‘Seeking knowledge is jihad’

CONFRONT

CHALLENGES: Muslims cannot afford to be left behind, warns Muhyiddin

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MUSLIMS must cultivate interest in seeking knowledge to bring the Islamic community forward, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday.

Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, said this was necessary in view of the current challenges faced by Muslims worldwide.

“It is important for us to foster interest and commitment to seek knowledge in the Islamic society.

“In fact, we should make the quest for knowledge as the most important jihad in an effort to advance Muslims.”

Muhyiddin said in confronting the challenges of globalisation at present, Muslims could not afford to be left behind.

“The increasingly intense global competition must be fought by strengthening our grasp of knowledge and skills,” said Muhyiddin at Nurul Yaqeen Foundation’s Best Thesis Award ceremony, near here, yesterday.

Muhyiddin said Islam placed importance on seeking knowledge and practising it.

“Knowledge and its practice are inseparable in Islam. Both are inter-dependent and reinforce each other.”

He said challenges faced by Islamic scholars at present were on how to spread the right teachings of Islam.

“One of the challenges faced by Islamic scholars today is to spread the right Islamic World-view where Islam is universal and covers all aspects of human life.

“Islamic knowledge is not related to matters of rituals and spirituality alone.

“It encompasses various fields and disciplines, including economics, politics, administration, law, science and technology.”

Muhyiddin added that Malaysia had embraced the practice and was now in the lead in expanding the teachings of Islam worldwide.

“Today, we can see that Malaysia is ahead of other countries in developing Islamic disciplines in modern scientific fields such as law and economics.

“In fact, many of our local scholars are referred to as experts in these areas.”

Muhyiddin, who is chairman of Nurul Yaqeen Foundation, hoped the “Best Thesis Award”, established by the foundation, would encourage local graduates to conduct more studies that characterised Islam in various fields and disciplines.

“Hopefully with efforts like this, we will be able to produce Islamic scholars with expertise in various fields and further enrich the knowledge of the country.”

Dr Ahmad Azrin Adnan from Universiti Sains Malaysia won the Best Thesis Award in the PhD category and walked home with RM15,000, while Juhasni Juperi from the International Islamic University Malaysia won the Best Thesis Award in the Master’s category, earning her RM10,000.

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Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin chatting with Nurul Yaqeen Foundation’s Best Thesis Award winner in the PhD category, Dr Ahmad Azrin Adnan (third from left), and winner in the Master’s level, Juhasni Juperi (right), after the award ceremony in Putrajaya yesterday. Pic by Fariz Iswadi Ismail