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OIC-Action

OIC TOURISM OFFICIALS REACH CONSENSUS ON KL ACTION PLAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Senior tourism officials of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will submit an integrated action plan for deliberation at the second OIC tourism ministers meeting starting in Seri Kembangan here tomorrow.

Chairman of the senior officials meeting Shahril Saat said the plan called the Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action (KLPA) covered key aspects of facilitation, marketing and education and training to boost tourism development of OIC member countries.

"The Kuala Lumpur Programme of Action is designed to realise the Isfahan Declaration adopted two years ago," he told reporters at the close of the senior officials meeting here today which endorsed the KLPA.

Shahrir, who is also the Deputy Secretary-General of the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry, said the KLPA would not only help generate intra-travel within Muslim countries but also ease some of the attendant problems.

The KLPA however would only serve as guidelines for member countries to formulate individual national plans to realise decisions adopted at the meeting this time around, he said.

"For instance if we agree to waiver visa requirement, then citizens of one OIC member country visiting another will not need visa...but this requires individual national plan since the host country must first agree to such an arrangement," he said.

When asked whether the senior officials discussed terrorism, Shahril said it was indeed raised at today's meeting which collectively condemned acts of terror and agreed to include such condemnation in their resolutions.

"We take note that safety and security is an important issue for travel, as such we do not condone terrorist acts," he said.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to open tomorrow's meeting which will be attended by tourism ministers from 30 OIC member countries.

-- BERNAMA

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