



**PRIME MINISTER
MALAYSIA**

MESSAGE

As Honorary Patron of the World Islamic Economic Forum, I am pleased to welcome you to the 3rd World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF), 28th and 29th May 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.


As Chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), I have endeavoured to put an economic face to the Organization, and I believe the WIEF can play an important part in securing this objective. I am also confident that the WIEF can play an important role in enhancing economic cooperation among the OIC member countries. Equally important, the WIEF can be the OIC's linkage to the non-Muslim world for fostering business and economic ties between Muslims and non-Muslims.

I am therefore pleased to note that the 3rd WIEF will focus on global challenges and innovative partnerships to overcome these challenges. In this regard, the inclusion of a session on Muslim-European Partnerships is indeed important, apt and timely. The Muslim and Western worlds need to build bridges to promote better understanding and closer relationships.

The Forum's focus on the building of business partnerships and the strengthening of economic ties will assist in enhancing the capacities of the Muslim countries to achieve sustainable economic development. We need in particular to lift those Ummah in need out of the cycle of poverty. The Forum would also be able to demonstrate to non-Muslims that Muslims are willing and able to do business with them, to forge partnerships and to share prosperity for mutual benefit. It is time to move away from rhetoric and narrow polemics and embrace instead, pragmatic and practical approaches for achieving progress and development.

I believe the 3rd WIEF in Kuala Lumpur will also discuss other key issues such as Muslim leadership in a globalised world, leveraging education and knowledge, creating jobs for the future, unlocking creativity and innovation, succeeding as global entrepreneurs, accelerating trade and investment, and partnerships with the new economic power centres in the world. The 3rd WIEF can provide the opportunity for in-depth analysis and discussions on these issues. I hope it will also enable entrepreneurs, both Muslims and non-Muslims, to identify business and investment prospects and other forms of economic ventures.

I am certain that with the participation of leaders from government, business, academia and civil society at the 3rd WIEF, we will achieve the objective of sharing ideas and information on international best practices for a future of shared success. I am particularly pleased to welcome all foreign participants to the Forum in this special Visit Malaysia Year 2007.



ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

5 April 2007