

Plan for Islamic human rights court

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PUTRAJAYA: An Islamic International Court focusing on Islamic human rights may soon become a reality.

Iran's chief of judiciary system Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi said in principle, it was a good idea for such an establishment, adding that a secretariat to look into the matter had been formed in Iran and discussions had been held with Saudi Arabia on the proposal.

"I am confident the Organisation of the Islamic Conference will

also agree to the idea," he said after his 50-member delegation held a discussion with Chief Justice Tun Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim at the Palace of Justice here yesterday.

When asked on the overlapping duties of the proposed Islamic International Court (IIC) with the International Court of Justice, Mahmoud said the former would focus only on human rights issues involving Islamic nations.

"It is similar to the European Union which has its own avenue to

hear human rights issues."

Mahmoud added that the court could also be used to settle issues between the Islamic and the western world.

Fairuz added that a conference of chief justices of Islamic countries, similar to the conference of chief justices of the Asia Pacific countries, could be held to discuss the IIC proposal.

Mahmoud later toured the Federal Court room, judiciary museum, court's library and Ahmad Fairuz's chambers.

One of the topics raised during the 45-minute discussion was the system of appointing judges in the respective countries.

The four-day visit to foster relations between the two judiciaries ends tomorrow.

The delegation later called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Today, the delegates will visit the International Islamic University Malaysia and meet Senate President Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh.