

## **Malaysia-Indonesia Can Promote Importance Of Proper Islamic - Muhyiddin Bernama**

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**From Abdul Muin Majid**

PARIS, April 14 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia can play an important role in highlighting and promoting the importance of proper Islamic education in a bid to counter tendencies towards extremism, terrorism as well as address Islamophobia, said Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said he made the suggestion during talks with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) director-general Irina Bokova at the UNESCO headquarters here Tuesday.

"She was agreeable to this," he told Malaysian media after calling on Bokova and visiting the headquarters of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Muhyiddin pointed out that the atrocities committed by the IS militant group did not portray the true face of Islam.

"This is because if the person is given proper Islamic education, he will not do cruel acts like these, which cause a misperception of Islam," stressed Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister.

"The solution is proper Islamic education as we have done in Malaysia.

We have created an Islamic education system in Malaysia based on the teachings of the Shafie sect. The system is said to be very good," he said.

He said the curriculum used emphasised the importance of being a respectable Muslim community, and one that respected other races and religions.

"That is why Malaysia is peaceful, organised and without problems," said Muhyiddin, adding that a good understanding of Islam among Malaysians as a whole also contributed to this.

He said in the context UNESCO, the international body was not exempt, because on the question of education, it must also cover the aspect of religious education.

"And I said it may come to one part UNESCO which among others can play a role to look at the proper teaching and education of Islam," he said.

According to him, this would help in creating a universal Islamic society that upheld principles of moderation.

On his visit to OECD, Muhyiddin said OECD experts had hailed the steps taken by Malaysia

to strengthen its economic position.

"I did not ask them to praise Malaysia but they know about developments in Malaysia. Compared to many other countries, Malaysia is ahead in many matters," he explained.

According to him, OECD might be able to do a study on what Malaysia needs to pay attention to in the next five years before it achieves developed nation status.

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