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Scholars-Foreign

MALAYSIA REAPS PRAISES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

PUTRAJAYA, July 12 (Bernama) -- Islamic scholars worldwide have regarded the World Conference of Islamic Scholars which ended here today as a success and praised Malaysia for taking the lead to hold such a gathering.

The Secretary-General of the Jordanian Ministry of Waqaf, Dr Abdul Fatah Solah said the conference had drawn the participation of a large number of Islamic scholars to discuss issues confronting the Muslims.

"I hope other Muslim countries can emulate Malaysia's move to hold this kind of conference for the benefit of the ummah," he told Bernama at the end of the three-day meeting, which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

After listening to Dr Mahathir's speech on the opening day, Dr Abdul Fatah said he felt assured that the Muslims had a bright future if they discarded their differences and strived to acquire knowledge.

"Putrajaya is testimony of Malaysia's development success, which was built largely with its own expertise," he said in reference to the development taking place around here to cater for the new administrative centre of the federal government.

He said that while Dr Mahathir had successfully steered Malaysia towards modernisation, he was also a leading Muslim leader to speak out for the interest of other Islamic and developing countries.

"Dr Mahathir has been very vocal on many issues, supporting the plight of the Palestinians and condemning the attack on Iraq by the super powers without valid proof. Not many leaders of developing nations dare to do that," he said.

The chairman of the Australian Board of Imams, Abdul Quddoos Al-Azhari said that being a country which had consistently shown concern to the plight of the ummah, it was befitting for Malaysia to hold the conference of Islamic scholars.

"Everywhere Muslims are seen as terrorists even in Palestine and in Iraq which is fighting the U.S. occupation...who is going to stand up for all this, if not Malaysia," he said.

He said that many people in Australia, especially the Muslims, regarded Dr Mahathir as a great leader despite his differences with Australian leaders.

-- BERNAMA

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