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Secretariat meets to fine-tune details of haj conference

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The secretariat committee of the First Conference on Haj Guidance comprising Malaysians and Saudi Arabians met today to finalise and fine-tune details.

The joint working committee went over vital details like transportation, media, food and beverage, accommodation and facilities, protocol, security and first aid.

About 20 members from Saudi Arabia and 30 from Malaysia attended the meeting at the Palace of the Golden Horses here.

Tabung Haji chief executive officer Datuk Badroddin Kassim said another 80 members from Saudi Arabia would arrive this week.

The conference, aimed at finding the best module for haj management to be adopted by Islamic countries, will begin on Sept 30 and end on Oct 2.

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

Some 150 delegates from 50 nations are expected to attend the first formal conference on pilgrimage management.

Badroddin said the Malaysian secretariat had been organising the conference and it was time for the other side to review the details.

"Today's meeting is also to give a chance for Saudi Arabia to point out anything we have left out.

"This is the first such conference and we are proud to be able to host it. The Saudi Arabia Government is impressed with the way Malaysia prepared its pilgrims and managed the ritual every year.

Saudi Arabia hoped other countries would emulate Malaysia's system of haj management, Badroddin said.

For more details, visit the website www.bernama.com/haj.

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