

22/06/2005
BUSINESS-FORUM
WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM TO BE HELD IN OCT

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- The three-day World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF), formerly known as OIC Business Forum, would be held here starting on Oct 1, this year.

The forum is expected to be attended by several heads of governments, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Senegal President Abdoulaye Wade and Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Former Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, is expected to deliver a luncheon address.

Revealing the details here today, the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) chief executive officer, Datuk Michael Yeoh said the forum would address key issues facing the Muslim societies ranging from business and economics to science and technology.

"The forum would also be used to link business operations of non-Muslims nations, especially those from Europe, with Muslims nations," he told a press conference which was also attended by WIEF co-chairs former Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Musa Hitam.

ASLI, the Foreign Ministry, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Islamic Centre for Development and Trade are co-organisers of the event, which would be held at Sunway Lagoon Resort Hotel.

Shaukat Aziz would deliver the opening keynote address at the Forum entitled "Forging New Alliances for Development and Progress". This would later be followed by Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz's special luncheon address.

The first day of the forum would draw to an end with a dinner keynote address by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The second day of the forum would kick off with a keynote address by Begum Khaleda Zia, who would speak on "Managing Diversity and Economic Transformation in Bangladesh."

Dr Mahathir would take on the podium to deliver a special luncheon address on the second day. He would speak on "Islamic Renaissance: Triumph Over the Odds, Synergy in Action, Progress for All." The second-day of the forum would end with the special dinner keynote speech by Abdoulaye Wade.

Malaysian Prime Minister will deliver the closing keynote address and speak also as the chair of the 10th Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) on the final day.

"The expanded WIEF would pave the way for the forum to address more key economic issues facing Muslim societies such as business and economics, science and technology but also encourage participation of academicians, non-governmental organisations and Muslim communities from non-OIC countries," Yeoh said.

The forum is expected to provide a vital platform for positive and healthy interaction between government leaders, civil society and business communities for the benefit of Muslim communities worldwide.

More than 500 participants from 42 countries are expected to attend the forum supported by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the Muslim Council of Britain and the Islamic Development Bank.

-- BERNAMA

SR RAR KTC