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OIC-Editor

M'SIA CAN SPEARHEAD MUSLIMS' PROGRESS - SAUDI ARABIAN EDITOR

By Mohamad Razee Hasan

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Muslims worldwide hope Malaysia, as the new Chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), can spearhead the progress of Muslims by merging Islamic civilisation and modern technology, a popular Saudi Arabian newspaper editor said today.

Jaseer Abdul Aziz Al-Jaseer said with the modern thinking and the vision of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, many changes could be implemented to lend credence to the OIC as the "protector of Islamic nations."

Malaysia is hosting the OIC Summit, which is being held for the first time in the Asia Pacific region, since the organisation's inception in 1969.

Jaseer, who is Chief Editor of International Affairs of the Jeddah-based Al-Jazirah newspaper, in his dispatch picked up here today described Dr Mahathir as the "thinker of the Islamic world."

The two-day OIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting under the chairmanship of Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar began here today ahead of the Leaders' Summit on Thursday and Friday.

Jaseer welcomed Malaysia's proposal to restructure the 57-member organisation and its secretariat in Jeddah.

"The time has come to implement the changes which have never been made since OIC's inception," he said.

Jaseer said there were more than 160 resolutions adopted at several OIC conferences but have not been implemented.

"They are merely repeated and modified at subsequent summits.

"Is this the best example shown by the OIC?" he asked in his report.

He said distribution of the draft resolution among OIC Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers and experts for discussion was a good move.

Nevertheless, it would be better if a mechanism could be implemented to enhance cooperation among OIC member countries in the economic, cultural, education and trade areas, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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