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Foundation to foster 'greater ummah'

reports on "International conference of Muslim Young Leaders 2003" by THE International Conference of the Muslim Young Leaders (ICMYL) yesterday unanimously reached a consensus to build a foundation here called "The World Muslim Economic Foundation" aimed at fostering a greater Ummah in the Islamic world.

The foundation, which will be proposed in a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad soon, will be based on five objectives mooted and discussed during the three-day conference. These are:

- * to identify various feasible economic projects within the Islamic nations for the benefit of all,

- * to generate profits under the foundation to fund or finance appropriate number of Muslim students for tertiary education in this country;

- * to act as a centre for advisory services for Islamic countries and organisations;

- * to serve as an Information Center on economic, business and trade opportunities from all over the Islamic World, and

- * to serve as an establishment in promoting Islamic patriotism and solidarity among young leaders and members of the Muslim World.

Other resolutions mooted at the conference were to foster greater ties among the Ummah and to obtain knowledge especially in the fields of Science, Mathematics and Technology as it was ignored in many parts of the Muslim world.

Also, to consider enhancing the ability of exploiting economic resources and participating in global business activities.

The resolutions, presented by the ICMYL main committee deputy chairman Datuk Mohamad Fatmi Che Salleh, were well received by representatives from the various continents, who were each given five minutes to state their views during the rounding-up session of the conference.

The first speaker, Ishaq Kumle Samni of Nigeria, who represented the African continent, said Malaysia was the hope of Islamic nations.

He added that the foundation would bring a new light towards fostering unity among Muslims.

Tahir Alwan of Iraq, who represented the Middle East, hoped for Muslim nations to produce more responsible journalists to disseminate correct information of the Islamic world to other nations.

Britain's Saqeb Mueen and Marina Sushila A. Jukuy, of the Philippines, who represented Europe and Asia respectively, said the resolution would nurture towards the betterment of the Muslim community in future.

Eshanul Hoque, a State Minister of Education from Bangladesh, who also represented the Asian continent, lauded Dr Mahathir's leadership saying that he had managed the country well.

"I propose that he (Dr Mahathir) be nominated as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations," he said followed by loud applause from the floor.

ICMYL chairman Tan Sri Rahim Thamby Chik said a legal firm was drafting the proposal on the foundation and a memorandum would be presented to Dr Mahathir for endorsement as soon as possible.

He said the foundation was under the purview of Yayasan Pengerak Wawasan and would turn into a non-governmental organisation on approval.