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Arabic book on Dr Mahathir's contributions

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - A book will soon be written in Arabic featuring Malaysia's role and contributions to the Arab and Islamic countries under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Titled Mahathir Mohamad From An Arab and Muslim Perspective, it is expected to be launched in conjunction with the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) here in October.

The book, written by a United Arab Emirates (UAE) journalist, would highlight Dr Mahathir's role in defending Islamic countries and its ummah (people).

Malaysian Ambassador to UAE, Syed Hussein Abdul Kadir Al-Habshee, told a Press conference today that the book, which is the first of its kind, would also highlight Dr Mahathir's visions and achievements and his contributions to Muslims.

"It is a continuous effort to enhance the relationship between Malaysia and the Arab and Muslim countries. It emphasises on the bilateral co-operation through examples of Dr Mahathir's initiatives as Prime Minister," he said.

At the moment, the author was still in the midst of arranging the facts and expected to complete in September, he said, adding that the book would be translated into Bahasa Malaysia and English early next year.

The author, Dr Abdul Raheem Abdul Wahid, said writing about Dr Mahathir was a challenge as no one could illustrate the success of Dr Mahathir and Malaysia over the last 22 years in one book.

However, he said, the intention was to let Arab readers know that Dr Mahathir is a leader who cared for his nation and the ummah.

Asked why he decided to write on the Prime Minister, he said: "I took up the challenge because Arab readers are largely unaware of the enormous contribution that the Malaysian leader had made towards the Arab cause during the last 22 years."

He also said: "Dr Mahathir is one of the few Islamic leaders who speaks his mind openly and frankly.

"He is concerned with the present state of the Muslim world and fights strongly and consistently to give Islam and Muslims a good image."