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Ikim-India

DISCUSSION BY SCHOLARS TO COUNTER BAD IMAGE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 30 (Bernama) -- The best way to counter the bad perception of Islam projected by the western media is to invite scholars from the East and West of different persuasions for debates and seminars, a visiting Islamic scholar said today.

Syed Shahid Mahdi, Vice-Chancellor of the New Delhi Jamia Millia Islamia, said organisers of Islamic seminars or debates should not confine their participants to those from the Muslim countries alone.

"Don't limit seminars or debates to Muslim countries only," he told reporters after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim) and Jamia Millia Islamia, here.

He said failure to promote Islam in a global way and also lack of information and understanding of Islam had resulted in bad perception and portrayal of the religion by the West.

If the West have a better understanding of Islam, their prejudice would be less," he added.

Syed Shahid said certain values of Islam were universal, thus creating a bridge of understanding among people, particularly the western people.

He said that with the establishment of Ikim, Malaysia had embarked on a good effort to spread the true spirit of Islam, away from sectarianism, obscurism and fanaticism.

The vice-chancellor, who is making his first visit here, was impressed with the development and infrastructure in the country, praising the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Malaysia is the economic tiger in Southeast Asia, a tiger with a lot of wisdom," he said.

Ikim Director-General Datuk Ismail Ibrahim said the MoU covered exchange of publications and scholars, discussions, research as well as seminars to be jointly organised.

-- BERNAMA

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