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OIC-CONFERENCE

OIC ECONOMIES CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LANGKAWI IN NOVEMBER

By: Zuraida Abdul Rahman

PENANG, May 17 (Bernama) -- Muslim entrepreneurs worldwide should form smart partnerships in order to face challenges and grab opportunities brought by the process of economic and trade globalisation of this millennium.

Muslims worldwide, including the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) economies, should seriously consider forming such partnerships to optimise the various opportunities and respond strategically towards globalisation threats.

In line with this, the Islamic Political Economy International Network Universiti Sains Malaysia (ISNET-USM), will organise a two-day conference and workshop called "OIC Economies Conference Langkawi 2001," in Langkawi.

The conference from Nov 8-12 will be held with the cooperation of Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry of OIC and Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (DPMM).

Conference Project Director, Dr Ishak Che Long said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officiate the event.

Speaking to Bernama here, he said that the conference will address the pre-requisites required of such collaborations, examines specific business opportunities emerging in the dynamic global Islamic market and explore an effective mechanism for networking and linkages.

He said that Muslims worldwide should optimise the economic advancements of the new millennium, particularly in information and communications technology (ICT) such as e-commerce, e-economy, and k-economy, financial systems free of the elements of usury (Riba') and accelerated industrial development through small and medium industry (SMI) and Franchising as an "engine of growth" for SMEs.

These would accelerate the vision of seeing Islam as a World System based on Haqq (Truth), he added.

Dr Ishak said that an expo is also expected to be held in conjunction with the conference to showcase available business opportunities in the Islamic world, research output from local institutes of higher learning, and other products or services available to support global business ventures.

The expo will be opened to the public and at the same time, a number of community activities such as Friday khutbah and public talks, are being planned.

Some 400 participants are expected to attend the conference.

Conference fee is RM3,800.

The organising secretariat can be contacted by mail: ISNET-USM, School of Distance Education, 11800 USM, Penang, phone: 604-8602276, fax: 604-6576000, e-mail:isnet@usm.my -- BERNAMA

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