

06/03/1999

Islamic economy experts to advise PM, says Hamid

SIK, Fri. - The Prime Minister's Department will initiate an effort to group experts on Islamic economy to discuss the proposed formulation of a new international financial architecture.

Its minister Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said the experts would forward their views on the matter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I will bring together the experts with the view of advising the Prime Minister on the matter," he told reporters after officiating the joint-opening of Sik Umno branch meetings yesterday.

Abdul Hamid said when faced with major issues, Dr Mahathir was always open to discussion, including with religious experts and experts on Islamic economy.

He said the idea to bring the experts together was in response to a proposal by French President Jacques Chirac that a summit of heads of state and government be held at the end of the year to discuss the formulation of a new international financial architecture.

The proposal followed a meeting between Dr Mahathir and Chirac in Paris last month where the latter had pledged to raise the issue of G-15 countries wanting to be directly involved in the formulation of the financial architecture with fellow members of the Group of Seven nations.

The G-7 countries comprising France, the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan are scheduled to meet in Cologne in June.

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