

# Religions about love, not war

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Too much emphasis on religious laws rather than their philosophy is causing discord among the people.

Director of the Second International Conference on Religion and Society, Dr Abdul Hakim Mohad said the philosophy of any religion studied steered towards the promotion of peace and harmony and universal security.

"They do not promote discord, war and pain," he said at the launch of the conference held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) yesterday.

Hence, the importance of understanding the philosophy of religions since all religions encouraged people to do good for the benefit of all, he said.

Unfortunately, there has been too much focus on religious laws which, according to Dr Hakim, had not been successful in bringing people together.

"When we leave the philosophy of religion, we can only see differences. I don't think this is conducive in encouraging a tolerant society.

"We need to show how religion can promote tolerance and there is no excuse (for anyone) to hurt other people who are not similar to them," he said.

Abdul Hakim also said that the conference also aimed at helping the community understand that



Dr Abd Hakim

Islam is a religion of love.

"Each person needs to understand the philosophy of religion so that they can find love in religion," he said.

He said a total of 183 papers would be presented in the conference.

The participants and presenters include foreigners from the US, India, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore.

"We hope to share the value of religions which will lead us to peace and achieve happiness," Abdul Hakim added.