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Mahathir-Peace

PEACE IS POSSIBLE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia believes that peace is the birthright of everyone on earth regardless of race or religion.

As such, he said, men, women and children were all equal partners in the process to achieve peace.

According to Dr Mahathir, now people use guns and nations threatened with nuclear weapons to demand what they want.

"But I still have hope in mankind. Peace is not impossible to achieve. It will take enormous dedication and sincere effort by those who desire peace to trigger in people worldwide similar vision that will spur them into action," he said in his message to the Kuala Lumpur World Peace Conference which begins here today.

Dr Mahathir said that the international community cannot remain indifferent to the dangerous trend the world has taken.

"The weapons are too dangerous and life is too fragile for this to continue unchecked," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the world peace initiative could only be a success if like-minded individuals and organisations provide vital support for the ideals expressed to achieve world peace.

"The theme 'Peace is Possible' is a challenge to all to consider peace, not from the approach of waging war but from the concept of peace for peace.

"It is easy to make war but within seconds precious lives are lost, days of living are destroyed and cultural heritages reduced to rubble," he said.

The two-day conference, organised by the Malaysian World Peace Foundation, will discuss and work on programmes to remove major hurdles that hinder the achievement of peace such as secretarian conflict and ethnic warfare, arms race, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, religious intolerance, economic injustice and oppressive globalisation.

The conference will adopt the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, covering nine points of common ground for the advancement of peace around the world as the way forward.

The foundation will also launch the Kuala Lumpur World Peace Award at the conference as a contribution by Malaysians and their friends around the world to inspire effort to promote a culture of global peace.

The award, presented to French President Jacques Chirac, is the first such award to be conceived and organised by a Muslim majority country and celebrate the unique success of Malaysia as a multiracial, multicultural and multireligious nation living in peace and harmony.

About 1,000 participants and delegates from 10 countries are attending the conference which is aimed at finding common grounds of international understanding to build a lasting peace and harmony in the world.

-- BERNAMA

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