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IDB-MAHATHIR

DR M TO CHAIR 1ST IDB 1440H VISION COMMISSION MEETING IN SEPT

By: Massita Ahmad & Nor Baizura Basri

PUTRAJAYA, June 25 (Bernama) -- The first meeting of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) 1440H Vision Commission, chaired by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will be held in September this year.

The meeting will be held in Dubai, said Bank of Pakistan governor, Dr Ishrat Husain, after chairing the commission's first regional workshop for Asia plus Suriname here today.

Dr Ishrat said the commission would hold another three workshops in Almaty (Kazakhstan), Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

The commission, he added, will prepare a report based on the workshops and this will be submitted to the Jeddah-based bank by end of this year.

"We have been asked to identify major global trends that could influence the IDB role and challenges in the coming 15 years and beyond as well as prioritise its significance to the Islamic member countries," he said.

Besides, Dr Ishrat said the commission will identify future roles of the IDB to better respond to these challenges with the view of focusing its operations and develop action plan for implementation by the IDB.

The commission comprises 11 members including former Indonesian President Professor B.J. Habibie, former Foreign Minister of Thailand Dr Surin Pitsuwan and Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz.

Others are Alimardonov Muhammadievich (Tajikistan), Cheikh Ibrahima Fall (Africa), Dr Ishrat Husain (Pakistan), Dr Mohamed Bin Khalfan Bin Khirbash (UAE), Mohammad Aba Al-Khail (Saudi Arabia), Saleh Abdullah Kamel (Saudi Arabia) and Aicha Bah Diallo (UNESCO).

Dr Mahathir has been appointed chairman of the commission to formulate the Muslim world's Vision 2020.

The commission was established by IDB to formulate the vision that would guide the group to embark upon strategic initiatives and to bring prosperity and development to the Muslim world.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who announced the appointment of Dr Mahathir at the opening of the 30th IDB Board of Governors Annual Meeting Thursday, said Malaysia would support the commission in all its activities.

Dr Mahathir, who retired as the premier in 2003, was instrumental in formulating Malaysia's own Vision 2020. -- BERNAMA

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