

Abdullah to attend summit on Mideast peace plan
Malaysiakini.com
March 27, 2007

Malaysia, the chair of the 57-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference, said it would attend an Arab summit which aims to revive a five-year-old plan for peace with Israel.

The invitation to the summit this week in Riyadh was issued to Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi by Saudi Arabia and the Arab League, given Malaysia's status as OIC chair, the foreign ministry said.

"Among the issues that are expected to be raised in the summit include reviving the Arab peace initiative," the ministry said in a statement.

"Other issues such as the development in Iraq, the Lebanon issue and Iran's nuclear programme will also be discussed," it said.

Abdullah is also expected to meet on the sidelines with Middle Eastern leaders to discuss regional political and security issues such as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the situation in Iraq, the ministry said.

The 22-member Arab League is due to start its annual summit Wednesday in Riyadh, with only Libya boycotting the gathering.

Arab foreign ministers meeting before the summit agreed on Monday to revive the plan for peace with Israel, first adopted in Beirut in 2002.

The Saudi-inspired Arab plan proposes full normalisation of relations with Israel if it fully withdraws from all land it occupied in 1967, permits the creation of an independent Palestinian state and allows the return of Palestinian refugees.

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