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OIC-Kazakhstan

KAZAKHSTAN CALLS FOR THE PROMOTION OF INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Kazakhstan says "creative interaction" of religions, states and governments is extremely important at a time when the world is facing global challenges and threats.

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev said his country, being a unique state in terms of religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony, attached great importance to promoting dialogue between religions.

He said Kazakhstan had initiated and hosted the first Congress of World and Traditional Religions in Astana last month.

"All the participants recognized this inter-religious dialogue to be instrumental in sustaining peace and accord between peoples, strengthening international security and stability," he said in his speech to the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit at the Putrajaya Convention Centre.

His speech was read out by Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kassymzhomart Tokayev, who led the Central Asian republic's delegation to the OIC Summit.

"The aphorism 'there is no peace in the world without peace among religions as well as there is no harmony among religions without dialogue among them' is relevant today as never before," said Nazarbayev.

"Through mutual tolerance, assistance and partnership we can achieve success in combating international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking and ecological pollutions," he said.

Congratulating Malaysia on its election as OIC chairman, he said under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia had already made a great contribution "to transform the 57-member organization into a competent and authoritative international structure."

"The Organization has become very important in promoting spiritual and cultural values with the aim of providing peace throughout the world.

"We in Kazakhstan are in favour of enlightened Islam, that's the reason why we are insisting on enlightening ourselves, on developing our economy, on upgrading living standards of our peoples in order to protect the record of our common religion in the eyes of the international community," he said.

-- BERNAMA
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