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Abdullah-OIC

OIC TO REVIEW ITS PROBLEM-SOLVING ROLES IN MEMBER COUNTRIES

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today expressed the hope that the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Tehran in December will review the organisation's effectiveness in resolving political problems and bolster the development of member countries.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he conveyed Malaysia's expectations to his Iranian counterpart Dr Ali Akbar Velayati when they met here this morning.

Velayati is here to extend an invitation from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to attend the summit.

Besides the summit, Abdullah said, Islamic nations would also meet at the OIC's extraordinary summit in Islamabad on March 23 held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Pakistan.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will represent Malaysia at the meeting.

The Group of Eight (D-8) Islamic developing countries were also expected to convene a meeting but the date had yet to be decided, he said.

Abdullah is among the ministers from the eight-member grouping comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran, Turkey, Nigeria and Pakistan who attended the meeting in Istanbul in January last year to discuss the formation of D-8 proposed by Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

"As a result of all these meetings, we hope to see more progress in Islamic countries in future," he said.

Abdullah said Velayati and he also discussed latest developments in Afghanistan and West Asia particularly the Palestine issue.

He hoped Iran's initiatives to resolve the Afghanistan conflict would yield positive results. -- BERNAMA

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