

Islamia

الإسلامية

EVERY FRIDAY

Muslim Youth: The Spirit of Devotion

It was most pleasing that the theme of the three-day Southeast Asia Islamic Youth Conference held in Brunei Darussalam starting Tuesday, January 12, carried a most appropriate name: "Unification of Islamic Youths Generates Excellence".

The relationship between all of these values cannot be overstated: that of unity and youth as a way to generate a successful, if not a triumphant Ummah.

In his sabda, at the opening of the conference, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office highlighted the universal message of Islam to the many delegates.

"Unity is an expression that is both pleasing and beautiful. More so if the unity is seen from the requirements of Islam, it is a very rewarding and sought-after thing. Conversely, discord, disorder and enmity will bring about fear and unrest whilst being regarded as sinful and unrepentant," HRH said.

"Unity can be nurtured where there exists the traits of conscientiousness, camaraderie and affection amongst humanity, mutual respect and understanding, as well as having good regard for each other," he added.

But what is the role of Muslim youth in ensuring such harmony, camaraderie and ultimate unity?

To project Islamic principles, and to translate them into the coveted unity,



Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, delivering his Sabda at the opening of the Islamic Conference Youth South-East Asia, held at Rizqun International Hotel, GAdong. Minister of Religious Affairs Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Hj Md Zain(R), listens. **Picture:BT/Rudolf Portillo**

Muslim youths must be armed with true Islamic values. Without such values, a Muslim's identity can be easily corrupted by the encroachment of unchecked globalisation, which respects neither religion, nor culture, but is dedicated to sheer, unhindered consumerism.

Indeed, it is not enough for one to be wary of the lurking dangers. A Muslim has to do more to defend himself and his Ummah from the many threats that are incessantly attempting to invade Muslim spaces (whether physically or intellectually). To defeat these threats, one has to be armed with faith and knowledge. More, imagine the combined power of the faith and knowl-

edge of an entire generation, a whole nation, indeed an Ummah.

But arming our youths with good values is a process, a lengthy one that starts very early in a person's life. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), has said, "A fathers' teaching his child good manners is better than giving a bushel of grain (in charity)" (Bukhari).

The Holy Quran has emphasized, and repeatedly so, the significance of values and behavior. The Quran says, "Lo, the noblest of you, in the sight of God, is (the one) best in conduct. Lo, God is knower, Aware" (49:13).

"In the history of the struggle for the cause of Islam during the time of the

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), he was flanked by Islamic youths who fought with utmost loyalty and courage in propagating the teachings and upholding the eminence of Islam in the spirit of jihad (devotion) to Allah's (SWT) blessings," said HRH at the youths conference.

We must engender Islamic values and principles in our youths; only then we will be able to raise a faithful, noble and unified generation; a generation that will be able to truly understand and appreciate the beauty of its religion, communicate the righteous message of Islam so lucidly, defend Islam against its enemies, within and without. unity, now and always.

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