

HK Muslims ask for Malaysia's help

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HONG KONG: The Muslim community here has sought the help of the Malaysian consulate to promote a better understanding of Islam among locals in light of the Sept 11 and Bali terror attacks.

The request was made at a recent Hari Raya gathering organised by the Hong Kong International Islamic Society where Malaysian consul-general Abdul Aziz Harun was the keynote speaker.

Aziz said the society felt that Malaysia was a model Islamic country where the religion was practised in a moderate and modern manner which was

"more acceptable" to the local community here.

The society also expressed admiration for Malaysia as a multi-racial country that was peaceful and progressive.

"They are confident that any move by Malaysia to promote an understanding Islam here would be more acceptable by the local people."

During the dinner, society president Zafrullah Bhurton said his organisation, comprising Muslims from 21 countries, admired Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his work and his stand against terrorism as well as his call for a deeper understanding of the root of terrorism.

Bhurton welcomed Aziz's suggestion that the society invite officers from the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia to give talks and hold seminars.

Aziz said the talks were scheduled to be held in May in conjunction with Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

The consul-general said there were 75,000 Chinese Muslims here, making up just over 1% of the population.

"Malaysia could help them by offering their children scholarships to study at International Islamic University. We can also provide expertise in terms of managing mosques as done by Jakim (Islamic Development Department)."