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Poverty and extremism are arch-enemies, says Pak Lah

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said poverty and extremism are arch-enemies of moderation, adding that poverty is a grave threat to global stability as it provides breeding grounds for extremism.

"I strongly believe the elimination of poverty and the provision of good governance are the keys in the fight against extremism and violence," he said in his address on *Human Capital Development: The Key To Moderation* at the International Conference on the Global Movement of Moderates here yesterday.

Abdullah said that while *wasatiyyah* (moderation) could eliminate extremism and make way for friendship and cooperation, it must have a *manhaj* or guide.

The *manhaj*, he said, is Islam Hadhari, which promotes progressive development and builds a moral society with strong religious and spiritual values.

At a forum on Democracy and Moderation, former Thai deputy prime minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai said principles of moderation could guard a nation against financial mishaps.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Institute of Malaysian and International Studies director Dr K.S. Nathan said principles of moderation must be embraced for a sustainable period of time.