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CMU-21 participants impressed with Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's love for peace, unity, Islam and the ummah has impressed participants of the International Conference for Muslim Unity in the 21st Century (ICMU-21), here.

A participant from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dr Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al-Haddad said he was impressed with Dr Mahathir's efforts in defending the credibility and integrity of Muslims.

"We hear Dr Mahathir is a man who loves unity. He champions the cause of Muslims and defends them and he is also concerned about the problems faced by the ummah," he said.

Dr Ahmad, of the UAE's Fatwa Council and Islamic Relations Department, said he and Muslims from his country were amazed at Dr Mahathir's clarity and boldness in arguing with the enemies of Islam.

"If the Muslims are strong, we will not fear the enemy. This is what Allah demands. Allah wants the ummah to be strong, united and trustworthy.

"And capable of saying `no' to the enemies of Islam," Dr Ahmad said.

A total of 175 participants from various countries are attending the two-day ICMU-21, which began yesterday.

The participants are confident that Muslim unity would become a reality soon and that Malaysia was capable of mobilising efforts towards that goal, said Dr Ahmad.

A participant from Nigeria, Ahmad Umar Ahmad said it was not impossible for Muslims worldwide to unite because they followed the same teachings propagated by Prophet Muhammad.

Malaysia's efforts are highly appreciated by all the ummah. We can unite," he said.

A participant from Palestine, Muhamad Al-Khatim said what was important in achieving solidarity was unity of ideas. Much could be gained from the teachings of Allah in efforts towards unity.

International Institute for Muslim Unity (IIMU) president Tan Sri Sanusi Junid, when met after delivering his keynote address at the conference, said the unity agenda had always been the last priority of Muslim thinkers.

"We want to remove the prejudice among the thinkers, because it is the thinkers who teach the people below to quarrel among themselves, if we can ensure that the thinkers strive towards a common goal, that is unity, then there is hope for solidarity," he said.