

07 OCT 2003

OIC-Role

IDFR ORGANISES CONFERENCE ON UMMAH

PETALING JAYA, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- An international conference on the Ummah and the role of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre on Oct 13-14 in conjunction with the 10th Islamic Summit Conference.

The conference to be opened by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is jointly organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations Malaysia (IDFR), Institute of Knowledge Advancement (InKA) of the Universiti Teknologi Mara and Mara Junior Science College Students Association of Malaysia (ANSARA).

IDFR Director-General Datuk Dr Mohd Yusof Ahmad said that the conference themed "The Ummah at the Crossroads: The Role of the OIC" was being held to highlight the issues affecting the world's Muslims especially in this challenging times.

"The world media has not been highlighting anything positive about Islam and Muslims...so taking into consideration the gravity of the issue, there will be deliberations on this and the progressive side of Islam," he told a press briefing on the conference at IDFR here.

Dr Mohd Yusof said that the conference would feature scholars and prominent figures from within the Muslim world to discuss main themes, namely representation, globalisation and heritage, governance, law and international relations, political economy and media, education and gender issues.

The conference will end with a plenary session and adoption of resolutions.

Dr Mohd Yusof also said that the conference would provide a forum for Muslim intellectuals and scholars to share ideas and formulate strategies for the betterment of the Ummah.

It would also help clarify and probe areas of concern between Muslims and other civilisations and initiate a process to bridge differences among civilisations.

About 350 people comprising academics, senior government officials and corporate leaders, including some 100 foreign delegates are expected to attend the conference.

Dr Mohd Yusof said that among the speakers would be Raja Nazrin Shah Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin, Prof Dr Amer Al-Roubaie of the International Islamic University, Dr Chandra Muzaffar of the Just World Trust for Peace, Prof Datuk Dr Osman Bakar (Fellow, Centre for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University), Dr Haroon Siddique (The Toronto Star, Canada) and Prof Mohammad El-Sayed Selim (University of Cairo, Egypt).

Also present at the press conference were UiTM Assistant vice chancellor and head of InKA, Prof Madya Dr Rahmat Mohamad and Ansara president Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir.

-- BERNAMA

RV AHH AAM