

Islamic affairs ministers to meet in **KL**

PUTRAJAYA: More than 250 delegates from 56 member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will converge in Kuala Lumpur next week to attend the Seventh Conference of Endowment and Islamic Affairs Ministers.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said nine papers would be tabled at the three-day conference, which will begin on Monday at Istana Hotel.

"Malaysia's reputation of being a moderate and successful Islamic country has attracted other Islamic countries to emulate our ways," he said during a ceremony to hand over car keys from sponsors at the Islamic Development Department (Jakim) on Tuesday.

The main sponsors of the conference are EON, Telekom Malaysia, TM Touch, Proton, Petronas and Perodua.

"Malaysia will be presenting a paper on "Ad-Da'wah and Extremism (The Malaysian Experience) on the second day," he said, adding that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would also deliver a keynote address on the same day.

Hamid also said that the conference aimed to restore the positive image of Islam, which was tarnished following the Sept 11 incident.

"Malaysia will also benefit from the bilateral relations since many of the Arab countries have turned their investment towards Asia instead of the Western countries," he added.

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