

# Malaysia to go to OIC on oil issue

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Islamic world must immediately address the issue of escalating fuel prices, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said.

He said Malaysia would bring this up at the next Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Kampala, Uganda, from June 18-20.

Dr Rais said Islamic countries that produced oil were more inclined to follow the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), rather than assist the *ummah*.

"Malaysia would like to suggest that

countries of the OIC be more concerned in offering solutions to the problem," he told reporters after delivering his welcoming remarks at the third International Conference of the Muslim World and the West: Bridging the Gap here yesterday.

Dr Rais said the OIC should also speak out over alleviating rising food prices that are affecting the world, including most countries under the organisation.

Earlier, Dr Rais said the conference would also discuss issues like improv-

ing Muslim World-West engagement, understanding Islam in a globalised world, enhancing Muslim World-West public diplomacy and preventing emerging Muslim World-West crises.

He said a chairman's report on the outcome of the conference, for the endorsement of participants, would be conveyed to the United Nations and the Alliance of Civilisations (AoC).

Rais also called on the Islamic media to project the right image of the Muslim world. Fifteen countries will attend the two-day conference.