

12 DEC 1997

OIC-Summit

OIC SUMMIT SETS OUT VISION FOR A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS FUTURE

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

TEHRAN, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Leaders of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) have resolved to strengthen cooperation among Muslim nations and countries beyond to better deal with challenges and opportunities ahead.

Winding-up the three-day summit here Thursday, leaders of the 55-member grouping pledged to contribute to international peace and security as well as to sustainable growth and development.

These were contained in the "Tehran Vision Statement" issued following their deliberations at the summit, the last to be held this century.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was among 26 leaders who attended the summit hosted for the first time by Iran in the 28-year-old history of OIC.

The leaders also issued a "Tehran Declaration" touching on broad-ranging subjects from solidarity and security to development and international participation.

Expressing concern on tendencies to portray Islam as a threat to the world, they emphasised the need to revive the Islamic civilisation as a peaceful global reality.

They would entrust a group to formulate constructive steps to counter negative propaganda against Islam.

The experts would recommend steps to remove and rectify misunderstandings in order to present the true image of Islam.

The leaders also decided to take advantage of the Information Technology (IT) and communications to present the rich culture and eternal principles.

Condemning all forms of terrorism, they said killing of innocent people is forbidden in Islam.

The leaders also hailed the presence of United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan at the summit as a sign of excellent relations between the two organisations.

They stressed the need for a more effective and equitable role of the OIC in the UN organs particularly the security council.

They also underlined the need for coordination among member countries to enhance their role in the global economic system and the international economic decision-making processes.

Rejecting unilateralism and extra-territorial applications of domestic law, the leaders urged all countries to consider the so-called D'Amato Law as null and void.

The next summit will be held in Qatar, which recently hosted a controversial regional summit. A number of Arab countries boycotted the meeting in Doha due to Israel's participation. -- BERNAMA

AZZ TS