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OIC-Award

"MAHATHIR AWARD FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES" LAUNCHED

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), a subsidiary of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) today launched the "Mahathir Award for Islamic Studies".

The centre's Director-General Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu said today "it was an expression of continuous gratitude to Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the patronage and support that he had extended to cultural development and promotion of scholarly research in the Islamic world."

"The award programme aims at promoting studies on the Islamic Civilization and the Islamic cultures among young scholars," he said when announcing the award at the opening of the 10th OIC Summit at Putrajaya Convention Centre here.

He said Dr Mahathir's benevolent deeds towards developing culture, art and sciences had made Malaysia a leading role model in the Islamic world and a source of inspiration for Muslim intellectuals.

The award would be given periodically to outstanding scholars reading for their PhD in Islamic Studies. However in the first year of its introduction it would be for PhDs in Malay World studies, he said.

He said the first award would be granted in 2005 to three PhD scholars for their successful doctoral dissertations completed between 2000 and 2004 and entries must be submitted before Jan 31, 2005.

Their theses must consist of scholarly research on any aspect of the history, development, the past and present of Islamic Culture and Civilisation in the Malay world.

Theses other than in English must be accompanied by a detailed summary in English of the thesis concerned no longer than 30 pages.

As a mark of gratitude Dr Ekmeleddin also presented a plate to Dr Mahathir at the ceremony which bears the saying of the Prophet Muhammad in calligraphic script.

It reads :The most blessed of mankind is the one who is beneficial to the rest of mankind" and was written and gilded in the classical style by eminent Arab calligraphers.

-- BERNAMA

MT AZZ AAM