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Mahathir-Book

ARABIC VERSION OF DR MAHATHIR'S BOOK LAUNCHED IN ABU DHABI

By: Shakir Husain

ABU DHABI, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- An Arabic edition of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's book "A New Deal for Asia" was launched here on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, the Malaysian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Datuk Syed Hussain Al Habshee, said the Arabic version of the book would help the Arabic-speaking people "in understanding some important aspects of globalisation from an Asian perspective".

He said the book had been widely read in its Russian, Japanese and Malay versions and efforts were on to translate it into Chinese and Thai languages.

In his book, Dr Mahathir shares his experience in tackling the Asian financial crisis, to the dismay of his detractors abroad, Syed Hussein said.

"It is hoped that the experience would serve as a useful lesson to enable the Arab countries to be vigilant and to be better prepared in facing a similar financial turmoil," he said.

"Being a prime minister is a full-time job, yet despite his busy schedule and responsibilities, Dr Mahathir has found time to write this book and several others, namely "The Way Forward", "The Malay Dilemma" and "The Challenge", " Syed Hussain said at the ceremony, which was attended by Special Officer to the Prime Minister Datuk Hashim Makaruddin, Undersecretary at the UAE Ministry of Information Saqer Ghobash and several top local officials.

According to the Malaysian ambassador, Dr Mahathir's other books may also be published in Arabic to promote his ideas in West Asia.

The Dubai-based publisher, Linguapower Trading, will distribute the new edition of the book in the Gulf region under an agreement signed on Friday with Pelanduk Publications of Malaysia.

This book would promote relations between the UAE and Malaysia, Linguapower chief Dr Aquil Hadi said.

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