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Hamid-OIC

SPECIAL BODY TO PROTECT ISLAMIC HERITAGE

JAKARTA, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will set up a special body to regain Islamic heritage especially books and manuscripts now being kept in Europe, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said today.

He said much of the early Islamic thinking was lost due to most of the manuscripts and writings from the Islamic world were kept in Europe where Muslims did not had access to it.

Abdul Hamid who led the Malaysian delegation to the four-day 6th OIC Islamic Religious Affairs Ministers' Conference which began yesterday said the issue was among three main agendas discussed at the event.

The other two agendas are wakaf properties and dakwah affairs.

He said the Islamic world must regain this priceless heritage to prevent Islamic thinking from deviating.

"There are books on administration of Islamic nations which were written when Islam was strong and became the religion of the majority some time ago," he said.

Abdul Hamid also said the conference discussed Islamic religion practised in the Arabic world and that outside the Arabic world which had been adapted to local situation.

He said Islam which had been adapted to local situation should not be seen as not a true Islam since the majority of Muslims were non-Arabs especially those in Southeast Asia.

According to him, non-Arabic Muslims had achieved much citing the Malays of Malaysia and Indonesia were marching towards the information technology era through the creation of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

Abdul Hamid said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given his consent for Malaysia to host the next conference to be held in the year 2000. -- BERNAMA

KHY ZUL ABG