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Syed Hamid-terrorism

OIC SPECIAL SESSION: 48 COUNTRIES CONFIRM PARTICIPATION

PUTRAJAYA, March 27 (Bernama) -- Forty-eight out of 57 member countries have confirmed participation in the Special Session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Foreign Minister's on terrorism here next week.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the remaining member countries might also attend the three-day session which was aimed at finding a right definition for terrorism and its root causes.

He said 27 countries would be represented by their foreign ministers.

"For the OIC standard, it is a very high one," he said when asked about the response from member countries on the meeting.

Speaking to reporters after meeting a delegation of five Kazakhstan parliamentarians headed by its chairman, Zharmakhan Tuyakbay at Wisma Putra here, Syed Hamid said the conference would not be a venue for country-bashing.

"It is not intended to be a conference of bashing any country or to say anything negative about any country but is intended to build confidence and to find solutions and make recommendations," he said.

Syed Hamid said many Islamic countries had suffered following the Sept 11 incident where Islam has been associated with terrorism and the meeting would try to get rid of such misconception.

"We hope at the end of the conference to come out with a declaration, stating the principles and actions to be taken as well as follow-up measures in order for us to be in the mainstream in world views as far as terrorism is concerned," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to deliver a keynote address at the session on April 1.

"We expect the delegates to participate actively to give their views and opinions and Dr Mahathir's speech, I am sure, will be used by the participants in their discussion on the subject," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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