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Conference-Secretariat

ISLAMIC SCHOLARS TO DISCUSS SETTING UP OF WORLD SECRETARIAT

PUTRAJAYA, June 3 (Bernama) -- The World Conference of Islamic Scholars here next month will discuss the setting up of the World Islamic Scholars Secretariat to deliberate on issues related to the religion and its propagation.

Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, the Religious Adviser to the Prime Minister, said the idea to set up the secretariat was mooted by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself.

"Dr Mahathir is expected to be appointed the secretariat chairman," he said at a special media briefing on the conference which would be held on July 9-12, here today.

He said a majority of the Islamic nations had agreed to the setting of such body and further details on it would be announced at the conference.

Dr Abdul Hamid said the secretariat would comprise scholars and intellectuals as members as well as those who contributed to the development of their respective countries.

"The secretariat is not restricted to only traditional ulamas," he said.

Commenting on the conference, he said its objective was to provide the true understanding of Islam which had been frequently misinterpreted by the non-Muslims.

Among the main issues to be discussed at the conference were faith and management of life for Muslims worldwide.

"Focus will also be given to the second component (management of Muslims' life) as this was usually neglected and not seen as a religious duty. We will have to correct this perception," he said.

The conference would also discuss challenges faced by Muslims in the wake of the recent invasion of Iraq.

Some 670 participants including 70 from 40 foreign nations are expected to attend the conference which would see the tabling of over 20 working papers from Islamic scholars worldwide including those from Europe and United States.

-- BERNAMA

SHI MAM ZUL