

12 OCT 2003

OIC-Expo

OIC EXPO A PLATFORM TO PROMOTE TRADE AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES

By: Jamaluddin Muhammad

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- The OIC Expo 2003 which attracted more than 600 companies, including from non-member countries, is set to be a platform for enhancing trade among the 57 members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

The four non-member countries which are taking part -- France, China, Taiwan and South Korea -- have sent more than 30 companies.

Organised by F&R Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd, the expo at Precinct 5 from Oct 14-19 is being held in conjunction with the 10th OIC Summit.

The company's executive director, Datuk Rosle Jaamat, said that education, tourism, food, oil and gas were among the products and services which will be highlighted at the expo.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the expo on Monday. It is the first of its kind since the establishment of the OIC in 1969.

Among the major exhibitors are Qatar with 90 companies, followed by Iran with 70 companies.

Rosle told Bernama that lack of trade promotion among member countries contributed to the low level of trade among them compared with the non-Muslim countries.

About 100,000 visitors, including trade visitors, are expected to visit the expo.

With two billion population, he said, the prospect to increase trade among member countries was enormous.

"Malaysia could be an important trade and business hub for the Muslim countries and some exhibitors I met had already acknowledged this," he said.

In the area of education, he said, 26 Malaysian public and private institutions of higher learning would showcase their services at the expo in a move to attract foreign students.

The expo would also show Islamic arts and artifacts dated some 500 years ago.

Rosle hoped that such an expo could be held biennially to further promote trade and business among Muslim countries.

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