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Foundation to hold peace talks

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Malaysian World Peace Foundation will be organising the Kuala Lumpur World Peace Conference and Award on Aug 9.

Themed Peace is Possible, the two-day conference is the first to be conceived and organised by a Muslim-majority country, to provide a forum for those campaigning for international peace to exchange views on the issue.

The event, to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will be closed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Organising committee chairman Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing said the conference was expected to adopt the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, covering nine points for the advancement of peace around the world.

An international panel headed by United Nations Special Envoy to Myanmar, Tan Sri Razali Ismail, will pick a recipient for the peace award.

Dr Mahathir, who will present the award on the first day, will also deliver the keynote address for the event.

Razali said the committee had yet to decide on the selection process for the award.

"It is not a competition. We might just select a person without going through the nomination process.

"The committee will choose the recipient without outside interference."

He said the person selected should be widely-recognised for exceptional work in promoting global co-operation and understanding.