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ISLAMIC BANKING-ITALY

ISLAMIC BANKING CONFERENCE IN ITALY IN SEPTEMBER

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- An international conference on Islamic Banking to be held in Prato, Italy from Sept 9 to 10, 2003 expects to serve as a platform for researchers, academicians, business leaders, and banking industry practitioners to meet and discuss critical issues and ideas relating to Islamic banking.

The conference to be titled, "From Money Lenders to Bankers: Evolution of Islamic Banking In Relation to Judeo-Christian and Oriental Banking Traditions", is being jointly organised by Monash University Malaysia, Monash University Australia and Monash University Prato.

At a media briefing here today on the conference, Monash University Malaysia's director of banking and finance unit, Professor Bala Shanmugam, said that the conference would also be a timely event to generate awareness on Islamic Banking and the underlying principles behind it.

He said that more than 100 people were expected to attend the event, with 60 people including individuals and financial institutions worldwide having already registered to participate in the conference.

"Europe, which is just getting into Islamic Banking will also have a chance to learn from Malaysia about the system, especially on standardising Islamic products and services," he said.

Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yacop, special adviser to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to deliver the keynote address, while the key resource people will include representatives from Bank Negara Malaysia, Bank Islam, Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM) and the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah.

"The European venue will help to ensure that the conference increases awareness and understanding of Islamic Banking in Europe and North America which will also facilitate attendance by delegates from the Middle East and the United States," Bala Shanmugam said.

Further details on the conference is available at the following web site: <http://galahad.monash.edu.my/bc/>. -- BERNAMA

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