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Scholars-Hamid

CONFERENCE VIEWS NEED TO BE STUDIED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE UMMAH

PUTRAJAYA, July 12 (Bernama) -- The World Conference of Islamic Scholars ended here today with the hope that the views highlighted would be studied thoroughly in drawing up an action plan for the benefit of the ummah.

Chairman of the Conference Main Committee Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said the three-day gathering aimed to build a "stream" of Islamic knowledge that could pave the way for the advancement of the Muslims.

"At the same time, it (the action plan) can remove unnecessary obstacles and hindrances that can destroy (the Muslims)," he said when closing the three-day conference which carried the theme 'Islam In The Era of Globalisation'.

Almost 900 participants, including 90 foreign scholars, attended the conference which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The Conference is akin to honey that is being poured and gathered, and it will not stop here. Follow-up action and detailed study will be carried out," said Dr Abdul Hamid, who represented Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

More minor and major conferences or "multaqa" would be held, he said.

Explaining the term "multaqa", he said it originally meant the convergence of many small streams to become a big river.

Some of the streams came from mountains, flowing past the jungles, human settlements or animal habitats, burial grounds or areas inhabited by ferocious animals and poisonous creatures, said Dr Abdul Hamid, who is also Religious Adviser to the Prime Minister.

"The big river is made up of a combination of small streams with different types of water that gives much benefits to mankind and the environment.

"When it is a small stream, it is useless to boats and ships, it is useless to swimmers and also to those who indulge in boat racing or jet-skying," he said.

"Throughout the three-day meeting, we used the word 'multaqa' in the context of thoughts, understanding and beliefs which we feel will give a wrong interpretation if they are left scattered," he said.

In fact, it could cause minor problems such as a conflict of ideas or worse problems when the believers became obsessed and resorted to killing.

Dr Abdul Hamid said that when they were on their own, many would not have the capacity to indulge in soul-searching and thus became fanatical and easily rejected other views to the extent that they were prepared to wage war.

He was convinced that the participants had the will to carry out follow-up action to implement the resolutions agreed upon.

"This is because two major world events in New York and Baghdad have given us a lesson that will not be forgotten. The lesson learnt should push us ahead so that we will not be complacent," he said referring to the Sept 11, 2001 attacks in the United States (US) and the war on Iraq by US-led forces.

-- BERNAMA

MS AZZ AO