

Hadhari way to global peace

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By SA'ODAH ELIAS
odae@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has called for a concerted effort by Muslim and non-Muslim leaders to cooperate in addressing the state of relations between the West and the Muslim world.

The Prime Minister said this problem needed to be urgently addressed as the peace and stability of the world was at stake,

since Christians and Muslims made up more than half of the world's population.

"We must not fail to recognise the fact that there is in the world today a certain resurgence of feelings of insecurity and anxiety within societies, and between people and cultures globally," he said in his keynote address at the *Global Risk and Crisis Forum: The Hadhari Approach, Its Explanation and Relevance to Contemporary Global Challenges*

yesterday.

He said advances in communications have brought people from all over the world very close together, but this closeness has also resulted in less than desirable situations in the way people relate to each other.

"Instead of creating greater harmony between the religions of the world, destructive forces are at work agitating believers to champion only their particular belief-systems, values and principles," he said.

"Extremist movements of all sorts have come to the fore, emphasising differences and even preaching the politics of fear and hate.

"We must not allow Islam to be hijacked by these zealots and extremists."

Abdullah said the West should treat Islam the way it wanted Islam to treat it and both sides must accept each other as equals.

Respect, reciprocity and equality were the essential pre-

requisites for a harmonious relationship between the two civilisations, he said.

Through the approaches of Islam Hadhari, said Abdullah, many of the world's problems could be addressed by educating society on the true teachings of the religion, especially by giving a broader interpretation of *jihad* to include all aspects of life, including the pursuit of knowledge, the mastery of science and technology, and economic activity.

Abdullah said the misconception that there was a distinction between so-called secular knowledge and religious knowledge must also be corrected.

"The approach of Islam Hadhari provides a sound framework and workable principles to guide Muslims as well as society through the most testing of circumstances by being contemporary, but firmly rooted in the injunctions of the religion," he added.