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Scholars-Preparation

PARTICIPANTS BEGIN TO CONVERGE AT MULTAQVA VENUE

PUTRAJAYA, July 8 (Bernama) -- The Putrajaya Marriott Hotel here, the venue of the World Conference of Islamic Scholars, has begun to receive participants who have arrived for the three-day meeting beginning Thursday.

Several officers and staff of the Prime Minister's Department (JPM), the organisers of the conference, were on hand to assist the participants and presenters of working papers at the registration counter at the hotel lobby.

Among those who had registered were participants from Indonesia, India, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Oman, Morocco, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States.

About 900 participants, including 90 from abroad, comprising scholars, intellectuals and Islamic thinkers, were expected to attend the conference which would discuss challenges faced by Muslims in the era of globalisation.

Twenty-two working papers on the religion, politics, social issues, the economy and development would be tabled at the conference to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The JPM Secretariat Room and the Media Secretariat Room, managed by the Malaysian National News Agency (Bernama), as the official media of the conference, were also bustling with activity.

Chairman of the Multaqa Main Committee, Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Othman, also dropped by to have a look at the preparations that were being made today.

He spent about an hour to look at the registration centre, the JPM Secretariat, Media Secretariat, the media centre and the room for news conferences.

Abdul Hamid, who is also Religious Advisor to the Prime Minister, was satisfied with the preparations for the conference.

About 30 per cent of the foreign participants had already arrived for the conference, he told Bernama here.

Among the noted scholars who would be attending the conference would be Sheikh Al-Azhar of Egypt Dr Sayyid Muhammad Tantawi who would deliver the keynote address entitled "True Religion in Facing Challenges of Globalisation", he said.

Abdul Hamid said Dr Mahathir's opening speech would be carried live by Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM).

-- BERNAMA

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