

# 'Social change via Islam Hadhari'

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**MOSCOW:** Islam Hadhari is a demonstration that the teachings of Islam can be used to develop contemporary models of good governance and social change, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"It calls for putting into practice, among others, justice, freedom, love of knowledge and balanced development. It showcases Islam as a religion of moderation and modernity.

"For the Muslims, Islam Hadhari is a call to apply the deepest wisdom of Islam to find solutions to present-day problems," said Abdullah in his speech entitled *Presenting the True Face of Islam to the World*.

He was making his acceptance address after being conferred the Doctor Honoris Causa (honorary doctorate) by the Moscow State Institute for International Relations yesterday.

He told the audience that the clash of cultures and civilisations that the world was experiencing was due to a lack of understanding by the West of the true teachings of Islam and growing Islamophobia in these countries.

Abdullah said blaming Islam when waging war against terror was one of the main reasons for the present tension in the world.

"The West should avoid judging Islam by the conduct of a tiny minority of Muslims who hold extreme views and behave in extreme ways."

Abdullah urged the international society to follow Malaysia in embracing diversity and pluralism in relations between nations.

"The growing schism between the Christian West and the Islamic world is a real and present danger to international peace and security."