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Scholars-Terrorism

CONFERENCE SHOULD ADDRESS PRESSING ISSUES

By: Rosyatimah Tukimin

PUTRAJAYA, July 9 (Bernama) -- Islamic thinkers have been urged to focus on pressing issues faced by Muslim countries instead of raising petty problems at the three-day World Conference of Islamic Scholars, beginning here tomorrow.

The Secretary-General of Jordan's Ministry of Waqaf, Abdul Fattah Salah hoped that the gathering of more than 800 Islamic scholars could bring up important issues for the benefit of the ummah rather than talk about petty matters.

"We must not bring up petty matters as these are not pertinent to the development of Muslims. We must find and share strong points towards development as experienced by some Muslim countries," he said.

He said Muslims must acquire all knowledge and experience besides having the right tools to enable them to face challenges and avoid being linked to terrorist activities.

Abdul Fattah, who is here for the first time, said without all these, Muslims could easily be influenced into committing acts of terror.

"When they don't have enough knowledge, they cannot put themselves above others, thus the uneducated lot can easily feel frustrated and are willing to do anything to please themselves," he told Bernama on the eve of the conference.

"Terrorism has nothing to do with Islam or any other religion...it is an individual act. Furthermore, today's terrorists are not only Muslims.

"There have been other races of other religions as well, but these other people who have committed similar acts of terror have never been treated negatively like the Muslims, such as being labelled as terrorists," he said.

He said one of the ways for Muslims to be mentally and physically equipped to face their enemies is for them (the Muslims) to adhere to the true teachings of Islam.

"Islam has never taught its followers to simply blow themselves up, kill others, or destroy buildings. The strength required of them is to ensure that they progress as an individual and as a nation, hence feared by others to even think of attacking them," Abdul Fattah said.

He said Islam has never taught its followers to condemn or hate each other for it would only destroy people and the nations.

Abdul Fattah, who will present two working papers during the conference, commended the effort by the Malaysian government in organising the "Multaqah" for it would enable Islamic scholars of varied backgrounds to voice their views.

"It's the first time such a noble effort is being done and it is timely in view of the many turmoils faced by Muslims today.

"We may have differences in opinion and others but what needs to be done now, is for all of us to sit down and find common issues that can be shared and discussed and use them as a basis for development," he said.

He said he was amazed with the development in Malaysia and praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for bringing Malaysia to where it is today.

"I've never met him personally but through reading and information gathered from our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our ambassador here in Kuala Lumpur, I feel that Dr Mahathir has done a lot, not only to enhance Malaysians and the country, but also in inspiring other Muslims and

developing nations," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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