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Scholars-Turkey

CONFERENCE TO BOOST ECONOMIC RELATIONS

By: Wan Nurzila Abdul Rahman

PUTRAJAYA, July 9 (Bernama) -- The gathering of world Islamic scholars here will pave the way for cooperation not only in issues concerning Islam and the Muslims but on the possibility of greater trade and economic relations, said a Turkish scholar.

Turkish Islamic Council Chairman Samil Dagci said Malaysia, which has long been lauded as the voice of the Third World and other Islamic countries, could once again prove itself as a successful host in fostering relations beyond a basic issue.

Dagci, who is here for the three-day World Conference of Islamic Scholars starting tomorrow, said cooperation between Islamic countries should be broadened particularly in improving Islamic-based financial system.

He lauded Malaysia for being able to implement the Islamic banking system to complement the conventional system as it offered more option for the people.

"This conference is the best avenue in formatting further meetings in the Muslim world," Dagci, who is a Professor at the University of Ankara, told Bernama in an interview.

On the use of the gold dinar, he said there should not be any objection to its implementation as a choice of currency in trade settlement once the mechanism was worked out.

However, he was a bit doubtful that the idea could be realised in the immediate term as at present, there was a wide usage of US dollar, Euro and pound Sterling in trade agreements.

The use of gold dinar for international trade was first proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2001.

Malaysia is expected to pursue the use of gold dinar with Iran while several Arab countries had stated their interest in using this mechanism.

Being in Malaysia for the first time, Dagci said he was taken aback by the vast and modern development in the country while maintaining the true practice

"The Malays, who are mostly Muslims are moderate," he said.

Dagci said in such environment, a country had more potential to prosper and develop.

-- BERNAMA

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