR OLI MOHAMED SAID THE COUNTRIES WERE INDONESIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, SINGAPORE, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, INDIA, LIBYA, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, TUNISIA, SUDAN, IRAN, THAILAND, TURKEY, THE UNITED STATES, SRI LANKA, UGANDA AND UNITED KINGDOM AND MALAYSIA.

DR OLI, WHO IS ALSO THE UUM CHIEF LIBRARIAN, SAID 18 WORKING PAPERS WOULD BE TABLED AND DISCUSSED AT THE FORUM. -- BERNAMA
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