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MALAYSIA TO ENSURE PRACTICABILITY OF TOURISM CONFERENCE AGENDA

By: Farhanah Azmi

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will ensure that the agenda discussed at the Second Conference of Tourism Ministers of Islamic nations here is practicable, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir said today.

"As conference hosts we are determined to ensure that the agenda that is drawn up this time is practicable and can be used for the development of tourism in the participating nations," he told Bernama in an interview.

Abdul Kadir said the conference would gather Ministers of Tourism from the 56 member nations of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), who would discuss the direction the tourist industry expansion would take in the respective countries.

The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will open the conference at the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel in Seri Kembangan.

The meeting of senior officials will be held on Oct 10 and 11 to be followed by the the conference of the Tourism Ministers of Islamic nations on Oct 12 and 13.

"Several motions will be tabled at the conference which is specifically to develop the tourism field in Islamic countries and several resolutions will be adopted," Abdul Kadir said.

"If possible we do not want the conference to be just a yet another conference without the resolutions adopted being implemented by the participating nations. The focus of the conference will be promoting cooperation in the tourism sector among Islamic countries," he said.

Abdul Kadir also hoped that the issues raised at the conference would not stray to other items not in the agenda so that the focus of discussions on the expansion and progress of tourism among Islamic nations was not obliterated and sidelined by other topics.

He said the conference would go ahead as scheduled despite the crisis arising from the terrorist attacks on the United States.

"Even though there is this crisis following the incidents in the United States, I find that the response to our invitations is good and they have agreed to attend," he said.

Abdul Kadir said Malaysia at the same time would take advantage of the conference to attract tourists to its shores from the other Islamic nations.

"We will take the opportunity to mount a campaign to make Malaysia the foremost tourist destination among Islamic countries," he said.

He said the ministers and senior officials would be given the opportunity to visit places of interest in Malaysia.

They would be offered two pre-conference tour packages when they arrive here on Oct 9, he said.

One to visit tourist destinations in Kuala Lumpur and the other in Putrajaya.

They could opt for both the packages, he added.

Abdul Kadir said there would also be a post conference tour of destinations such as Langkawi, Penang and the historic city of Melaka.

The tour package would highlight the various cultures, communities and the scenic beauty of Malaysia, he added.

In conjunction with the conference there would also be a Tourism and Trade Fair and a seminar on tourism.

-- BERNAMA

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