

11 OCT 2003

OIC-Book

BOOK ON DR MAHATHIR'S SUCCESS FOR THE ARAB WORLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- A book on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's political and economic success, specially catering for the Arab world, will be launched in conjunction with the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit.

Written by United Arab Emirates-based Palestinian author Dr Abdulrahim Abdulwahid, the book titled "Mahathir Mohamad from an Arabic and Islamic Perspective" would initially be targeted for the Gulf market, former Malaysian Ambassador to the UAE Datuk Syed Hussein Al Habshee said at the book's pre-launch media conference here today.

"There are 22 Arab countries with about 200 million audience and they want to know how Dr Mahathir and Malaysia solved the Asian financial crisis and handled its bilateral relations with Arab countries.

"Dr Abdulrahim thinks Dr Mahathir as a leader of the Ummah. In the 60s, there were leaders like (Egyptian first president) Gamel Abdel Nasser and now we have Dr Mahathir," he said.

The author, a veteran journalist with a doctorate in journalism, took six months to complete the 254-page Arabic version. The book will be published by "Al Ahram", a well-known Cairo-based publisher.

OIC Secretary-General Abdelouahed Belkeziz will launch the book on Wednesday at the Putrajaya Convention Centre, the venue of the OIC Summit.

The summit opened today with the Senior Officials Meeting to prepare the agenda for the ministerial meeting on Monday and Tuesday. The OIC leaders would meet on Thursday and Friday.

For a start, 1,000 hardcover copies, expected to cost between RM40 and RM50, and 5,000 softcover copies, priced between RM25 and RM30, will be printed.

The English and Bahasa Malaysia versions are expected to go into print next year.

Malaysia's Gerbang Perdana Sdn Bhd Managing Director Datuk Yahya

Abdul  
Jalil said the company sponsored the publication of the book as a  
tribute  
to Dr Mahathir who would be retiring as Prime Minister at the end of  
this  
month.

-- BERNAMA

VP AZZ TS