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Book on Dr Mahathir to be launched on Wednesday

A BOOK entitled Mahathir: From An Arab and Islamic Perspective will be launched on Wednesday at the Putrajaya Convention Centre, the venue of the OIC Summit.

The book, in Arabic, is written by Palestinian Dr Abdul Rahim Abdul Wahid who is based in United Arab Emirates.

Former Malaysian envoy to UAE, Datuk Syed Hussein Al-Habshee, said OIC secretary-general Abdelouahed Belkeziz would launch the book.

"We will be signing a memorandum of understanding with a leading publisher and distributor in Cairo early next year to have the book available in the 22 capital cities of the Arab League," he said at a news conference at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Syed Hussein said the launch during the OIC meeting was a fitting tribute to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, seen as the elder statesman in the Muslim world.

"The 200 million Arabs, in particular, see Dr Mahathir as the leader of the Muslim ummah," he said.

In the 1960s, he said, it was the late Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser who provided that leadership.

The book also discusses Malaysia's bilateral ties with a number of Arab nations, and its stand on the Iraq and Palestinian problems and issues facing the Muslims after the Sept 11 incident.

Gerbang Perdana Sdn Bhd managing director Datuk Yahya A. Jalil, whose company is paying for the printing of the book and the launch, said the English version would be made available next year.