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Scholars-Secretariat

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT PROPOSED FOR SCHOLARS CONFERENCE

By: Luqman Haziq

PUTRAJAYA, July 9 (Bernama) -- The organisers of the World Conference of Islamic Scholars here will propose the setting up of a permanent secretariat to coordinate future activities.

Conference Executing Committee Chairman Datuk Mohd Nakhaie Ahmad said a permanent secretariat would facilitate the organising of world conferences, seminars and workshops for Islamic scholars.

"It could also act as a body to coordinate the understanding of Muslims on Islam based on the true teachings," he told reporters at the Marriott Hotel here, the venue of the three-day conference which begins tomorrow.

He said a permanent secretariat would provide the best platform for the ulamas to discuss in depth issues affecting the Muslims and also to prevent them from making individual interpretations that were contrary to Islam.

Asked whether the conference would be made into an annual event, Mohd Nakhaie said this could be looked by the permanent secretariat.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the conference, which will discuss among others the best possible way for Islamic countries to manage their economy and natural resources.

In this respect, National Economic Action Council (NEAC) Executive Director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed will table a working paper on national economic management while Petronas Chairman Tan Sri Hassan Merican on natural resources management.

"We hope to project Malaysia as a model for other Islamic countries in managing their economy and natural resources in facing global challenges," said Mohd Nakhaie, who is also Malaysian Islamic Dakwah Foundation (YADIM) chairman.

He said that other the working papers of great interest would be those on the stand of Islam against extremist groups and the direction of the Muslims after the Iraq war.

Over 800 Islamic scholars from almost 40 countries will attend the conference, organised by the Prime Minister's Department. A total of 22 working papers will be presented at the conference.

Among the noted scholars is Shaikh Al-Azhar of Egypt, Dr Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, who will present his keynote address entitled "Faith in the True Religion in the Era of Globalisation".

The opening ceremony by Dr Mahathir will be telecast live by Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM).

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