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Pictures of holy sites at Haj Guidance Conference

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The public will be able to view historical pictures of Mecca and Medina at the first Conference on Haj Guidance at the Palace of the Golden Horses from Friday until Sunday.

The exhibition, which is in conjunction with the three-day conference, would feature pictures of the Zam Zam well, pilgrims performing the haj and other rituals.

The conference's secretary-general for Saudi Arabia, Dr Abu Bakar Bageder, said it would be a good opportunity for the public to see how Mecca originated and how it has developed over the years.

"People can see how much the holy city has changed with development. Even the mosque has expanded tremendously and they would be able to see its origins during the Prophet's time," he said.

About 150 delegates representing 52 nations would be present at the conference. It aims to review the countries' definition of training and guidance on haj courses and ensure that pilgrims achieve their goal when performing the holy rituals.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to open the conference which will be closed by his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Bageder said the exhibition would provide tangible material and information for pilgrims and Muslims.

"Besides, it is a beneficial way for delegates to enjoy some peaceful and relaxing time away from the conference," he added.

Delegates will be going on a trip to Malacca on the second day of the conference and visit the Al-Azim mosque where they will observe a grand haj course.

After that they will go to the Alor Gajah mosque to witness a serial type of haj course.

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