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Scholars-Sri Lanka

CONFERENCE GOOD FORUM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, SAYS SRI LANKAN PARTICIPANT

By: Halit Morat

PUTRAJAYA, July 9 (Bernama) -- The World Conference of Islamic Scholars being organised by the Malaysian government is timely as the Islamic world is facing various challenges, said a Sri Lankan participant, Dr M.A.M Shukri.

"It is a very good forum for world Muslim scholars to get together and exchange views and try to formulate some sort of policies for the benefit of Islam," he told Bernama at the venue conference at the Marriott Hotel, here today.

The three-day conference, starting tomorrow, will see about 750 local and 90 foreign scholars taking part in discussions on current issues as well as the future direction of the Muslim community.

It will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Shukri, the director of a private Islamic university in Sri Lanka, Jamia Naleemia Islamiyya, praised the Malaysian government for always taking the lead in championing the cause of Islam.

Hosting the scholars conference is yet another effort by Malaysia in organising a major event for the benefit of the ummah, he said.

On the current situation faced by the Islamic world especially after the invasion of Iraq by the United States and its allies, he said the Islamic world is undoubtedly in a state of crisis.

"We are facing challenges from various quarters, but it is not something new to Islam as throughout history, Islam has faced challenges at all times," he said.

However, Dr Shukri said Muslims must not lose hope but should look to the future with confidence.

Towards this end, he said the scholars conference could help build up confidence by deliberating on these issues and making efforts to overcome them.

-- BERNAMA

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