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OIC summit will be another success, says Foreign Ministry

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Foreign Ministry has expressed confidence that the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit in October will be successfully organised by Malaysia, which is assuming the chairmanship.

Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said lessons would be drawn from the just-concluded 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit, which, with a membership of 116, is much bigger than the OIC.

Syed Hamid, who was speaking at a Press conference after a bilateral meeting with his counterpart from Peru, Allan Wagner Tizon, said the co-operation between agencies within the Government and the private sector had contributed to the success of the summit.

"There is no other thing more rewarding than outsiders expressing their satisfaction with the organisation of a conference, including the facilities at the conference venue or at the hotel," he said.

"I did not hear of people complaining. People were not trying to be polite when they said it was really good. I hear people like the OIC secretary-general and the Commonwealth secretary-general saying the same thing," he said.

He added that the organisation of such a big scale summit was a good experience for everyone involved.

Syed Hamid said although organising such a summit cost a lot of money, the spin-off was also large.

He said the NAM Summit had been a multilateral and bilateral success for Malaysia and other NAM countries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and leaders of various NAM countries held bilateral meetings, in which they asked for technical assistance from Malaysia.

He said bilateral meetings were beneficial to the country.

"This will help strengthen and deepen our relationship with many countries of NAM and as chairman of NAM, this makes our co-ordination better," he said.