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OIC-Wanita

WANITA UMNO AT ICFM MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME AS OBSERVERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (Bernama) -- A nine-member Wanita Umno group is attending the plenary sitting of the 27th session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) as observers for the first time in the history of the movement.

"We will make good use of this opportunity to gain new experience and also introduce our movement to members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)," said Hajah Illani Datuk Isahak who is leading the team in her capacity as Chair of the Wanita Umno International Affairs Bureau.

"As an observer group at the session, we will take note of issues of interest to Wanita Umno and the country," she told Bernama.

She said members of the group would also get to know the delegates from the 56-member OIC and exchange notes with them.

"We are only observers and will only take part in the plenary session if given the opportunity," she said.

"We will follow the agenda laid down for the plenary session, whose items include political, economic, social, legal, cultural as well as well science and technology issues," she said.

The four-day meeting was opened yesterday by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Some 1,000 delegates from the OIC member states are at the meeting being hosted by Malaysia for the second time. Kuala Lumpur also hosted the fifth session of the ICFM in 1974.

Illani said meetings with OIC delegates would enable both sides to share knowledge on the situation of women in their respective countries.

On the OIC, she said the international community's perception of the grouping as a talk shop should change.

"It should become a body to be reckoned with and also should not be out of time," she said.

--BERNAMA

NZ AAM