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RM25 MLN FOR MALAYSIA'S FIRST ISLAMIC ARTEFACT CENTRE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- The Islamic Arts Museum and the Albukhary Foundation are channelling a total of RM25 million to operate

Malaysia's first centre for the preservation of Islamic artefacts.

According to a statement by the Museum here today, the centre, inspired by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was hoped to fulfil conservation demands of such artefacts and the need for specialists, in Malaysia and the Southeast Asian region.

The centre comprises four specialist laboratories, including for organic and non-organic materials, and offers artefact-restoration services, training programmes and history lessons.

The centre is managed by Germany's Senior Restoration Expert Friedrich Zink, archive conservationist Mohamed Razali Mohamed Zain and paper restoration expert Lalith Kumar Pathak and assisted by 15 others.

The non-profit centre, officially opened on Dec 12, 1998, is the only museum of its kind in the Asia Pacific region to showcase Islamic arts and culture and it aims to protect and preserve priceless works of arts for the future generations.

-- BERNAMA

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