

'Islam and Confucianism can make us better'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Balance, ethical conduct and the importance of collective good are all Confucian teachings that are similar to Al-Quran's tazkiatun nafs (purification of the soul).

These should be embraced by Malaysia to set an example to the world with a united and harmonious front despite the different races and religions, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister, in his keynote address at the Islam-Confucianism Leadership Dialogue, said Malaysia, as a nation where major civilisations interact, stands uniquely positioned to be a beacon in the discourse.

"This idea (of harmony) is integral to enlightened leadership in both traditions.

"In Confucianism, the way is

referred to as 'inner cultivation' and is hardly different from the Al-Quran's tazkiatun nafs," he said.

"They remind us that our actions and innovations must be grounded in moral and ethical principles.

"In this age of rapid technological advancement and environmental crises, these teachings can guide us towards more sustainable, equitable, and ethical paths.

"Our diverse heritage offers us a unique perspective and the opportunity to be at the forefront of shaping a new era of global ethical governance."

Anwar added that Confucianism and Islam share a similar emphasis on the idea of moral empowerment and its implementation.

"By embracing the wisdom of Islam and Confucianism, we can work towards a future that is not only technologically advanced but also morally enlightened," he



New way: Anwar receiving a copy of 'Islam and Confucianism' from its author, Professor Dr Osman Bakar (third from right), at the launch of the Islam-Confucianism Leadership Dialogue 2023 in Kuala Lumpur. – Bernama

said yesterday

Anwar used the government's Madani concept as an example, where the discourse on sustainability - the first pillar of concept - must extend beyond environmental concerns.

"It is imperative to understand that the relationship between man and nature is one of profound interconnectedness and respect.

Speaking to the media later, Anwar said the seminar on

Islam-Confucianism can be the platform to provide in-depth understanding and create a positive evaluation on the faith and philosophy.