

04 MAY 2002

Endowment-Conference

CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS COOPERATION IN DAKWAH AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 4 (Bernama) -- Efforts to step up cooperation in the area of dakwah, endowment and Islamic affairs will be among the main topics to be discussed at the Seventh Conference of Ministers of Endowment and Islamic Affairs which opens here on Monday.

The three-day conference will also focus on efforts to coordinate matters in the preservation of Islamic sacred places.

In addition, the conference will also seek to strengthen the relationship among Islamic countries and organisations related to Islam.

Participants will also discuss economic issues with a working paper on investments to be presented by a representative of the Islamic Development Bank.

A total of 250 participants from 56 Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) member countries and eight other countries have been invited to attend the conference, held in Malaysia for the first time.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will deliver the keynote address on the second day of the conference.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will open the conference on Monday while Saudi Arabia's Minister of Islamic Affairs, Awqaf, Dakwah and Guidance AlShaikh Saleh Abd Aziz Ashshaikh will close it on Wednesday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin was reported as saying earlier that efforts to restore the image of Muslims would be one of the issues to be discussed at the conference.

This follows the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the United States that has been linked to the Al-Qaeda group led by Osama bin Laden.

The Conference of the Ministers of Endowment and Islamic Affairs has its headquarters in Saudi Arabia.

The first session of the conference was held in Saudi Arabia in 1979 followed by another four sessions in the kingdom.

The fifth session was held in Morocco while Indonesia was the host of the sixth session held in 1997.

The conference has an executive council to increase the effectiveness of its decisions and determine its policies and programmes.

The council, chaired by Saudi Arabia, includes Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Gambia, Kuwait, Morocco, Pakistan and Iraq.

At this session, nine working papers would be presented by representatives from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, Malaysia, Kuwait and Jordan.

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