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Conference-Mahathir

ISLAM SHOULD BE THE ALTERNATIVE WHEN ALL SYSTEM FAILS, SAYS MAHATHIR

PETALING JAYA, Oct 16<sup>93</sup> (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the collapse of communism as the main alternative to the dominant Euro-centric capitalist world economy and imperialist world order has resulted in Islam becoming a viable alternative.

The prime minister said this was because the demise of the system did not mean the victory of the liberal democratic system with its accompanying free market for there were showing signs of massive decay.

However, if Islam was to provide the alternative route for human society, it must prove itself to be dynamic and progressive and be able to satisfy both the spiritual as well as material needs of man.

"Merely to offer a retreat from reality and the variation of life will not be adequate," Dr Mahathir said in his message in a souvenir programme book of the Conference on Globalism and the Muslim Ummah at the International Islamic University, here.

The two-day conference, attended by some 100 scholars and organised by the university, was opened by IIU Rector Datuk Dr Abdulhamid Ahmad Abusulayman. -- more

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Conference-Mahathir 2 (last) Petaling Jaya

Dr Mahathir said it was up to the Muslims to take up the challenge and to mould an Islamic culture compatible with its teachings and yet providing for the needs of the world economy.

The entire communist world order, which was established some 70 years ago as a direct challenge both to the world of religion and as a reform of the world capitalist economy and imperialist political order of the world, had crumbled, he said.

He also said that the Western world had its own problems and might not be able to provide a viable model for the rest of mankind.

In the light of this, Dr Mahathir said, Muslims needed to understand the changes so as to be ready for the challenges posed by the globalisation that was taking shape in the new unipolar world. -- Bernama

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