

# Deans of Islamic varsities to meet on April 17

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SOME 100 vice-chancellors, presidents and rectors of Islamic universities the world over will meet at the Second General Conference of the Federation of Universities of the Islamic World in Kuala Lumpur on April 17.

To be hosted by the International Islamic University Malaysia, the conference will see the representation of at least 45 countries.

They include those from the Middle East, Africa and Balkan states as well as Muslim minority countries such as the United States.

The three-day conference will see the framing of the federation's action plan for 2001 to 2003.

There would also be a discussion of the recognition of degrees between member universities and a proposal for a draft charter for the federation, said IIUM deputy rector (academic affairs) Datuk Dr Jamil Osman, who is also the conference organising chairman,

Jamil said this at a Press conference announcing the opening ceremony of IIUM's Gombak campus.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the conference in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the campus.

Another key figure to be present at the conference is Organisation of Islamic Conference secretary-general Dr Abdelouahed Belkeziz.

Due to the diversity of delegates, the conference will be conducted in English, Arabic and French.

Apart from IIUM, three other local universities to be represented at the conference are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia.

This year's conference themes are "Enhancing Scientific Research", "Addressing the Problems Faced by the Muslim Ummah", "Linking Research With Comprehensive Development" and "Meeting the Human Resource Needs of Islamic Countries".

To be held at the Legend Hotel, the conference will end with the election of new executive council members and the setting of the venue for the conference.

The first General Conference was held in Morocco in February 1998.

Federation membership is open to all national universities and their affiliated higher education institutions in the Islamic world.