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Three-day forum on Malay knowledge acquisition

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open a three-day conference entitled Isu dan Proses Pembukaan Minda Umat Melayu Islam here from Jan 29.

The Prime Minister will deliver a keynote address at the meeting aimed at identifying factors behind the failure of some Malays to accept changes besides encouraging them to expand their scope of knowledge beyond Islam.

Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka management board chairman Datuk Abdul Rahim Abu Bakar said today that the conference was also aimed at creating an interest among Malays to acquire knowledge.

"We hope that they gain something from the conference and will be able to step forward and becoming a more open, progressive, dynamic and knowledge-creating community," he said.

The conference will be conducted in Bahasa Malaysia and English.

Seventeen working papers will be presented by speakers including Prof Datuk Dr Mahmood Zuhdi Abd Majid, Prof Dr H.M. Din Syamsuddin, Dr Norsaidatul Ahmar Mazlan, Dr Surin Pitsuwan and Prof Dr Khalijah Salleh.

The papers will touch on Imperialism, Globalisation and The Islamic World; Politic and Culture Idealogy: The Closed Mind of the Malays; World View of Islam: Survival of the Malays in the 21st Century, and Islamic Voluntary Organisations: Expectations and New Challenges.

More than 300 participants are expected at the conference to be held at the Crown Princess Hotel.

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