

**President Mohamed Nasheed Of Maldives Among Key Speakers At GMM Conference  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- President Mohamed Nasheed of Maldives and Admiral (Rtd) Dennis C. Blair of the United States are among 55 speakers and moderators who have confirmed their attendance at the International Conference of Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) 2012, which will be held here from Jan 17 until 19.

Mohamed is scheduled to give a lecture entitled 'Environment Moderation and Development' while Blair, who is former United States Director of National Intelligence, will deliver a speech titled 'United States of America and The Muslim World: Charting A Sustainable Future'.

International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM) Alumni Association president Khalek Awang said 450 delegates from over 70 countries had confirmed their attendance as participants while 55 speakers and moderators comprising heads of States, secretaries-general of regional organisations, head of international foundations and religious groups, celebrated scholars, members of the media and civil societies had agreed to speak and support the GMM.

He said speakers and moderators from 20 countries would present papers on the concept of moderation in political, economic, social justice and education spheres.

"The Secretariat would like to announce that the open applications offered to the public received overwhelming response.

"Various leaders and representatives of organisations inside and outside the country have also registered to attend this conference. However, due to the fact that participation of delegates is based on invitation, the secretariat was not able to fulfil the requests of all the applicants," he told a media conference here today.

According to Khalek, other renowned figures who had agreed to speak were Indonesia's Foreign Minister Dr Marty Natalegawa, Thailand's former deputy prime minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai, ASEAN secretary-general Dr Surin Pitsuwan and Singapore's former deputy prime minister, Prof S.Jeyakumar.

Local key figures who will be speaking at the conference include the Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah and former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

At the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is scheduled to present the keynote address entitled 'Global Movement of Moderates: The Way Forward' and launch the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation, which will determine the direction of this movement and its future activities.

The idea for IIUM's Alumni Association to organise this conference came after the Prime Minister's speech at the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2010 where Najib called on members and leaders of the world's major faiths to censure and reject their own extremists and jointly support a 'movement of moderates'.

The International Conference on Global Movement of Moderates seeks to reaffirm that all nations, no matter how large or small, rich or poor, strong or weak, have a common responsibility towards creating a better world for tomorrow, a better world for future generations.

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