

09 JUL 2003

Scholars-Globalisation

BEWARE OF GLOBALISATION AGENDA, WARNS PAKISTANI SCHOLAR

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

PUTRAJAYA, July 9 (Bernama) -- A Pakistani scholar has cautioned against the perils of globalisation, saying it could be an agenda for subjugation by the powerful nations on weaker countries.

International Islamic University Islamabad Rector Khalil-ur-Rehman Khan said the question posed by globalisation was how smaller countries could safeguard their interest especially in the economic sector.

"When there is no tariff barrier, how do we protect our small industries which are just coming up?" he told Bernama in an interview here on the eve of the World Conference of Islamic Scholars, which will focus on the challenges on the Muslim ummah in facing the era of globalisation.

The former Pakistani Supreme Court judge said there was a need to create awareness on the conditionalities of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime.

He said the university had started a year ago courses tailored to meet the demands of the globalisation era.

He said he was taking the opportunity from the conference to woo Islamic countries to send their students and bureaucrats to attend the courses at the university.

"We have short-term and long-term courses and they are not expensive," he said.

On the three-day conference, he said it was timely and hoped that the recommendations made here would be implemented by the Islamic countries.

He expected Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to provide a plan for the Islamic countries in his speech at the opening of the conference tomorrow.

"He is respected by Islamic countries for his boldness and courage in implementing economic programme...look at what his policies had brought to Malaysia," said Khalil-ur-Rehman who last visited Malaysia in 1999.

-- BERNAMA  
AZZ AZZ ABG