

Understanding is key to unity

Foster inter-cultural awareness, says Raja Dr Nazrin

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KUALA LUMPUR: Both Muslims and non-Muslims should understand each other's faiths and world views to foster a sense of mutual appreciation, said the Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah.

He said a major requirement for promoting human security was the recognition of diversity and differences in the global context as well as within individual countries.

"To this end, we should cultivate awareness and understanding of the world view of others, and learn to respect their various traditions.

"This is why inter-cultural competence and training for understanding other religions and world views is important – both for non-Muslims to appreciate Islam and for Muslims to appreciate cultures and people belonging to other traditions," he said in his keynote address at the Peace and Security Forum 2013 here yesterday.

The forum, titled "Islam and Diplomacy – The Search for Human Security", was held at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

Human security, said Raja Dr Nazrin, included traditional national security concerns as well as, among others, security of livelihood provided by steady jobs, food security, proper healthcare and the right to practise one's religion freely.



Time for a chat: Raja Dr Nazrin (right) mingling with guests at the forum at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, Kuala Lumpur. With him is Qatar Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Khalid Mohammad Al Attiyah (second from right).

Raja Dr Nazrin said the search for human security was the gateway to the future of a reformed global order.

He said various aspects of life such as in the economic, political and social domains were pushing towards recovering the basis of security as reflected in basic human

needs and hopes.

"Peace will only be achieved between nations, and among the diverse peoples within nations, when security is understood in these terms," he said.

Islam, added Raja Dr Nazrin, could play a role in contemporary diplomacy of Muslim countries in their

pursuit of human security.

He said the three ways Islam could be applied in this sense were to emulate the Prophet Muhammad's success in reconciling warring tribes in the middle east, uphold the Islamic values of human dignity and develop non-governmental infrastructure.

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